

2019年春季新加坡南洋理工大学交流小结

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What does it mean to study abroad in NTU

I never exaggerate when I say that study abroad changed my life. My trip abroad to Singapore, was by far the most influential experiences I had during college and it continues to have an effect on my career and my personal goals today. Despite the mental prosperity I got in Singapore, knowledge about working and research was also obtained in this 4-month period.

Culture and fun Singapore is famous not only for its beauty and modernness, but as a travel destination. This spring saw business in Orchard Street with Dim sum, architecture reflecting tropical climate in NTU and nature in Garden by the Bay. The skyscrapers in Orchard street show economy structure in Singapore, in which tertiary sector of the economy plays quite a significance role. The main buildings in NTU are all connected, puzzling at the beginning but convenient all the time, which fosters cross-disciplinary researches on campus. On my arrival in Garden by the Bay, I was fascinated by plants exhibiting themselves — as a student majoring in biology, tropical plants intrigue me for their elegant structures. What a pity that so much young is wasted on young people; I would have studied botany more diligently!

Studying in NTU As a student majoring in biological sciences with a focus on data science and technology, I studied abroad in NTU as a computer science student. I took five courses this semester: Algorithms, Introduction to Databases, Operating systems, Artificial Intelligence, and Distributed Systems. Though five courses are not a tremendous number at all — in FDU I will take more since I have to take selective courses and general education courses — my study experience in NTU really suffered. I hadn't learned Data Structure before I enrolled the Algorithms, I hadn't learned Computer Networking before I enrolled the Distributed Systems and I hadn't learned Computer Architecture before I enrolled the Operating System course. Therefore, my GPA in NTU suffers.

Nevertheless, I really learned a lot in NTU. I had to finish prerequisite courses by my own, review what I learned in lectures, and integrate them into a whole. Also, tutorials and lab sessions in NTU gave me opportunity to embody what I learned in lectures. I treasure my experience in NTU, which gave me chance to learn from a perspective of a programmer instead of a data washer.

Personal development Finally, I talked a lot with my roommate, my classmate, and my friends. I have to say, that I was a little chaotic when I firstly arrived in Singapore due to my poor spoken English and little knowledge about Singlish. I got troubled when I tried to handle anything in my life, a little depressed. I took lectures, tutorials and lab sessions routinely until I met my loved one, who deals with everything with love and passion.

Then I realized that I was surrounded by souls with love and passion, and I wanted to be one of them. Why had I chosen to study abroad in NTU? Who had put me in this trouble? Who would expect my suffering and hardship? The initiator of evil was myself, and I had to make up it. I took part in discussion actively, joined activities with FDUers, and proposed dating with my loved one. These experiences broadened my horizons, fostered my all-around development and gave me confidence to embrace this world: I tried to be familiar with high-speed life in Singapore, to handle stress from studying along with my loved one and to use what I learned in botany class to explain how certain structures of plants can contribute to adaptation to tropical climate.

Why had I chosen to study abroad in NTU? Experience in NTU will be only a small marker on my resume, if I only regard it as a marker; however, NTU means more when I'm more concentrating on personal development. There is no gold standard for maturity, while shorthand exists. There're a lot of things that cause people to further their growing up, as Williams Brown says, and he thinks kids can be shorthand for that". On contrast, I think studying abroad is truly a shorthand for personal development.

Life career Despite the differences between job markets of China and Singapore, almost all college students want to prepare for their career in the course of college. Some may choose to find a job after graduation, seeking internship on vocation, while others that focus on research in labs desire to apply graduate school before seeking a job.

When it comes to myself, who studies biological sciences, data science and technology in FDU, I want to study brain science during my graduate study. With development of science and technology, research on brains is not only based on hypothesis, but driven by tons of data. Therefore, it's better for me to study both biological sciences and data science in college. However, I made unbalanced efforts with respect to all the subjects I am studying. I cannot find a good chance to focus on computer science due to courses of other subjects filling up my schedule, while in NTU, I took courses on computer science only, which gave me opportunity to learn computer science systematically. It seemed I learned so many things unrelated to my major, however, it really helps me a lot by driving me to think deeper and deeper. For example, I had learned machine learning and neural networks but hadn't know why it had to be this way until I learned fuzzy logic when taking Artificial Intelligence class in NTU. Step by step, case it out from puzzles and chaos; that is what I experienced in NTU.

Summary I never exaggerate when I say that study abroad changed my life; for example, I have to delay my graduation after this trip. It was really a precious experience to learn outer world, such as a new country, a new subject and a new culture. However, what intrigued me more is the change to explore my inner world, to think about my life career and to concern personal development. It's never too late to learn, though I still have long way to go.