SINGAPORE

Summer, Fall, Spring, and Academic Year

2012-2013 Program Guide
The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University's student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.
YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

Local UCEAP Support

Campus EAP Office
The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientations, and academic advising; and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office
The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

- **Program Advisors** provide academic and operational program information to you and your campus as well as administrative support for all aspects of your participation.
- **Operations Specialists** manage the logistics of the program. They coordinate document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, acceptance and placement by host institutions, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements.
- **Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies, review courses taken abroad for UC credit, and document your registration, grades, petitions and academic records.
- **Student Finance Accountants** assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

Program Advisor
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Operations Specialist
May Pothongsunun
Phone: (805) 893-6152; E-mail: mpothongsunun@eap.ucop.edu

Academic Specialist
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Student Finance Accountant
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UCEAP Systemwide Office
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Goleta, CA 93117-5823
Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583
UCEAP Online

Bookmark your Participants program page. This resource lists requirements and policies you need to know before you go abroad, including your Predeparture Checklist, UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets, and payment instructions.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the UCEAP Singapore page.

Study Center Abroad

Programs are managed by a UCEAP Administrative Coordinator and a National University of Singapore faculty member serving as the UCEAP Liaison Officer. They will advise you on academic matters, coordinate cultural activities, assist with program logistics, and provide support for personal matters. NUS student affairs units also provide a wide range of services such as orientation, housing, and student activities.

Prof. Albert Teo, Liaison Officer
Ms. Daisy Ling, Administrative Coordinator
EAP Singapore Study Center
National University of Singapore

Phone (calling from the U.S.): (011 65) 6774-2109
Phone (calling from Singapore): 6774-2109
E-mail: daisyling.sg@eap.ucop.edu

Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code ..........011
(dial this to call from the U.S.)
Singapore code .................65

Approximate Time Difference

April–October: Add 15 hours
November–March: Add 16 hours
ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Agency for Science, Technology, & Research (A*STAR)

During this 8-week summer program, you will participate in a full-time research internship and earn 10 UC quarter units of internship credit. You will be responsible for following all policies, procedures, and requirements set forth by A*STAR in addition to UCEAP policies. You will receive information on MyEAP course registration after arrival.

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Summer, Biodiversity

Required:
- Field Studies in Biodiversity course; 6 units, letter grade only
- Either Beginning Chinese or Beginning Bahasa Indonesian course; 6 units, letter grade only

You will receive instructions on MyEAP course registration after the program begins.

Fall, Spring, & Year

Required:
- Attendance at on-site orientation
- Minimum of 21 UC quarter units each term; the normal load is four NUS modules (courses) of 6 UC quarter units each
- Concentration in your major field of study (although not exclusively)
- A strong record of class attendance (to be eligible to sit for final exams)
- NUS and MyEAP course registration

Course Registration

Before departure you will complete an NUS application that includes a list of the courses you wish to take. UC students are accepted into faculties based on the classes they request and those approved by NUS. You may take courses outside your major provided the courses were noted and approved in the NUS application.

Certain courses or departments have restrictions. For example, business and economics courses are limited to students in related majors and UCEAP students in the year program can take business courses in only one of the two semesters; restrictions apply especially in computing, medicine, and law. See the explanations on the NUS website.

When listing classes on the NUS application, select as broadly as possible and sign up for at least ten (10) classes you want to take, then drop courses later. The classes should be in as many different faculties as you are considering taking classes, but the majority should be in the faculty where you are planning to register because it is better to take classes within one faculty. The faculties are independent—each has its own class and exam schedules. UCEAP students have taken classes from as many as three faculties at one time, but they found that this prevented them from sharing the camaraderie of close-knit study groups.

Directions and NUS procedures are provided in the NUS admission letter.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“...NUS incorporates state-of-the-art facilities with invaluable resources to ensure our academic well-being. You can expect the courses to be stimulating and the academic atmosphere intensely competitive with the kiasu spirit! There were a variety of interesting courses as well as courses to complement my major. The personable approach of our tutorial discussion was fantastic. I got a chance to know my professors on a one-on-one basis. Tutorial discussions gave me the opportunity to be more involved with the course.

Classes are challenging. Professors encourage cooperation among the students and there are many group assignments. I worked closely with my classmates and ended the semester with a lot of good memories.

Participating in tutorials was perhaps the most important aspect. I learned so much about student-teacher relations, student culture, and university culture. The group projects were fulfilling.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

The classes in the physical sciences at NUS seem more challenging than at UC, but they are more fulfilling because of the class interaction. You’re expected to work both independently and in groups in the tutorial sessions where students work on homework problems on the board in front of the class. This helps keep you focused on doing homework every week.

My academic experience was challenging. One class was very competitive and required that I keep up with assignments because a paper was due every week. Another was a seminar modeled after American business classes; the professor was never satisfied with a simple answer to his questions—students always had to explain the reason behind their answers. Prepared students were rewarded by receiving good marks for class participation.

Acceptance into classes (modules) is not automatic; you will likely be asked to provide proof that you have achieved good grades in prerequisite courses. Take your most recent transcript with you to Singapore to verify completed coursework. In addition you must be able to provide documentation for the UC classes that you have taken recently that are not on the transcript submitted with your application. A letter of introduction from a UC faculty member in your home department could be useful to help in securing a space in an oversubscribed course.

The process can be difficult; however, the Study Center can provide assistance after arrival.

University Scholars Programme

Regular courses at NUS are already demanding; however, if you are seeking truly challenging interdisciplinary study, consider first-tier modules (courses) in the University Scholars Programme. This program provides a rigorous multidisciplinary curriculum for active learners who like to think and write critically and make connections among different disciplines. Courses are offered in the humanities and social sciences as well as natural sciences and technology. A list of first-tier modules is on the University Scholars Programme website.

Additional Interdisciplinary Programs

NUS offers innovative study opportunities. For example, you may take part in a program on information and communications management that combines the arts with information technology. There are also multidisciplinary studies that combine business and law, and a “Technopreneurship” program that trains science and engineering students to take advantage of commercial opportunities.

