

**SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
2018 SINGAPORE SUMMER PROGRAM**



Welcome to Santa Clara Law's 2018 summer program in Singapore!

This year, Professor Tseming Yang and I (Anna Han) will be co-directors of the program in Singapore. We look forward to getting to know you during our three weeks together. I am arriving on Saturday May 19th and am staying at a hotel near the university. At orientation on Sunday afternoon May 20, I will give you my local cell phone number, but in the interim you can reach me via email ahan@scu.edu and Professor Yang's email is tyang@scu.edu.

Here is some information you may find helpful as you plan for and arrive in Singapore.

GETTING ORIENTED

Arriving in Singapore.

You will arrive at the very beautiful and efficient Changi airport in Singapore. If entering Singapore as a "tourist" or "visitor," US citizens need not obtain a special visa prior to entry. You will simply get a stamp as a "visitor" at the Singapore immigration desk. You are not entering as a student since you are not registered as a student at the university in Singapore: you are a US law student, enrolled in a US law program at a US law school. If you are doing an externship in Singapore, you must get a Temporary Employment Pass (TEP) –I will individually contact each student who falls in this category, and so you will be aware of those requirements. But, you will still enter the country as a general tourist. The TEP is processed separately.

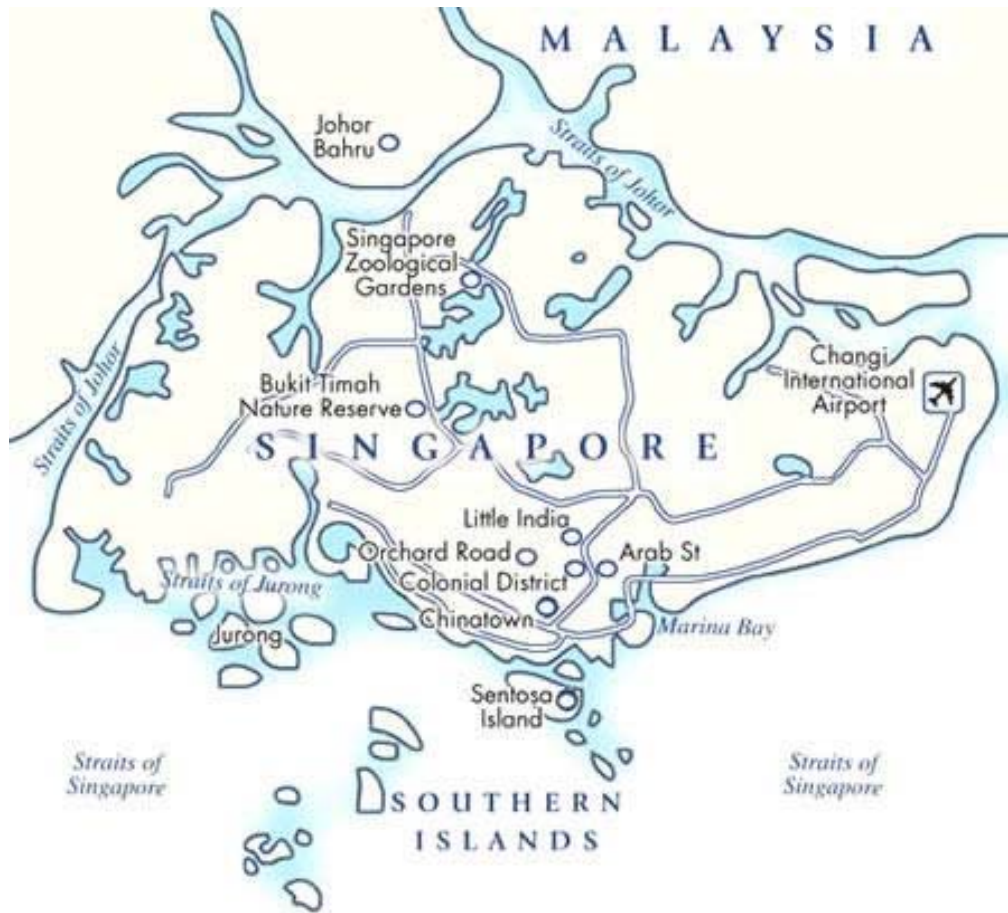
[NOTE: if you are continuing on to Vietnam, Cambodia or India for an externship, US citizens must get visas to enter each of these countries. You can *usually* get a Cambodia visitor's visa at the airport for about \$35. Just be sure to have two continuous pages of your passport blank for this. **You passport must be valid for 6 months beyond the date of entry for many countries to issue a visa.**

