

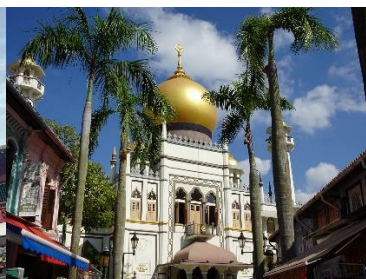
Photo Journal: My Experience of Studying in Singapore

First of all, I am so grateful for this opportunity to take part in the CAMPUS Asia program and to study in Singapore. Participating in this program made me realize the complexity of addressing social issues. However, I also came to recognize that people can cooperate regardless of their backgrounds through my real-life experience of living and studying in Singapore.

One of the social issues that I would like to highlight is the difficulty of solving conflicts among different ethnic groups. Through taking courses as an exchange student in Singapore and living there, I learned about Singapore's commitment to promoting multiracialism, or multiculturalism. Singapore consists of four distinct ethnic groups: Chinese, Malays, Indians and others. As Singapore needed to unite people across racial differences after its independence, multiracialism emerged as a doctrine for equal rights among all ethnicities. For example, the principle of multiracialism can be observed in city planning. Each ethnic group has its own district representing its unique culture, such as Chinatown, Arab Street and Little India. I visited all of the districts and enjoyed experiencing different cultures. The variety of food also reflects the various ethnic groups living in Singapore. School canteens and hawker centers were very nice places for me to try cuisines from different ethnic groups. In addition, significant cultural celebrations of each ethnic group are represented by the national holidays in Singapore, such as Chinese New Year, Hari Raya Puasa, and Deepavali. Various events were held on campus to celebrate the national holidays. In my personal experience of studying and living in Singapore, people from diverse ethnic backgrounds seem to coexist in harmony. However, I also learned that some ethnic minorities encounter stereotype-based discrimination in various spheres such as media, education and employment. I recognized that even though Singapore's multiracialism policies have made strides in promoting racial harmony, inter-ethnic tensions persist.



Chinatown



Arab Street



Little India

My daily student life in Singapore was full of excitement and discovery. I formed friendships with local Singaporean students and exchange students from different parts of the world. I enjoyed studying and doing some group projects together with them at the libraries and study spaces on campus. It was fascinating to learn new perspectives from them. I also enjoyed exploring cities with my friends because Singapore is a mixture of modernity and traditional cultures.

Even though I realized the complexity of addressing social issues, forming international friendships through CAMPUS Asia program reassured me that the cooperation beyond racial and cultural differences can pave the way for solving social issues in the future.



↑ *My favorite places to study on campus: Lee Wee Nam Library, The Hive and Gaia*