Research Opportunities

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programs (UROP) are offered by the School of Computing, the Faculty of Engineering, and the Faculty of Science. You can view the available research projects on the NUS website but cannot register for a particular project until after you arrive at NUS and obtain a matriculation number. You may e-mail the project supervisor and request written approval for a space in the UROP. You then submit this approval as part of the application documents. If you obtain an approved reservation, contact the supervisor personally upon arrival at NUS to officially register in the UROP course.

Regular research courses are available through many departments and are listed on the module catalog.

MBA Program

The NUS Business School MBA Program has been ranked among the top three in the Asia-Pacific region by Asia, Inc. UC graduate students admitted as exchange students will participate in the second year of the MBA program and take the elective courses. The curriculum is characterized by an Asian focus and offers concentrations in the areas of accounting, finance, management, marketing, logistics and operations management, and decision sciences. Additional information is available on the NUS MBA website.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“There’s a joke that an NUS professor likes to tell at the start of the year to welcome the numerous exchange students in his class: ‘There’s a crucial difference between Western students and Singaporean students. If you walk into a class full of Western students and wish them a good morning, their first response is to argue with you. What makes it a good morning? How did I come to my conclusion that this was a good morning? How can I impose my definition of a good morning on them? When you walk into a class full of Singaporean students and wish them a good morning, they write it down.’

The exam system is different. Exams take place in huge rooms with hundreds of students from different courses.

The professor-student relationship was rewarding. Professors were excited to have international students in class and were eager to help.

Academic Culture

You will be fully immersed into academic and social life at the National University of Singapore (NUS), become actively engaged in a variety of academic programs, and live, attend classes, and spend leisure time among local students.

Relationship with Faculty

Adjustment to and appreciation of different pedagogy and learning styles are part of studying abroad. Teachers in Singapore are highly respected, and relationships between students and teachers are different from those at UC. Students are expected to be polite, never confrontational or demanding. At the same time, however, many professors in Singapore have been trained in U.S. and European universities; if you approach them after class, you probably will find them friendly and interested in providing help. If you have a difference of opinion or want to make suggestions, speak respectfully with the professor privately, out of class.

Courses (Modules)

NUS courses are called modules. Most modules at NUS are 4 credits (6 UC quarter units). Each module has a unique code consisting of a two- or three-letter discipline prefix and four digits; the first digit indicates the course level:

- 1000 level-one modules are awarded UC lower-division credit
- 2000 level-two and 3000 level-three modules are awarded upper-division credit (except for language courses)
- 4000 level modules are graduate level and are not open to undergraduates

The majority of courses are conducted over a semester, with an exam at the end of the semester; however, there are some year-long courses with an exam at the end of the academic year. If you are in the fall program be sure you do not enroll in year-long courses.

Instruction is in English, except in studies that have language prerequisites (for example, Chinese studies). Courses are academically solid and you will need strong academic skills and writing ability as well as personal initiative and independence. Most courses consist of lectures and required tutorials or discussion sections. Syllabi and reading lists are normally provided; the use of PowerPoint is widespread and students frequently bring laptops to class. More out-of-class reading is required than UC courses and the reading is of a greater breadth than you may be accustomed to at UC. Attendance and paper writing are important components of the courses. Participation is expected in the tutorials and is considered in the final grade, although local students may not be as eager to respond to instructors’ questions as UC students.

NUS requires more student group work than UC. This may require meetings in the evening and on weekends. Out of respect for your NUS counterparts, take this work and time commitment seriously. Be available to meet with fellow students as needed.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Exams are hard. You have one exam at the end of the term and are expected to be thorough in a short amount of time (two hours).

Study all semester! You won’t do well in the exams if you wait until the last minute to study.

Courses are demanding and equivalent to UC. Professors have high expectations of students. Be prepared to work, not goof off.

Singaporean students do not ask questions during class time, so unless the professor encourages questions, it is better to wait until after class to ask questions.”

Exams and Grading

Most exams at NUS are two-hour essay exams. Be prepared to write many essays quickly and cogently. Multiple-choice exams are rare. Exams can be either open or closed book. The writing styles of UC and NUS students are different. NUS students typically rely on memorization and support their topics with many facts, charts, and graphs. Instructors are not just looking for broad concepts; they want specifics.

Final course grades depend heavily upon the results of a final exam. Exams are administered in large halls with up to 2,000 students and are graded by examiners, not necessarily the course instructor. You must attend tutorials and sign up for the finals according to NUS procedures. If you miss 20 percent or more of a class, you will not be permitted to take the final exam and your course grade will reflect that failure.

You may look up past exams on file at the library, study the questions, and request feedback from the teaching staff. It is important for you to request such feedback early in the semester, as the teaching staff is likely to be less sympathetic and responsive just before the exams. Instructors generally do not give the feedback, evaluation, and explanation of grading that is common at UC.

Fall grades are usually available in late January and spring grades are usually available in early August.

▶ For additional information about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
EXTENDING UCEAP PARTICIPATION

Plan Ahead to Extend

It is possible to extend your participation from the UCEAP fall program to the spring program at NUS. If you are considering an extension, submit a Departmental and College Pre-Approval to Extend (DPA) form prior to departure. Once abroad, make an appointment with the UCEAP Liaison Officer to initiate the extension process. The Liaison Officer must submit a Request for Final Approval (RFA) form to the UCEAP Systemwide Office by the deadline indicated on the form. If you do not submit an approved DPA before departure, then you must submit a Petition to Extend form, which requires campus and department approval, and can take up to eight weeks to process.

UCEAP must approve your extension request. Approval is based on a number of factors including program criteria, academic performance, the support of your UC campus department, and available space.

Once your extension has been approved, UCEAP will notify your UC campus registrar, Financial Aid Office, and Campus EAP Office. For information about the steps you need to take with regard to finances, see the Extension of Participation chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
CULTURAL AWARENESS

Educate Yourself

Get acquainted with Singapore and its culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites such as Lonely Planet are excellent resources.

Keep up with current events by reading articles in newspapers, magazines, and journals. You will also need to understand the local culture and history. These sources will help you prepare.

Websites

www.gothere.com.sg
Like MapQuest for Singapore except that it will tell you how to get to different places using public transport and how long it will take. Especially useful if you are concerned about where to go upon arriving in Singapore; you can look up your dorms within the university.

www.yoursingapore.com
Site set up for tourists by the Singapore tourism board. It has all the attractions and dining in Singapore and allows you to arrange them into a handy itinerary and gives a great description of each place. Great for people who have not purchased a guidebook for Singapore as it gives you most of the same info for free online.

