Review

From August 2013 to December 2013 I had the chance to study at the National University of Singapore. The exchange program is very well organized. After being nominated by the TU Kaiserslautern to study at the National University of Singapore, one has to submit an online application where you can also indicate that you would like to stay on campus. Accommodation in Singapore is very expensive. Since housing on campus is much more affordable, many students try to stay on campus. There are three different housing options: residences, residential colleges and halls. In the residential colleges and halls you can either stay in an apartment with other students or in a room on your own and a meal plan is compulsory. Besides, many activities are offered for students living in these types of accommodation. The residences are similar to student housing in Germany. I have decided to stay in one of the residential colleges where I have met many local and foreign students and I have enjoyed our long conversations very much.

The most popular location for living on campus is the university town, also known as UTown. The buildings have just recently been built such that everything is very new and modern. Moreover, there are some study areas including computer rooms, a few shops, a gym, a roof-top swimming-pool as well as two food courts in UTown where mainly Asian cuisine (e.g. Chinese, Indian, Malay or Japanese food) is served.

The lecture periods at the National University of Singapore are from mid-January to mid-May for Semester 2 and from mid-August to mid-December for Semester 1. I suggest coming to Singapore a few days before the lectures start in order to meet other students and get used to the humid climate.

The National University of Singapore is very well equipped and modern. Additionally, the university is highly ranked in international rankings. At the department of Mathematics at the National University of Singapore, modules in applied and pure Mathematics are offered, but most modules you can get credit points for at TU Kaiserslautern belong to applied mathematics. Besides, it is possible to choose modules from other departments. In order to get a better insight into life and culture in Asia, many international students choose modules on Asian culture or start learning Chinese. I have taken four modules in mathematics, namely “Stochastic Processes”, “Game Theory” and “Mathematics for Visual Data Processing” as well as “Methods of Applied Math”. Besides, I have taken “Chinese 1”, a course on basic Chinese where you can learn Chinese in a fun way.

The grading system in Singapore is different from the one in Kaiserslautern. During the semester you have to submit assignments that are marked and contribute to your final grade. Moreover, there are two written exams for each Math module, one exam in the middle of the term and one at the end of the semester. The final grade every student is awarded after the end of the semester is computed with help of the bell curve, i.e. the grade system is relative and you are marked on how well you have done compared to the other students taking the module.

Apart from the academics you can join a variety of clubs and the possibilities of doing sports on campus are great. The sport facilities include one olympic-size swimming pool, a stadium and several gyms. Last but not least, Singapore is in the heart of Asia and one can easily travel to the neighboring
countries.

During my time in Singapore I have met people from all over the world and I have learned more about their cultures. Moreover, I could gain many new experiences and I could get insights into life in Asia. Since I had an amazing semester in Singapore, I highly recommend going abroad for one or two semesters.