Jeff Lackscheide
Singapore, Singapore

Jeff’s Major: Languages and Cultures of Asia
Term Abroad: Academic Year

Classes: Classes at National University of Singapore (NUS) were rather similar to UW. But NUS has a massive international student population, so every class was sure to have people in it from all over the world. It kept it interesting.

Travel: Singapore is an incredibly easy travel hub. First of all, Changi airport is the absolute best airport in the world. There are four major low-cost airlines that have flights out of Singapore, several countries are within a 2 hour plane ride away, and Malaysia is a quick hop across the border for about 4 bucks. I ended up going to Malaysia about 10 times or so; sometimes just for the day, sometimes for a nice beach weekend. I also went to Indonesia, Thailand, and China. Singapore is the absolute perfect hub for Southeast Asian travel.

Living with Ex-pats: I took a pretty atypical route and found myself a room in a condo with a few expats rather than stay in the dorms. My place was pretty close to paradise. Massive pools, basketball courts, steam rooms, tennis courts, all within a 10 minute walk to NUS. In Singapore, most of the expat community is the best of the best in their company/vocation/etc. I ended up befriending a lot of people who were rather successful and this ended up forcing me to raise my own personal bar of acceptable success.

Mix things up: You can either choose to take another semester at the UW campus which will eventually blur into the rest...or you can choose to study in Singapore for a semester (or more!), make loads of friends from all the world, experience many different cultures, foods, adventures, etc. and have an unforgettable time. Stop thinking about it and just do it. Can you actually imagine yourself in 5 years saying, “Oh wow, if only I HADN’T gone to Singapore to study, my life would have been so much better?”

“You absolutely WILL have a great time, learn far more than a classroom can ever teach you, make loads of new friends, and return with stories you’ll have for the rest of your life..”

Jeff participated in the National University of Singapore Exchange