Recommended Reading


The Singapore Story: Memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore; New York: Prentice-Hall, 1998. This is a great book for those who are interested in a complete history of modern day Singapore. Written by Lee Kuan Yew, the first prime minister of the republic of Singapore from the perspective of the Peoples Action Party.


Social Conduct
In Singaporean society, public good may take precedence over personal rights. You must take Singaporean laws and regulations seriously. The following are examples of Singapore laws.

Illegal Substances
Do not engage in drug use, possession, or trafficking. Drug-related offenses have serious penalties throughout Southeast Asia. Unauthorized consumption of any quantity of drugs can result in imprisonment and/or a fine. Evidence of trafficking is punishable by death. Neither the U.S. Embassy nor UCEAP will be able to help if you are arrested.

Smoking
NUS is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited in public buses, taxis, elevators, theaters, cinemas, government offices, air-conditioned restaurants, and shopping centers. Offenders may be fined.

Chewing Gum
There has been some misconception of the restriction on chewing gum in Singapore. The biggest myth is that chewing gum is illegal. While you can chew gum, it is not for sale in Singapore. Local law forbids the sale, import, and manufacture of chewing gum. Do not bring large quantities of chewing gum into Singapore or you may be mistaken as a seller.

Littering
Singapore’s clean and green image is the result of decades of public education campaigns and strict laws against litter. Littering of any kind is subject to a fine.

Vandalism
The Vandalism Act criminalizes any damage to public and private property (e.g., stealing, destroying or damaging public property, etc.).

Media Censorship
Though the regulations are slowly loosening, there are still some forms of media censorship. Do not take materials with violent or sexual themes into Singapore.
Cultural Differences

The external Western appearance of Singapore contradicts the deep cultural influences that exist at the core of the country’s cultural mores and expectations. Singapore’s cultural diversity combines at least three ancient cultures: Chinese, Malay, and Indian. Important distinctions exist within each of these cultures and religious practices.

Common cultural distinctions include the following:

- Singaporeans tend to have strong loyalties to their country, companies, and any associated groups.
- Public displays of affection are uncommon and may make others uneasy. Aside from shaking hands, people of the opposite sex generally do not touch. However, it may be common to see friends of the same sex walking arm in arm.
- Do not use your forefinger to point or signal someone. This will be considered an insult.

Singlish

The four official languages of Singapore are Mandarin, Malay, Tamil, and English. English use is widespread and considered the language that unites the various ethnic groups. English spoken by locals may have unique accents or syntax that can lead to misunderstandings.

Singlish is a local dialect derived from clipped forms of English mixed with Chinese, Indian, and Malay. Previous participants mention that it can take some time to adjust to Singlish. Refer to A Dictionary of Singlish and Singapore English.

Relationships

Local Friendships

Many previous participants had the first impression that local students are shy and distant. It is uncommon in local culture to greet strangers; therefore, taking the first step to get to know someone is difficult.

In order to socially, academically, and culturally integrate into the local student population, you must pursue local friendships and participate in student activities. While it may take some time and effort, UCEAP students have been invited to homes of fellow NUS students, treated with great hospitality, and made lifelong friendships.

GLBT

The Singapore government holds a conservative view on same-sex relationships and maintains historic laws criminalizing sexual acts. There is a growing social level of tolerance, however. Various resources are available to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) students in Singapore:

People Like Us is an informal group focusing on advocacy and offering support through online discussion groups.

Oogachaga is a nonprofit organization providing counseling and support groups.
ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Passport, Work Holiday Pass, & Student Pass

To enter Singapore, a passport valid for at least six months beyond the date of your intended stay is required.

Students participating in the A*STAR internship program must apply for a Work Holiday Pass. Like a work visa, the Work Holiday Pass will allow you to reside in Singapore for the purpose of completing an internship. The Work Holiday Pass is issued by the Ministry of Manpower.

Although U.S. citizens are not required to obtain a visa to enter Singapore, all NUS students are required to apply for the Student Pass after registering at NUS. The Student Pass serves a similar purpose to a visa by granting permission to reside in Singapore for the purpose of study. The Student Pass is issued by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority of Singapore.

Special Travel Notifications

If you are not a U.S. citizen, special travel restrictions or entry requirements may affect you. Contact the Singapore Consulate-General in San Francisco for details.

Male Singapore citizens and permanent residents are liable for compulsory military service. If you hold dual U.S. and Singapore citizenship you are also subject to this law. If this situation applies to you, research this further with the Singapore Consulate-General in San Francisco and the Singapore Ministry of Defense.

U.S. Travel Registration

As soon as you know your flight plans prior to departure, register online with the U.S. Department of State. Registration is free and allows for the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to be a source of assistance and information in case of difficulty or an emergency while traveling abroad.

Photocopies

It is easier to replace lost or stolen documents when you have photocopies. Photocopy all important documents in duplicate, including passport photo pages, visa pages, vaccination certificates, travelers checks receipts, airline tickets, student ID, birth certificate, credit cards (front and back), etc., then leave a copy at home with a parent or guardian and pack a set in various pieces of luggage. Spending a few moments copying documents now will save you time if you lose important documents in Singapore.
Packing Tips

Singapore is well developed in terms of the availability of consumer goods. Therefore, limit your baggage to a reasonable amount. You are also advised to identify each item of luggage on the inside and outside with your name, home address, and destination.

Essential

- A casual and easy-to-care-for wardrobe
- Flip-flops and comfortable walking shoes
- One formal outfit for dinners and special events
- Swimsuit, sunglasses, and sunscreen
- Personal care and hygiene products, e.g., deodorant (especially if you have preferred brands)
- First Aid Kit
- Vitamins and medications (see the Health chapter for more information)

Optional

- Bed linens and towels
- Camera
- Unlocked cell phone
- Laptop
- Converter and plug adapters
- Gifts for foreign hosts and new friends (suggestions: Frisbees, T-shirts, UC pens or decals, California pistachios/almonds or scenic calendars)
- Pictures of home, family, and friends
- Small backpack or travel bag

Do Not Pack

- Cigarette and pocket lighters
- Controlled drugs and substances
- Endangered species of wildlife and their byproducts
- Firecrackers
- Obscene articles and publications
- Reproductions of copyrighted publications, videotapes, DVDs, CDs, or cassettes
- Toy coins and currency notes

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Sunscreen is expensive in Singapore, so invest in a huge, economy-sized sunscreen that will last you for your stay abroad.