Before you leave the airport

You may choose to buy a SIM card for your universal phone, or rent a cell phone at Changi airport, although you will likely find cheaper options in town. You can also buy a EZ Link Card which is accepted on the MRT (or as we may say, the subway system) and most buses, but you can get this in town since it is readily available at places such as 7-Eleven. More information on phones and such below is found below.

ATM machines are at the airport and you can use your debit card to withdraw some cash. Do not use a credit card if possible, as interest rates tend to be higher for cash withdrawals and typically the interest on the sum withdrawn starts to accrue immediately. ATM machines are widely available at the airport and throughout Singapore.

Traveling to your accommodations



You will now need to figure out how to get to your accommodation downtown. You can certainly get assistance at the airport, but if you would like to review your options ahead of time, you might find this helpful:

http://www.metropolasia.com/Getting_around_Singapore/From-Changi-Airport

A taxi ride from Changi Airport to your residence should be around 25 minutes. Taxi fares, if you choose to take a taxi this first time, are generally inexpensive – but be aware that at certain times of the night, on Sundays, and for various other reasons surcharges and tolls add to the cost of a taxi ride. You may spend \$15 or twice as much, \$30 for a ride from the airport. Although there are definitely less expensive options available to you, you should weigh in the inconvenience of carrying your luggage around.

(See also “Housing,” below).

ORIENTATION AND CLASS

Our class will most likely be at the Singapore Management University's law school, which is housed in the School of Accountancy. I will specify in the next newsletter.

<http://www.smu.edu.sg/campus/map/>

Campus Map



We start at 9:00 am (SHARP) for all classes. Our orientation is on the afternoon of Sunday May 20. We will have a welcome dinner after the orientation. More details to come. A class schedule will be sent to you before the start of the program but subject always to change.

Again, please make sure you arrive for class before 9 am. We want to be respectful of our lecturers' time. It is easy to run late as you try to figure out the best way to get to campus – make sure you give yourself extra time on the first 2-3 days. Even if you have done a “dry-run” over the weekend, remember that weekdays always are a bit more hectic, bus schedules may have changed, etc.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Singapore is a safe, modern, vibrant, multi-cultural, convenient, sophisticated, efficient, and courteous city-state-country. Need I say more? You will find any number of things to do in and around Singapore. From fabulous and inexpensive food to vibrant neighborhoods -- aromatic Little India, tumbledown backstreets of Chinatown, or the Arab Quarter whose cluttered stores sell beautiful fabrics and silks, you will certainly find plenty to keep you busy in Singapore.

Students very often leave Singapore over the weekends – a boat or plane ride to Indonesia, or a short flight into Malaysia, Thailand or Vietnam. If you are planning on leaving the country, you must email me to let me know generally where you are going (at least the country), and of course must return in time for class on Monday. You should also inform a fellow student who is not traveling with more details. This is for your safety. As anything might happen, and your family calls SCU trying to find you, we can at least know where you are generally.

FOOD: The food is FANTASTIC. More tips later.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Money Matters

Banks and ATM machines are widely available throughout Singapore. The currency in Singapore is the “Singapore dollar,” abbreviated as SGD or S\$. Although currency conversion rates fluctuate, as of today, the currency rate was as follows: 1 US\$ = 1.33S\$ / 1 S\$ = 0.76 US\$.

Summer Weather and What to Wear

Expect it to be hot, humid, and rainy during the summer in Singapore. Bring an umbrella and/or rain jacket, and comfortable shoes. Other directors are firm believers in Crocs. http://www.crocs.com/womens-mary-janes-and-flats/women-footwear-flats,default,sc.html?intid=mm_women1_flats. I leave this important fashion decision to you but I have heard this more than once now. Consider wearing Crocs when walking in the rain, then slip them into a bag for a dressier pair as you enter a building. They are extremely light, comfortable, and practical for rainy weather. You will find them in Singapore as well, so they are apparently quite well accepted.

