

LIFE IN SINGAPORE

1. About Singapore

As a metropolitan city with a strong financial economy, Singapore is in the center of Southeast Asia with an area of 704 square km. Singapore is a modern city with a highly efficient infrastructure and a beautiful, safe environment.

Singapore's population of 5 million comprises Chinese, Malays, Indians, and Eurasians, as well as a cosmopolitan mix of other nationalities. The population is expected to grow to 6.5 million in the next few decades, welcoming the world.

As a leading Asian Education Hub, with an integrated educational system, Singapore has over 80,000 international students in 2017 and expects to have more international students.

Find out more about Singapore through the following websites!

Uniquely Singapore <http://www.visitsingapore.com>

Singapore Tourism Board <http://www.stb.gov.sg>

2. Singapore Do's and Don'ts

The students are required to observe and abide by Singapore laws which are strictly enforced. Some of the basic laws to note are:

- Drinking and driving is not allowed.
- Littering is an offence.
- Do not get involved in political activities.
- Controlled Drug abuse is strictly prohibited, and penalties are very serious (such as death by hanging).
- Crossing the road. Do not cross the road when the pedestrian's red light is lit up. Do not jaywalk; it is an offence in Singapore.
- The sale, import or advertisement for sale of chewing gum is prohibited
- Alcohol must not be consumed by anyone under the age of 18.
- Avoid fights. Staring among young people is considered rude and may result in undesirable consequences, such as fighting, etc.

Relevant Singapore laws especially those relating to ICA and Ministry of Manpower. This include, but are not limited to, immigration requirements, laws on driving, drugs and alcohol abuse, employment, smoking, traffic and littering.

IMPORTANT POINT: IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE TO BREAK THE LAW, THE RESPONSIBILITY LIES ON EVERYONE TO KNOW THE LAW.

	Relevant Law
Immigration	All international students studying in Singapore must have a valid passport and a Student Pass from the ICA (Immigration and Checkpoint Authority).
Employment	International students are not allowed to work in Singapore without a Work Pass Exemption from the MOM (Ministry of Manpower).
Driving	All drivers must be in possession of a valid Singapore driving license and the vehicle must be insured.
Drugs	Possession of Controlled Drugs is presumed to be for trafficking, an offence which can carry the death penalty.
Alcohol Abuse	Any offense committed while being intoxicated (drunk) is punishable under the law. Drunk driving is a serious offence.
Smoking	Smoking in specific public places and indoor restaurants is prohibited.
Traffic	Jay walking is an offence.
Littering	Littering, spitting and vandalism (with graffiti) in public areas are serious offences

3. Useful Telephone numbers in Singapore

SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)	http://www.ssg-wsg.gov.sg/ 6785 5785
Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA)	6391 6100
American Center for Education	6222 7577 / 9777 8192
Embassy of the People's Republic of China	6479 3250
High Commission of India	6737 6777
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	6737 7422
Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	6462 5938
Embassy of the Union of Myanmar	6735 0209
Malaysian High Commission	6235 0111
Nepalese Consulate	6336 1677
Royal Thai Embassy	6737 2158
Police	999
Fire/Ambulance	995
Ambulance (non-emergency)	1777
Touchline (TOUCH Youth Service)	1800 377 2252
Youths between 12 and 19 years old, who are struggling, frustrated or depressed and badly in need of a listening ear (Daily: 10am to 10pm)	
Samaritans of Singapore	1800221 4444
SOS provides a 24-hour confidential service by trained volunteers who offer emotional support to people who are in crisis or thinking of suicide (Daily: 24hr)	
Taxi Services	
Comfort	6552 1111
SMRT	6555 8888
Premier	6363 6888
Hospitals	
Alexandra	6473 5222
Changi	6788 8833
KK Women's & Children's	6293 4044
Mt Elizabeth	6737 2666
NUH	6779 5555
SGH	6222 3322
Tan Tock Seng	6256 6011
Thomson	6256 9494

4. Accommodation

Students are advised to make their accommodation arrangements before arriving in Singapore, but temporary accommodation can be arranged while you find somewhere much more suitable for the remainder of your stay here. Lodging is relatively easy to find in Singapore, and we will provide our expert local opinions and recommendations to ensure that you are nicely settled in.

Beware - you might encounter unscrupulous people who say they are accommodation agents, but who do not have the required licenses. Be sure to ask for their licenses.

These are some places where students can choose to stay:

Hostels:

A student might pay \$500 (or more) per month for a bed in a room in a hostel; the room might be shared with three other students. Students should contact the hostels to enquire about current prices and availability.