Bring photos, posters, and mementos from home. You’re going to need something to decorate your bare room with when you arrive.

If you are a typical exchange student in Singapore, you will visit other countries in Southeast Asia. Do yourself a favor and bring a good travel backpack.

Bring clothes that won’t show sweat. You will sweat a lot for the first couple of weeks until your body gets used to the humidity.

You can buy bed linens and towels in Singapore, but do bring at least one towel and maybe a small bed sheet. You likely won’t be able to go shopping your first day.”
Climate and Dress
Singapore’s climate includes uniformly warm temperatures, humidity, and abundant rainfall due to the maritime exposure of the island and its close proximity to the equator. Most buildings are air-conditioned, so you may need to dress for both the warm weather and chilly air-conditioned buildings.

Despite the hot and humid conditions, Singaporeans dress conservatively. Avoid excessively revealing clothing. Sleeveless and backless tops with low necklines or clothing with vulgar words and pictures are unacceptable.

Electrical Items
The electrical current in Singapore is 230V/50Hz; therefore, American electrical items running on 120V/60Hz will not work without a converter.

Official UCEAP Start Date
You must arrange for transportation to Singapore and arrive before the official UCEAP start date. The official UCEAP start date is provided in the program calendar on the UCEAP website. If you fail to appear on the official UCEAP start date, you are subject to dismissal from the program (Student Agreement, Section 10).

If program dates change due to unforeseen circumstances, you are responsible for modifying your travel itinerary. You are responsible for reserving and purchasing your tickets (even if you are on full financial aid). Your Financial Aid Office will not do this for you. You are strongly urged to purchase changeable airline tickets, which are usually cheaper than two one-way tickets. Standby tickets are not appropriate. UCEAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges you may incur for independent travel arrangements.

Detailed arrival instructions and maps are included in the UCEAP online Predeparture Checklist.

Financial Aid Students
Your financial aid package is based partly on the UCEAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare amount is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Singapore. If your independent travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the UCEAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither UCEAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

On-site Orientation
At the beginning of your program, you will attend an orientation that covers information related to the host institution as well as UCEAP. Participation in all orientation sessions is mandatory.

The following topics are covered:
- academic affairs, including MyEAP course registration
- banking
- transportation
- medical care
- safety
- social activities
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“
Even without a car, I was able to travel everywhere in Singapore thanks to the cheap and efficient transportation system.

Transportation was excellent! Buses and MRT (subway) systems were great.

You basically will be using a lot of public transportation while here, but it’s good and cheap! MRT and the buses. The card is called the EZ-Link card and you can get it at the MRT station.
”

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Travel within Singapore

An efficient public transportation network of taxis, buses, and the modern mass transit system ensures that getting around is hassle-free and affordable.

UCEAP students recommend obtaining an Ez-Link transportation card upon arrival in Singapore. It can be used to pay for buses, the MRT, and some taxis. You can also use it for purchases on campus and print/copy services.

Buses

SBS Transit manages most of the bus services in Singapore. Bus fares will range based on distance and type. You will need exact change or an Ez-Link transportation card.

MRT

The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) is a modern, air-conditioned passenger train service with stations all over the island. This MRT system is one of the most modern in the world.

There are multiple lines that operate at regular intervals daily. The train system extends north-south and east-west with trains every two to eight minutes daily (5:30 a.m.–12:30 a.m.). You can purchase an Ez-Link transportation card at MRT stations and reload your card at TransitLink machines in every station.

Visit the SMRT website for additional information.

Taxis

Taxis are available everywhere in Singapore and can be flagged down 24 hours a day on most roads. Major shopping centers and hotels have well marked taxi stands. All taxis are metered with a basic fee, but there may be surcharges for certain circumstances (e.g., late-night rides).
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after your program is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad:

• Contact information for finance questions
• How to estimate the cost of your program
• Budget instructions and information
• How to and who can make payments to UCEAP
• UCEAP student account information
• Banking before and after arrival
• Fees and penalties
• Loan information
• How financial aid works while abroad (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
• Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your UC campus financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. You can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). The fees that you owe UCEAP will be applied to your account after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP. For the amount due to UCEAP prior to fees being posted on your account, refer to the UCEAP Student Budget Payment Vouchers. Program fees are subject to change.

UCEAP Student Budget

Carefully review your UCEAP Student Budget.

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. Review your UCEAP Student Budget frequently. The Payment vouchers are on the second page of the UCEAP Student Budget.

Instructions

• Download and print your UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
• Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
• Give the UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your UCEAP bills. Sign this person up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you will be receiving financial aid, see also the UCEAP Financial Assistance web page.
Handling Money Abroad

Before departure, exchange U.S. $300 into Singaporean dollars. This will give you an opportunity to become familiar with the currency. In addition, the funds will be useful for transportation and other purchases immediately after arrival. You can arrange to purchase foreign currency through your local U.S. bank, although the process may take a week or more. You can also easily exchange money upon arrival at Changi Airport.

After orientation, you will learn where to obtain good exchange rates and you can begin using nearby banks and money changing facilities. Take enough cash or travelers checks to cover your initial expenses while you decide where to open an account.

ATM Card

Students often use their ATM card and PIN from a U.S. bank to withdraw money in Singapore. ATMs are available in banks, MRT stations, shopping centers, and other locations throughout Singapore. Check with your bank prior to departure regarding service charges and networks; the Cirrus or Plus networks are the most common.

Credit Cards

It is a good idea to take a credit card abroad. Major international credit cards, such as Visa and MasterCard, are widely accepted. Credit cards can be used at most hotels, restaurants, and department stores, as well as for cash advances. Check with your bank and credit card providers to determine fees and services that will be available to you abroad.

Transfer of Funds

Most students also use ATM cards to transfer money. However, travelers checks and telegraphic transfers are other secure options. You may process funds using international bank drafts made out in Singaporean dollars. These can be credited to accounts and withdrawn in several days. UCEAP discourages using personal checks to transfer money.

