

**SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW  
2013 SINGAPORE SUMMER PROGRAM**



**Welcome to Santa Clara Law's 2013 summer program in Singapore!**

As you know by now, from the emails you have received from Vinita and me, we will be your on-site Program Directors in Singapore. Vinita will be with us during the first week, and Michael will remain through the entire program. We look forward to getting to know you during our three weeks together. I (Michael) am arriving in the wee hours of Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> and am staying at the Somerset Bencoolen Residence (lobby phone number (65) 6849 4688). At orientation on May 27, I will give you my local cell phone number, but in the interim you can reach me on my cell at (415) 407-7900, at my local number above, or via email at [mwflynn@scu.edu](mailto:mwflynn@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 internship in Singapore, you must get a "Work Holiday Pass" or a similar work visa –

Vinita Bali and I had individually contacted each student who falls in this category, and so you are well aware of those requirements.

[NOTE: if you are continuing on to Vietnam, Cambodia or India for an internship, US citizens must get visas to enter each of these countries. You can usually get a Cambodia visitor's visa at the airport].

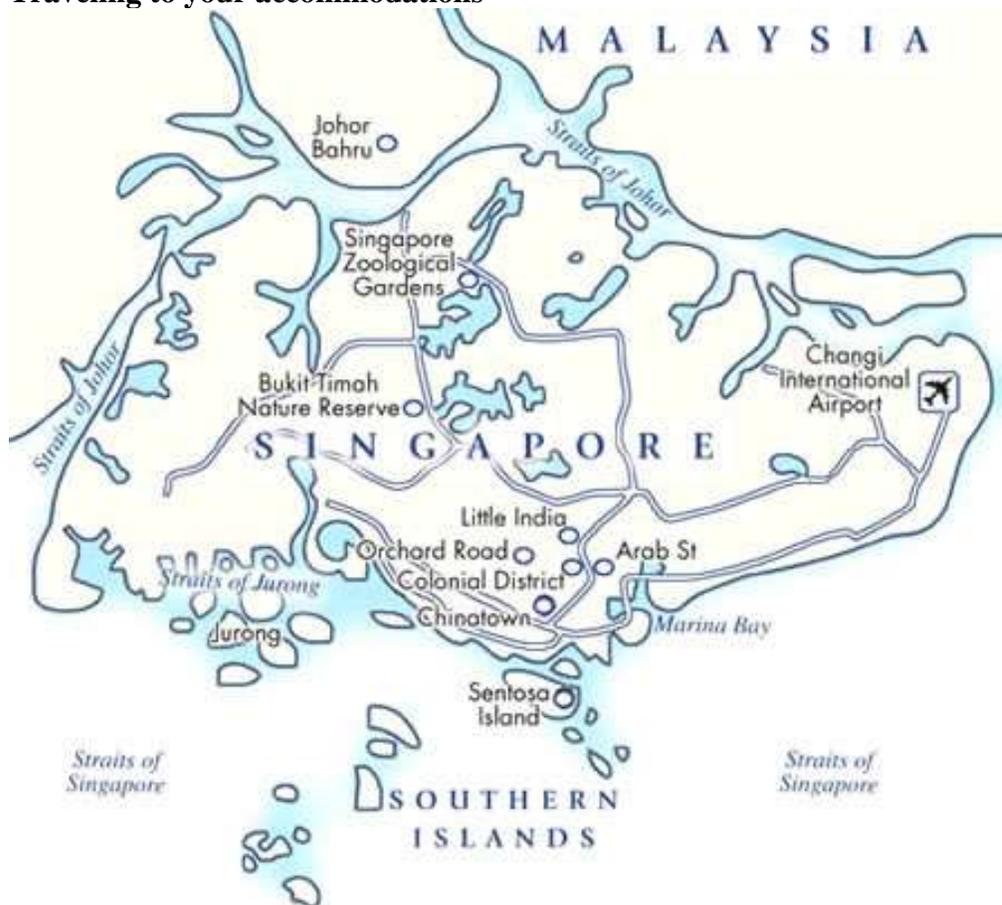
Assuming you enter Singapore on a visitor's visa or with an approved Work Holiday Pass or work permit, you should very efficiently pass through immigration and customs.