You can dress comfortably for classes, but always err on the side of more formal clothing. For example, shorts, sleeveless t-shirts, low-cut blouses or tank tops will be frowned upon in the classroom. Air conditioned buildings can actually be too cold at times. You will be expected to dress conservatively and in professional attire on our field trips. If you are staying on for an externship, a business suit is mandatory unless your employer specifically indicates otherwise. Short-sleeved buttoned shirts are appropriate for men. We will try and alert you to the days that more formal attire is needed.

Communication

- You must be available by email.
- You can get your local US number activated to travel abroad. I do not recommend this. It costs a fortune. Only necessary if you just must have people able to call your US number.
- Consider getting a SIM Card for your current phone. You can put a local SIM card into an existing iPhone and have a local Singapore number. Small piece of advice – make sure your phone is unlocked PRIOR to your departure to permit this.
- Facebook. Most people have it, of course. You can message each other when connected to the Internet. We have a group on Facebook just for this purpose.
- Messaging – for anyone with an iPhone, you can send texts via the web to other iPhone users.
- <http://www.angryangmo.com/2010/04/07/25-best-free-iphone-ipad-apps-singapore/> has a list of apparently cool apps. I have not used any, but some look useful.

Business Cards

Students are encouraged to bring along some business cards with your contact information. It is quite customary to exchange business cards in Singapore.

Gifts

Gifts and small tokens of appreciation are frequently exchanged, and it is a good idea to bring along some small items for your key contacts in Singapore. Employers and administrative staff would appreciate receiving a small token from you when you leave. You can also buy it locally.

Important Documents

As always, when traveling overseas make sure you keep a copy of your travel documents (including passport) in a safe place, and separate from the actual documents. I recommend keeping a copy in the cloud by storing a photo of your passport page.

- Readings for the classes
 - If you prefer to get ahead on your readings on your 17 hours of flying, please do. I will send specific links and instructions on the readings later.
- Dress code
 - For the Singapore class, you are welcome to dress casually. But a note: Singapore is a more conservative environment than the United States (and especially for us out here in California). You might consider ditching the miniskirts, the ratty tanks, and the ball caps. Up to you of course.
 - Business formal (suits) for our site visits to the Courts. You are foreign students who are privileged to visit these institutions, and it is appropriate to dress respectfully.
 - Externships – this is externship specific, of course, and you might want to confirm with your contact the appropriate dress. My guess is business casual, but it is always good to have a suit jacket and tie to throw on.
- Get your prescriptions refilled. If you have prescriptions that you plan to bring, I recommend you refill early. Just in case there is some snafu in this fill / refill, you want a few days spare. This might be the one item that you cannot get easily in Singapore.
 - Bring the pills in their prescription bottles and a copy of your prescription! If you have a big bag of pills ... you might have the lovely experience one student had in having each one tested by the police to ensure they were indeed medications, and not some illegal drugs.

- Non prescription meds: they are not quite the same in Singapore. I recommend that, if you have some very specific med that you like / need, you take with you.
- A quick word or two on **illegal drugs: do not even think about it.** The laws in Singapore are very clear and the punishment for breaking the law is severe. Do not bring them with you and do not buy them during your stay in Southeast Asia. In case you are tempted, there are a few movies about prison in these countries that I can recommend.
- If you are considering traveling around Southeast Asia – check the CDC website to see if you need vaccinations. Also, some countries may require a tourist visa, check this out now so you can avoid disappointment later.
- Don't sweat the small stuff
 - As you pack and prepare, it is easy to get overwhelmed with the seemingly endless list of small details you will need to manage for your summer adventure. Just remember: you are traveling to Singapore, a very highly developed country with nearly everything you could need. When you realize that thing you forgot, you will be able to replace it pretty darn easily.

Travel safe, and we look forward to seeing you in Singapore!

Professors Anna Han and Tseming Yang