Katong Hostel 369 Tanjong Katong Road, Singapore 437126

Tel: +65 6883 5230

Fax: +65 6448 5160

Novena Hall 78 Glistead Road, Singapore 309116

Tel: +65 6352 0580

Fax: +65 6325 0596

<http://www.novenahall.com.sg/>

Stamford Student Residence 175A Chin Swee Road, Singapore 169879

Tel: +65 6887 0679

Fax: +65 6887 0635

<http://www.stamfordstudent.com/>

Students might find useful information about hostels at this website:

<http://www.hostelworld.com/findabed.php/ChosenCity.Singapore/ChosenCountry.Singapore>

Co-sharing of condominium apartments and landed houses

If students want to rent a room in a condominium or a house, they will need to find a guardian.

At the high-end level, prices range from S\$700 or above per room per month, normally with facilities such as swimming pools and sports facilities, and with or without security guards.

5. Transportation

ACE is at Tampines area. The nearest MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) Station is the Tampines West. There are many bus services linking ACE to other parts of the island. EZ-Link fare cards are used to pay for bus and MRT trips. These cards can be purchased at all MRT stations and bus interchanges.

Public Buses S\$0.80 - S\$3.00

Mass Rapid Transport (MRT): S\$0.80 - S\$2.50

Taxi: S\$3.00 and above

There are very outstanding directory services at the two websites below:

<http://www.streetdirectory.com>

For information on EZ-link cards and concession passes, see this site:

<http://www.transitlink.com.sg/>

For detailed information, please visit the website of the Singapore Bus Service Transit:

<http://www.sbstransit.com.sg/>

For detailed information about the Singapore MRT Train service, please visit this website:

<http://www.smrt.com.sg>

To view the MRT & LRT System map of Singapore, please go to the below URL.

http://www.smrt.com.sg/trains/network_map.asp

6. Banks

If you open a bank account, you will normally be given a debit card (NETS card.), together with your Personal Identification Number (PIN). Do not forget your PIN, do not give the PIN to others, and do not write it down on anything that is kept together with your NETS card.

NETS cards can be used as a mode of payment to buy things in many shops. They can be used to withdraw your money from the bank's ATMs (Automated Teller Machines). There are many ATMs in the city and some ATMs can accept other banks' debit cards as well.

A NETS card is not a credit card. Singapore banks do not normally give credit cards or overdrafts to students.

We suggest that students apply for the debit card with the VISA/Master payment feature (make sure your debit account has enough cash to be deducted before using the VISA/Master payment feature). This feature can be used to make online purchases, especially for booking a movie online. And you can also open the Internet banking service so that you can directly make payments through the Internet for many services. Be sure to take your passport with you whenever you go to a bank, for identification purposes.

Singapore has 3 local banks:

DBS: <http://www.dbs.com.sg>,

OCBC: <http://www.ocbc.com.sg>

UOB: <http://www.uob.com.sg>

And there are more than 10 international banks servicing Singapore, which include CitiBank, HSBC, Standard Chartered, ABN, CIMB, Diners Club, American Express and so on.

7. Exhibitions

World-class exhibitions are normally held at **Suntec City Convention Centre** (1 Raffles Boulevard, Singapore 039593) and **Singapore Expo** (1 Expo Drive, Singapore 486150).

Register as a student and talk to exhibitors, since this can help you in your understanding of many aspects of industry, business, and commerce, as well as allowing you to meet people from other places.

8. Food

Singapore offers opportunities to try food from all walks of life and many cultures thanks to this country's ethnic diversity. There are many food courts, hawker centres, and interesting restaurants, and there are numerous places to eat within a short walking distance from ACE.

Please visit the websites below to find restaurants that serve your favourite food:

<http://www.hungrygowhere.com/>

<http://www.sbestfood.com/>

9. Places and Events of Interest

Singapore has fascinating historical areas and other places of interest, and some places that charge entry may offer free or discounted admission rates for students. Fort Canning, Fort Siloso, Chinatown, Kampong Glam, the Singapore Art Museum, the Singapore History Museum, the Esplanade Arts Centre, Singapore Science Centre, the Singapore Zoo, the Night Safari and Sentosa Island are just some of the places of interest you may want to visit. Little India is a fascinating cultural contrast to modern Singapore, located in the Serangoon Road area. Singapore has many historic buildings, including churches, temples, and mosques.