### **Before you leave the airport**

You may choose to buy a SIM card for your universal phone (I do), 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 I usually just get this in town since it is readily available at places such as 7-Eleven.

I also usually find an ATM machine at the airport and use my 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. I do not have an opinion as to whether you should use traveler checks versus an ATM, or some other option. I use an ATM machine, widely available at the airport and throughout Singapore, for the sheer convenience of it.

### **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](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 orientation and most of our classes will be held at the Singapore Management University’s law school, which is housed in the School of Accountancy.

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

It is about a 10-15 minute walk from Prinsep.

### Campus Map



We start at 9:00 am (SHARP) with an orientation on the morning of Monday May 27. So that you can register and pick up your materials, plan to be at the classroom no later than 8:45 am. The orientation, and all our classes, are held in the same Seminar Room (exact room tbd), School of Accountancy. After a morning orientation, we will head over for lunch, followed by our first class and a walking tour of the important legal sites of Singapore. **MAKE SURE YOU WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES FOR THE WALKING TOUR.** See below, my recommendations under “Summer Weather and What to Wear.”) You will not have time to go home to change into comfortable clothes/shoes, so either wear them or carry them with you when you arrive for Orientation. I have sent you the class schedule, but you can also find the schedule and program updates at <http://law.scu.edu/international/asean.cfm>

Again, please make sure you arrive for orientation by 8:45 am. 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.

## **HOUSING**

Many of you have requested rooms at the SMU Residences @ Prinsep located at 83 Prinsep Street, Singapore 187947 (Tel: +65 6336 5262). We are still in the process of confirming all the rooms. You are not guaranteed any specific housing arrangement (e.g., you might not end up with a single room, you might not be placed with the people whom you have requested, etc.) If you are uncomfortable with waiting, or wish to guarantee any specific type of living arrangement, I recommend that you move forward on your own.

When available, I will send you a letter that authorizes you into the premises. Make sure you check your email prior to arrival, and look for an email from me with the attached letter, as you will need to carry this letter with you when checking in.

## **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 (even Australia as students did in 2009). Most of you are joining for the one-day trip to Malacca, Malaysia on Saturday, June 1. But, the weekend of June 8 has no program activities, and you might wish to plan something fun. Please feel free to use the Facebook page for group planning.



## **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, in mid-April 2013, the currency rate is as follows: 1 US\$ = 1.24S\$ / 1S\$ = 0.81 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. Tired of ruining my dress shoes, a couple of years back, Vinita bought a pair of Crocs (they come in all styles now and can pass off reasonably well with more formal clothes as well.) [http://www.crocs.com/womens-mary-janes-and-flats/women-footwear-flats,default,sc.html?intid=mm\\_women1\\_flats](http://www.crocs.com/womens-mary-janes-and-flats/women-footwear-flats,default,sc.html?intid=mm_women1_flats). I personally support Crocs, and understand that most feel that they are tacky. Indeed, there are Facebook groups both pro and con. I leave this incredibly important fashion decision to you.

I plan to wear my Crocs when walking in the rain, then slip them into my bag for a dressier pair as I 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, tank tops or flip-flops will be frowned upon in the classroom. You will be expected to dress conservatively and in professional attire on our field trips. If you are staying on for an internship, a business suit is mandatory unless your employer specifically indicates otherwise. Half-sleeved shirts are appropriate for men.

## **Cell Phones, Laptops**

Cell phones and SIM cards can be easily rented in Singapore. In fact, you can do so at the airport, although it is probably cheaper to rent them downtown. Laptops are not mandatory, although many students choose to bring them along. Hotels in Singapore are safe, and especially if you use a hotel or hostel locker, you can safely leave them over the weekend. If you are going on to India, Cambodia or Vietnam for your internship, please be extra vigilant with all your possessions, including laptops.

## **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.

## **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. A student, about two years ago, told me that he emailed a copy of his important documents to himself – that way he could always go back and find it. Great idea!

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

-- Michael Flynn and Vinita Bali