Banking Facilities

Many banks in Singapore offer a wide range of services and are located within a 15-minute bus ride from NUS. Examples include the Development Bank of Singapore, a Post Office Savings Bank, Overseas Union Bank Ltd., and United Overseas Bank Ltd.

The following table lists each bank, location, and minimum balance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Minimum Balance*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DBS</td>
<td>Block 43 Holland Drive #01-53/59</td>
<td>S$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSB</td>
<td>Block 449 Clementi Avenue 3 #01-243</td>
<td>S$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCBC</td>
<td>Block 445 Clementi Avenue 3 #01-153/155</td>
<td>S$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UOB</td>
<td>Block 443 Clementi Avenue 3 #01-65/69</td>
<td>S$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rates are subject to change.
COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

Mail
The Chinese system of putting family (last) names first when addressing mail is standard practice. All mail that is addressed to you should read “[Last name], [First name]” or have your last name underlined. In the past, the mail sorters have not known which box to put mail into, resulting in mail being returned to the senders.

Phone Service
- Dial 100 for 24/7 English directory and operator assistance.

In Singapore almost everyone has a cell phone, also known as a hand phone. You can purchase a cell phone after arrival or bring your unlocked cell phone to use with a local SIM card. SIM cards for use in Singapore are sold at the Changi Airport.

Pay phones are widely available. Phone cards can be purchased in multiple denominations and are sold at post offices, the co-op store on campus, convenience stores, newsstands, and other authorized agencies. If you live on the NUS campus, you can request private phone service in your room after you register.

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), the technology for transmitting voice conversations via the Internet, is popular with students who take a laptop abroad. Students and travelers of all kinds use social networking software such as Skype to make free or low-cost calls over the Internet.

Computer Access & Use
Computer access for A*STAR students will depend on where you decide to live. Internet cafés that charge an hourly rate are available in Singapore, but are geared more towards tourists.

NUS students will have access to the NUS Computer Center, NUSNET, and several computer labs on campus. NUSNET is a campus-wide network that interconnects 104 academic departments at NUS. It provides a wealth of network services with gateways to the Internet, e-journal, NUScast, newsfeed, CD-ROM databases, and more. In addition, you will receive an NUS e-mail account.
**UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...**

“Kent Ridge Hall is the ideal place to live. It’s close to the gym, track field, swimming pool, and school. Kent Ridge also offers block activities, which help you build friendships with locals.

Temasek Hall was a great choice. It’s close to the Arts, Business Administration, and Law faculties, the Central Library, and the forum where you can find a co-op for all your necessities.

Living in the dorms is an honor, and local residents have to earn the right to stay there each year.

The housing I ended up with was not one of my top choices, but it worked out just fine. The quality of the accommodations exceeded that of my UC campus.”

Most students live on campus in NUS-arranged housing. You also have the option of securing housing independently off campus. On-campus housing assignments cannot be guaranteed.

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**HOUSING & MEALS**

**A*STAR Housing**

**Summer Students**

A*STAR internships are offered at various locations throughout Singapore. You are responsible for making your own housing arrangements. UCEAP and the Singapore Study Center will provide information about possible housing options.

You can find additional instructions in the UCEAP online Predeparture Checklist.

**NUS Biodiversity Housing**

**Summer Students**

You can find housing application instructions in the UCEAP online Predeparture Checklist.

As far as on-campus housing options, past participants have stayed at Prince George’s Park Residences (PGPR). Rooms are grouped into clusters of 15 and offer their residents an apartment lifestyle. The 15 residents in each cluster are entrusted with collective responsibility for their shared facilities. Each cluster has its own kitchen, dining area, and bathroom facilities.

Every room is equipped with phone, television, and computer access to the university’s network and the Internet.

PGPR also houses a lecture theatre, seminar rooms, a multi-purpose hall, gymnasium, basketball and tennis courts, a jogging track, an exercise station, mini-supermarket, four food outlets, and other service outlets. Distributed throughout the whole residence are air-conditioned lounges, television rooms, and meeting and reading rooms.

**NUS Semester Housing**

**Fall, Spring, Year Students**

The housing application is incorporated into the NUS online student application. You will find additional instructions in the UCEAP online Predeparture Checklist.

**On-Campus Housing Options**

The following on-campus housing options are available:

- Eusoff Hall
- Sheares Hall
- Kent Ridge Hall
- Temasek Hall
- King Edward VII Hall
- Prince George’s Park Residences
- Raffles Hall
- Cinnamon Residential College, University Town
- Tembusu Residential College, University Town
- Graduate Residences, University Town
The halls generally offer more interaction with local students and the opportunity to participate in campus activities. Halls vary in distance but there is a good campus shuttle system that runs continuously every few minutes, so it is easy to get around campus. There is no charge for using the campus shuttle. Current students prefer housing at University Town for its new rooms and facilities.

Note that due to a shortage of on-campus housing, NUS determines final housing assignments. Student enrollment and demand for on-campus housing has been steadily increasing at NUS. NUS receives more applications for housing than available spaces. Continuing local students are granted priority for housing assignments. Exchange applicants are not guaranteed on-campus housing; however, assistance will be provided for applicants needing alternate housing arrangements.

Internet is available in dorm rooms, as well as throughout the NUS campus. Linens and pillows are not provided. You can take your own or buy them in Singapore. Detailed descriptions and costs are posted on NUS Residential Services website.

**Off-Campus Housing Options**

Refer to the NUS Residential Services Long-Term Stay web page for a list of off-campus options.

**Your Housing Assignment**

You will be notified of your housing assignment about one month prior to the program. Notification is sent directly from NUS via e-mail.

Once you receive your housing notification, you are required to accept the housing assignment, register, and submit a payment; or decline the offer by their stipulated deadlines. NUS is very strict with housing deadlines. Miss one deadline and your housing assignment will be given to another student.

You will receive an e-mail from the NUS housing office if you did not get an on-campus assignment as well. In this situation, they will provide you with information about off-campus housing, or you may opt for your own independent housing.