The Singapore Flyer is also a nice place to visit - see this link:
<http://www.singaporeflyer.com/>

Festivals and events of interest include Thaipusam (an Indian religious festival, now carried out in only a few places in the world), the Chingay Parade, the Singapore River Raft Race, etc.

Cinemas: Singapore has many cinemas showing the latest movies. The debit NETs card with the VISA/Master feature can be used for online booking. See these websites:

<http://www.gv.com.sg/>
<http://www.shaw.sg/>

Shopping:

There are many shopping malls where you can purchase a wide variety of products. Foreigners can get a GST refund for the items they purchase.

Living Necessaries:

There are many supermarkets around Singapore, such as:

Fair Price : <http://www.fairprice.com.sg/>
Cold Storage : <http://www.coldstorage.com.sg/>
Sheng Siong : <http://www.shengsiong.com.sg/>
Carrefour : <http://www.carrefour.com.sg/>

7-11 outlets are open 24-hours per day: <http://www.7-eleven.com.sg/>

Buying Computers & Electronics:

Singapore's Largest Electronics & Computers Centre is Sim Lim Square, which is near the EW12 Bugis MRT Station. You can find more information at this website:

<http://www.simlimsquare.com.sg>

You can also go to <http://www.hardwarezone.com.sg> to check the prices.

10. Postal Service and Telephones

The nearest Post Office to ACE is located next to the CPF Tampines Building. Post Offices are normally crowded at lunchtime, but SAM automated machines allow you to weigh your mail and buy stamps. There is one Mailbox outside the main gate of yoHa. If ordinary mail is too slow, post offices offer SpeedPost service, with guaranteed arrival within a certain number of days. Please check with the post office for details.

Singapore has 3 main local mobile/telephone service providers:

Singtel : <http://www.singtel.com>
M1 : <http://www.m1.com.sg>
Starhub : <http://www.starhub.com>

To get a local mobile service, you can either purchase a pre-paid mobile number (without a monthly service charge) from any retailer, or you can go to any mobile shop to sign a 1 year or 2 year contract (with a monthly service charge) to get a mobile number with a discounted new mobile set. Be sure to bring along your passport when you purchase the mobile services.

To call overseas numbers, you can purchase an International Calling Card, which costs about S\$10 for more than 500 minutes.

11. Stationery

There are several suppliers of stationery located around the Tampines street 92. You can also visit the Singapore Popular stores for books and stationery. See this website for more information:

<http://www.popular.com.sg>

12. Medical Care and Injuries

We recommend that you locate a polyclinic that is convenient to your living place. You can visit the polyclinic to consult with a doctor when you are not feeling well. Depending on the illness, the polyclinic's doctor may refer you to a specialist in one of the hospitals, if necessary.

Be sure to let ACE know when you are unable to attend classes at ACE due for medical reasons, and call ACE in the morning of each day that you are absent from ACE, to let us know where you are. Be sure to ask your doctor for a **medical certificate** (known as an '**MC**'), and bring this MC with you to ACE when you are well enough to attend classes, so that your absences can be regarded as excused absences which will not adversely affect your attendance record. If you fail to provide an MC to ACE, your absences from classes will be regarded as unexcused absences, and this could result in a poor attendance record, which could then result in your expulsion from ACE, and the termination of your Student's Pass by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore if you are an international student.

In the event of a medical emergency, ACE may authorize a qualified medical examination or emergency treatment for you, if necessary. We will also contact your parents or guardian to obtain further authorization.

Be sure to comply with and adhere to basic safety measures, both within and outside of institute. Fieldtrips outside of school will require your consent to agree to behave in a responsible manner.

Students with a medical condition that could affect their ability to complete the course assessment should inform the Student Services Department immediately. All medical information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence. The institute may be able to make special arrangements for the assessment if it is deemed appropriate.

Tropical diseases such as **malaria** and **dengue fever** may result in death. Application of mosquito repellent is advisable in infested areas since these diseases are transmitted by the bites of infected mosquitoes.

13. Insurance

You are advised to buy a medical insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment for illnesses and injuries.

You are also strongly recommended to buy other insurance policies to cover accidents, loss or theft of valuables, and the cost of replacing lost or stolen items (for example, lost Student's Passes and Passports), etc.

ACE has purchased basic hospitalisation insurance coverage for all students enrolled. Students are entitled to a B2 ward in government and restructured hospitals and have 24 hours coverage in Singapore and Overseas (if student is involved in school-related activities) throughout the course duration.