

Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore
Rafael (Rafi) Mazuz

Obtaining your visa and student pass is no problem and NTU is very organized about sending you information and instructions on what to do. The important thing, though, is not to be Israeli about it--you need to do everything they tell you to do and do so within the time frames that they indicate, otherwise you may find yourself having to leave in the middle of the semester without completing your MBA.

Transportation and getting around the city is also not a problem at all. Unlike Israel, all of the bus and train signs are up-to-date, and the websites always have accurate and timely information about routes and schedules, including temporary changes and service outages.

The school is very helpful, and exchange students are basically treated just like the regular full-time students, even when it comes to things like career services and class activities. However, career services do have a heavy Singapore-centric focus, so it would probably not be very useful to someone looking to work outside of the Asia-Pacific region after graduation.

A Sofaer iMBAer's final semester will coincide with the first trimester for the new NTU MBA batch, so many of your classmates will be in the same position as you in terms of being eager to explore Singapore and the surrounding region, plus they have many MBA exchange students in any given trimester.

In terms of housing, I'd definitely recommend trying to get in the graduate housing on campus. This was not available to me during my trimester there because of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) being held on campus, so I had to settle for one of the shady off-campus apartments that caters to short term and international students. The on-campus housing is cheaper, nicer, closer to class, and almost as close to the city, not to mention that the vast majority of the other full-time MBA students live there.

Make sure to check out the plethora of sports teams and other extracurricular activities at the school. Even for just a few months, it's worth getting involved early. Not only will you enjoy the activities themselves, but it's a great opportunity to meet and socialize with locals outside of the ones in the MBA program (very few MBAers are even Singaporean nationals, anyway).

And although Singapore itself is a small, modern country, a weekend in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, or other surrounding countries is very cheap, and should cost about the same (or less) than a weekend in Eilat. I'd recommend trying to schedule 3-4 consecutive days with no classes, if possible to allow you to take advantage of that—but try not to do it at the cost of foregoing interesting, Asia-related courses, such as Sun Tzu's Art of War: Applications to Business & Marketing Strategy, the various Asia and International-focused business law courses, and of course Chinese Language Study.

Anyone interested in NTU or the region in general can feel free to contact me at rmazuz@gmail.com

Rafi