**Check-in Date and Move-in Procedures**

If you are assigned on-campus accommodations, the check-in date and move-in procedures will be included in the housing notification e-mail. You may also contact your assigned residence hall for additional details. Arrive during regular business hours for an easy check-in process.

If you are securing off-campus housing arrangements, you will need to ask about the check-in date and move-in procedures in advance. Move-in dates may vary based on location.

**Rent Payment**

Payment for the entire semester is due at the beginning of the program. Payments are only accepted in Singapore dollars. Rent can generally be paid with cash, international bank draft, or NETS. Credit cards are not accepted. Payment instructions and details will be included in the NUS housing allocation e-mail.
Private Hostels & Hotels Close to NUS

See the NUS list of private hostels in Singapore. The hostels located closest to NUS include:

- Bukit Timah Hostel
- Pasir Panjang Inn
- Praisehaven Foreign Students’ Hostel
- Singapore Hostel One66

There are several hotels near NUS if you arrive early, need temporary accommodation until you complete an off-campus housing search, want to invite family and friends to visit you, etc.:

- Carlton Hotel, 76 Bras Basah Rd.
- Copthorne Orchid Hotel, 214 Dunearn Rd.
- Fragrance Hotel–Waterfront, 418 Pasir Panjang Rd.
- Fragrance Hostel, 63 Dunlop St.
- Garden Hotel Singapore, 14 Balmoral Rd.
- Hotel Grand Central, 22 Cavenagh
- Hotel Royal Singapore, 36 Newton Rd.
- Orchard Hotel, 442 Orchard Rd.
- Peninsula Excelsior Hotel, 5 Coleman St.
UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“The variety of Southeast Asian cuisines was excellent. I had the pleasure of trying many foods that I had never encountered before.

The food is scrumptious and inexpensive. You absolutely have to try their chicken rice! Yum!

There is a great variety of delicious food and numerous canteens.

Even if you eat at a different place every day, you still won’t be able to hit all the restaurants, not to mention all the stalls in the hawker centers.

Once you get used to the food, you’ll realize how delicious most of the food in Singapore actually is. I know I’m definitely gonna be missing this all when I go back home.”

Meals

Tipping is not a customary practice; it is superseded by a 10 percent service charge and a 7 percent Goods and Services Tax (GST) at restaurants and hotels that is included in the bill.

Singapore is a culinary heaven and is considered the food capital of Asia. Tasty Chinese, Indian, Malay, Indonesian, and Western foods are sold from the many street stalls at reasonable prices. Singapore is also home to many fine, expensive restaurants as well as many American fast-food restaurants.

A normal meal in a “hawker center” (food stall on the street) costs about as much as a snack in the U.S. You can try out many varieties of food, such as prata and laksa, as well as other varieties that cannot be found anywhere else.

Eating at NUS

You can prepare your own food in the housing kitchenettes. You can also eat in the numerous canteens on campus, at hawker centers, or in the cafeterias, where a few dollars will buy a hearty meal.

There are five canteens and two take-away kiosks on campus. All of the canteens and cafés operate on a self-serve system, so be sure you deposit your plates and cutlery after meals in the appropriate trolleys.

With the exception of Prince George’s Park Residences, NUS students living on campus must enroll in a mandatory meal plan, which includes breakfast and dinner.

There are several vegetarian food stalls on campus. If you are a strict vegetarian, contact the NUS Office of Housing Services and specifically request PGPR, which does not have a meal plan.
Extracurricular Activities

Get Involved

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while abroad is an excellent way to meet people and integrate more fully into the community. Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad!

Community Projects

The National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre organizes and recruits volunteers for community projects. The UCEAP Liaison Officer is also actively involved with several local volunteer projects and can provide you with additional information.

NUS Student Societies and Organizations

There are several NUS student societies for recreational, religious, and cultural purposes. Examples include Outdoor Activities Club, Catholic Students Society, and Southeast Asian Studies Society. A complete listing is provided on the NUS Office of Student Affairs website.

NUS Host Family and Buddy Programs

During the semester, the NUS Office of Student Affairs offers a host family program to assist exchange students with adapting to the Singaporean lifestyle and culture. The host family program offers relationship-building opportunities with local hosts and access to cultural exchange activities.

There is also a buddy program that pairs you with a local NUS student.

NUS Residence Hall Activities

The residence halls organize a variety of activities that range from team sports to acting in a play. These are excellent ways for you to integrate into the local student culture. NUS students express a great deal of enthusiasm about participating in residence hall activities.
If you love jazz, check out the monthly jazz concert at Chijmes. My advice for any incoming UCEAP students to Singapore is to fully appreciate all the academic and club activities available on campus. There are many clubs that will allow UCEAP students to really immerse with the local students. From Suntec City to Sentosa Island and Little India, there are always fun things to do in Singapore! Singapore is an international hub where you can find many bargains for travel to other countries. Southeast Asia has a lot of cool things such as jungles, monkeys, temples, and floating markets. But, there’s also civil unrest, typhoons, illegal sex slavery, and military coups. Be a responsible and safe traveler and check the travel alerts on the U.S. Department of State website often.

Local Attractions
Singapore has many local attractions worth exploring, including world-renowned botanical gardens and several ethnic neighborhoods. The Study Center coordinates field trips to local attractions during the semester.

Festivals
Singapore celebrates a number of festivals and events throughout the year. Festivals are a wonderful opportunity to experience the Chinese, Hindu, and Muslim cultures that come together in Singapore. Most celebrations are based on a lunar calendar, so the dates vary. For a current calendar of events, refer to the Singapore Tourism Board website.

Performing Arts
Esplanade hosts a variety of performing arts events. Jazz enthusiasts should also look into the monthly jazz concerts at Chijmes, which are usually held every third Sunday of the month. For those hoping to be directly involved in a music activity, the University Symphony accepts qualified students.

Sports & Outdoor Activities
Singaporeans are active in sports. There are a great variety of sports you can choose from, and most of the teams welcome exchange students. There are judo, tae kwon do, wushu, taichi, soccer, track and field, volleyball, basketball, tennis, swimming, diving, kayaking, biking, handball, triathlon, biathlon, and more.

Swimming and water sport activities are also easily accessible along the beaches. There are several parks and nature reserves, such as Bukit Timah, that are optimal locations for hiking and mountain biking.

The NUS Sports and Recreation Centre offers over 70 recreational and competitive sport activities including basketball, rugby, and windsurfing.

Travel
It is relatively easy and inexpensive to travel from Singapore to other destinations in Southeast Asia. Previous participants have found the following travel books to be particularly useful: Lonely Planet Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei; Lonely Planet Southeast Asia on a Shoestring; The Rough Guide to Southeast Asia; and To Asia with Love: A Connoisseurs’ Guide to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel abroad. Refer to the UCEAP Student Travel Policy.
**Health**

- In addition to the following, read the Health chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

**Physical Health**

Observe basic hygiene standards:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Drink bottled water.
- Protect yourself from insect bites (mosquito-borne diseases are a nationwide and year-round risk).

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact the Study Center immediately. Study Center staff can recommend health care facilities to visit, help you complete the necessary medical insurance claim forms, and assist with arrangements if you expect to be absent from classes for an extended period of time.

**Health Care Facilities**

Good medical care is widely available. Doctors and hospitals expect immediate payment for health services by credit card or cash. The Study Center specifically recommends two health care facilities, the National University Hospital and NUS Health Clinic.

If you experience a medical emergency, go to National University Hospital. It is located approximately 15 minutes from NUS.

National University Hospital  
5 Lower Kent Ridge Road  
**Phone:** (65) 6779-5555  
**24-Hour Hotline:** (65) 6772-5000  
**Fax:** (65) 6779-5678  
**E-mail:** enquiries@nuh.com.sg  
**Web:** [www.nuh.com.sg](http://www.nuh.com.sg)

The NUS Health Clinic, open during regular business hours, offers services such as medical examinations, general health screenings, lab tests, and women’s wellness for NUS students. After hours, you can go to the Clementi Clinic, which is located 15 minutes from campus and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NUS Health Clinic  
20 Lower Kent Ridge Road  
Singapore 119080  
**Phone:** (65) 6776-1631  
**E-mail:** uhc_health@nus.edu.sg  
**Web:** [www.nus.edu.sg/uhc](http://www.nus.edu.sg/uhc)

**Dental care** services are available at NTUC Denticare Clinics.

NTUC Denticare Clinic  
Blk 431 Clementi Ave 3, #01-304  
**Phone:** (65) 6773-4533  
**Fax:** (65) 6773-4534  
**Ambulance Services**

Public and private ambulance services are professional and well equipped in Singapore. To contact a public ambulance service, dial 995.

**Medical Records**

Privacy laws pertaining to medical records differ from those in the U.S. The Ministry of Health auditors may, under certain circumstances, grant permission to retrieve a patient’s medical records without the consent of the patient.

**Medical Report**

If you will be studying in Singapore for more than six months (i.e., participating in the year program), you are required to complete a medical report, which includes compulsory HIV and TB chest X-ray tests. The Singapore Immigration and Security Checkpoints Authority requires this medical report to issue specific immigration documents.

While you have the option of completing the medical report at the NUS University Health and Wellness Center upon arrival in Singapore, it is better for you to complete the medical report in the U.S. before departure in order to receive your Student Pass immediately upon registration at NUS and avoid hassle. The Singapore Immigration and Security Checkpoints Authority views medical reports as valid for three months after completion. Do not complete the medical report more than three months prior to your arrival at NUS.

**Health Risks**

- The Government of Singapore requires proof of yellow fever vaccination if traveling from endemic zones.

For more information about health risks while in Singapore and any other travel destination, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Travelers’ Health website.

If you plan on traveling to neighboring countries, consider vaccinations and health risks specific to the areas you will be visiting.

**Infectious Diseases**

UCEAP continually reviews information from the CDC and World Health Organization, works closely with medical experts on the UC campuses, and monitors local host university and country health resources. Avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces or fluids from poultry or other animals, and eat only thoroughly cooked poultry products. Refer to additional information on the UCEAP website and on the NUS website.

**Mosquito Bites**

Mosquitoes may transmit diseases such as dengue fever and malaria. While the Singapore Ministry of Environment has an active mosquito abatement program, you are strongly urged to take precautions against mosquito bites. Use insect repellent containing DEET or similar chemicals, wear appropriate clothing, and take malaria prophylactic pills if visiting high-risk areas. For more information, refer to the U.S. CDC website.
Emotional/Psychological Health

Speak with returnees and gather as much information as possible before you leave for Singapore.

Culture shock and homesick feelings are normal. It is easy to become worn down from physical and mental stress due to the vastly different environment. To counter this, eat well, stay hydrated, get plenty of rest, share concerns with the local representative, and be open and accepting of the differences you encounter. It will make your stay more enjoyable as you adapt to the new environment.

The Singapore American Community Action Council (SACAC) is a nonprofit organization providing services to the local and expatriate community. SACAC offers psychological counseling, mental health resources, and support groups. They have counselors who were trained and licensed in the U.S. and practice different areas of specialty.

SACAC Counseling
The American Club
10 Claymore Hill

Phone: (65) 6733-9249
Fax: (65) 6733-9321
E-mail: sacaccomprog@pacific.net.sg
Web: www.sacac.com

NUS Counselling and Psychological Services (CPS) offers a variety of services including individual assessment and counseling, group workshops, crisis intervention, and training events.

NUS Counselling and Psychological Services
Level 2, University Health Centre
20 Lower Kent Ridge Road

Phone: (65) 6516-2376
E-mail: counselling@nus.edu.sg
Web: www.nus.edu.sg/uhc/cps

There is also a dedicated phone line, LifeLine NUS, maintained by CPS for crisis management and life-threatening emergencies. The LifeLine NUS phone number is (65) 6516-7777.
Prescription Medications
Plan ahead and verify that your prescription medications are legal in Singapore. Contact the UCEAP travel assistance provider, Europ Assistance, by phone at (866) 451-7606 or e-mail at OPS@europassistance-usa.com. The Singapore Health Science Authority determines medication regulations.

Health Sciences Authority
11 Biopolis Way #11-03 Helios
Singapore 138667
Phone: (65) 68663522
E-mail: hsa_info@hsa.gov.sg
Web: www.hsa.gov.sg

If your prescriptions do not contain banned substances, you may take a three-month supply to Singapore.

You are required to take a copy of the prescription or letter from your physician with a detailed explanation (including the generic name, dosage, and purpose) for any prescription medication entering Singapore. All medications should always be packed in your carry-on luggage. You are not required to declare medicines on arrival in Singapore; however, medications and related documents may be inspected by customs authorities.

If you need additional medication or prescription refills after arrival in Singapore, seek guidance from a local pharmacist or physician. Pharmacies are generally located in all hospitals. Over-the-counter medications are available in chain drug stores throughout Singapore.

NUS Medical Insurance
In addition to the mandatory UCEAP Insurance Plan, NUS requires all students to have a specified amount of medical insurance coverage. You must pay the premium for the insurance policy offered through NUS, Group Medical Insurance Scheme (GMIS). Additional information is provided with the NUS Offer Package.

Students with Disabilities
The Disabled People’s Association of Singapore is a nonprofit organization that coordinates services, promotes awareness, and publishes useful information about disability accommodations.

Disabled People’s Association of Singapore
#04-77 German Centre
25 International Business Park
Singapore 609916
Phone: (65) 6899-1220
Fax: (65) 6899-1232
E-mail: dpa@dpa.org.sg
Web: www.dpa.org.sg

The National Council of Social Services sponsors the Disability Portal, a comprehensive resource for persons with disabilities and service providers.

Also refer to the Students with Disabilities chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
Safet

Crime
Singaporeans enjoy a high standard of living and the government vigorously promotes a sense of civic responsibility that helps deter crime. Strict legal penalties for even minor offenses and excellent policing also serve as significant crime deterrents. Pick-pocketing and petty thefts occur, but are not widespread problems. This is especially the case in tourist areas, such as hotels and airports. Hand phones (cell phones) have in the past been the primary target for robbers and snatch thieves. The Singapore Police Force (SPF) advised that hand phone-related crimes dropped due to increased public education and stricter enforcement against used hand phone dealers who break laws or regulations. The SPF Commercial Affairs Department has implemented an online database of the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers of stolen hand phones for easy screening by purchasers. Observing logical security precautions will minimize crime threats. The SPF advises that most phone scams in Singapore attempt to persuade people to make advance payments to claim a prize. Sometimes the prize used to lure victims may be the promise of a luxury car and other valuables. Scammers contact victims via SMS messages to inform them that they won a “lucky draw.”

Violent crime is rare, and criminals rarely target Westerners. Burglaries, robberies, and vehicle thefts are uncommon. Crime in Singapore is generally non-confrontational, and usually opportunistic in nature. If you are the victim of a crime while in Singapore, immediately report it to the Study Center, local police, and U.S. embassy.

Police Response
The police are consistently professional and any report involving a crime incident will be handled in accordance with the prescribed regulations. Police harassment is not a problem in Singapore, and assistance can be readily obtained by dialing the standard emergency number, 999. Every district within Singapore has a dedicated neighborhood police center, and you can file a police report in any of the centers—not just in the district where the crime took place.

Drugs
There are severe penalties for narcotics trafficking—up to and including the death penalty.

Terrorist Threats
According to the U.S. Department of State, terrorist organizations are present in Southeast Asia and Singapore may be a target of interest. Terrorist organizations have previously demonstrated the capability for transnational attacks in this region. Exercise particular caution during large public events and at places frequented by foreigners.
Fire Safety

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) is under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The main role of SCDF is to provide firefighting, rescue and emergency ambulance services; mitigating hazardous materials incidents, as well as formulate, implement, and enforce regulations on fire safety and civil defense shelter matters. For more information, see the SCDF website.

The National University of Singapore (NUS) Fire Safety Policy is established for the purpose of minimizing the risk of fire and in the event of a fire, to limit its spread, ensuring the safety of all the University personnel and visitors, minimizing the potential of fire from disrupting teaching and research, and lastly minimizing property and environmental damage.

Your Responsibilities Regarding Fire Safety at NUS:

- Cooperate and comply with the NUS Fire Safety Policy and instructions you receive regarding fire safety and any other fire procedures
- Know what to do in the event of a fire, including being familiar with the escape routes from your location
- Consider the risk of fire from your activities and reduce or control that risk
- Do not interfere with or abuse any equipment provided for fire safety
- Report any observed shortcoming in fire precautions to the Office of Estate and Development

UCEAP strongly encourages you to buy a portable battery-operated smoke alarm for use while traveling. For more information, read the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad section on Fire Safety.

Transportation Safety

Singapore has a highly developed and well-maintained road and highway network. Driving is done on the left-hand side of the road, which is the opposite of the U.S. driving system, so pedestrians should be extra careful. Public transportation and taxis are abundant, inexpensive, and reliable.

Do not drive a motorized vehicle of any kind. Involvement in a traffic accident can lead to major safety, legal, and financial problems.

Strict law enforcement and well-developed public transportation systems make travel by public transportation in Singapore very secure. Regardless, maintain general security precautions while using buses, trains, and subways. Buses, commuter trains, the subway, and their associated stations attract thieves, pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Carry all bags and purses in front of you and keep an eye on luggage at all times.

Taxis provide an extremely secure means of transport.

Travel Warnings and UCEAP Policy

Refer to the current travel warnings with the U.S. Department of State and the UCEAP Student Travel Policy.
Emergency Contacts

What Is an Emergency?
An emergency is a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. The following are considered emergencies:

- Any life/death situation
- A traumatic event requiring immediate assistance
- An arrest
- Civil unrest or natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency
Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.
- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact your Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad
Carry the local emergency contact information at all times:

- Ambulance .......... 995
- Fire ................. 995
- Police ............. 999

U.S. Embassy in Singapore
American Citizen Services
27 Napier Road
Singapore 258508

Phone: (65) 6476-9100
Fax: (65) 6476-9232

Regular Hours:
8:30 a.m.–noon (Monday–Friday);
1:30–3 p.m. (Monday–Friday, except Thursday)

E-mail: singaporeacs@state.gov
Web: singapore.usembassy.gov

If you have a health, travel, or safety emergency and do not have access to local or UCEAP representative emergency information, contact the UCEAP travel assistance provider, Europ Assistance, available 24/7:

Call international collect: 1+202-828-5896
Call within the U.S.: 1+866-451-7606
E-mail: ops@europassistance-usa.com