

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in Singapore



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GLOSSARY

HDB: Housing & Development Board Flats; this is Singapore's public housing authority

MRT: Mass Rapid Transit system in Singapore; it can be underground or above-ground

Singlish: Colloquial Singaporean English, as spoken by the locals

Note: all costs listed within this country profile are in Singapore Dollars (SGD) with conversions provided in USD . This information has been collected in 2018-19, and may be subject to change in the future. For most accurate information on costs, you are recommended to visit university websites. If you wish to compare costs between Singapore and another country (e.g. UK), you can convert the Singaporean cost into UK pounds and see the differential, if any.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO SINGAPORE

1. **No Language Barriers**

English is widely spoken across the country, with the majority of the population understanding and speaking it (though Chinese, Malay and Tamil are also spoken). English is also the official language for the education system. *(Note however that, because of the variety of cultures, the locals have their own version of English - namely Singlish.)*

2. **Good Economic Standing**

Singapore has a good economic standing, as one of the four Asian tigers. With a real GDP growth rate of 2.9% per year, it is considered to be an advanced economy according to the IMF (2018).

3. **Clean and Safe Environment**

Singapore is famous for its clean and safe environment.

4. **Multicultural Society**

Though Singapore is a small country, it is inhabited by people of many cultures, making it a multicultural society. Students can experience the various cultures through the food and social environment, outside of the classroom.

Which programs or specializations are most popular/reowned?

Some of the popular fields in Singapore include: Engineering, Arts, Accounting, Business Administration, Natural and Mathematical Sciences etc.

Job Prospects

You can contact the Career Services departments of your university to find out about part-time and full-time work opportunities. Aside from this, you should look for job prospects, in job portals, newspapers etc. as well.

Working while studying

If you are a full time undergraduate student, you are allowed to work:

- Part-time: For a maximum of 16 hours per week during the term
- Full-time: During the vacations

Such students do not require any work permits, and are eligible for [work permit exemption](#). There are also some students who are not allowed to work, namely exchange students and students not studying at an eligible institution (more information can be found [here](#)).

Working in Singapore after graduation

Students are allowed to work in Singapore after graduation, depending on multiple factors. These include whether you are a recipient of the [Tuition Grant Scheme](#); if you are then you are required to work in Singapore for a Singaporean company for a minimum period for 3 years after graduation. If not, then you can work anywhere in the world, including in Singapore.

After graduating, you will need to change your Student Pass status, to avoid legal issues. The following are avenues through which you can legally work in Singapore:

<p>1. Apply for a 1 year Long-Term Visit Pass (LTVP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is for students who have just graduated from an Institute of Higher Learning. Since it takes approximately 6 weeks to process these, it is recommended that you apply early so to avoid legal complications. • The purpose of getting an LTVP is so you can spend some time looking for a job, post-graduation. • If you get a job, then you must apply for a Work Pass (listed below).
<p>2. Apply for a Work Pass <i>(After you have a job)</i> Note that acceptance must be from a Singapore based Company</p>	<p>a. Employment Pass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is for jobs within the managerial, executive or specialized work sector. • Your employer or employment agent must apply on your behalf. • You must be earning a minimum of SGD3600 (USD 2195) as a fixed monthly salary to be eligible (as of 2018)
	<p>b. S-Pass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is for jobs that require a mid-level skill set, such as technicians. • Your employer or employment agent must apply on your behalf. • You must be earning a minimum of SGD2200 (USD 1610) as a fixed monthly salary to be eligible (2018)
	<p>c. Other Work Permits/Passes</p>

For common-law spouses, step-child or handicapped children of Employment Pass or S Pass holders:

- **[Long-Term Visit Pass \(LTVP\):](#)**
 - Your employer or employment agent must apply for this on your behalf. It is valid for two years, but is only valid so long as you (the employed person) have a valid main work

pass. It requires for you to be earning a minimum of SGD 6000(USD 4390) as a fixed monthly salary.

- If the LTVP holders find a job, then they can also work in Singapore.
- If you earn more than SGD12,000 (USD 8780) then you can bring your parents too.

OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

There are different kinds of institutes of higher education in Singapore. Go through this [link](#) to get an overview of post-secondary institutions in Singapore (O-Levels - postgraduate study).

The table below gives a brief overview of the secondary and tertiary education systems in Singapore, in comparison to Pakistan. The equivalent of lower secondary schooling in Pakistan (O-Level/SSC/Matric etc.) is 4 years of study leading to Singapore O-Levels. The equivalent of higher secondary schooling in Pakistan (A-Levels/HSSC/Inter etc.) is pre-university education which includes two different pathways: colleges and polytechnics. This typically confer diplomas (and international students can also apply for these -- more information below).

	Singapore		Pakistan
13-16 years	Secondary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secondary Normal (Academic) - 5 years Or ● Secondary Normal (Technical) - 4 years Or ● Secondary Express - 4 years Or ● Integrated Programme Lead to Singapore O Levels	O-level or SSC
16-18 years	Pre-University Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Polytechnics (3 year diplomas) ● Junior Colleges (2-3 years, lead to A Level exams) 	ALevels or HSSC
18+ years	University Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3-4 year Bachelor's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2-4 year Bachelor's degree

		degree • Master's of Doctoral Level Degree	• Master's or Doctoral Level degree
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Post-Secondary Education in Singapore -- institutions

- Public Local Universities (public universities that confer degrees)
- Foreign Universities (foreign universities that have campuses based in Singapore -- these are usually private and confer degrees)
- Polytechnics (they offer 3-year diplomas in different fields, including Business Studies, Engineering, Humanities etc. On completion, students can either opt to find a job or pursue further education).

SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF DEGREES

Types of Undergraduate Degrees	Duration (Full time programs)
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	Typically 4 years (double degrees may take 5 years in some universities)
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)	Typically 4 years (double degrees may take 5 years in some universities)
Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (B.A.Sc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bachelor of Business Administration (B.BA.) - Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ.) - Bachelor of Economics and Finance (B.Econ. & Fin.) 	Typically 4 years
Bachelor of Social Sciences (B.S.S.)	Typically 4 years (double degrees may take 5 years in some universities)
Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)	Typically 4 years (double degrees may take 5 years)
Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.)	Typically 4 years (some programs may be 5 years long, especially if you opt for a double degree)
Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)	Typically 4 years

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN

The main requirement to get into a university in Singapore is 12 years minimum of general education, but depending on what education system you have been a part of, you may be expected to take other standardized examinations as well.

British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels)

If you have completed your A Levels you will typically be exempted from doing the SAT/ACT, the IELTS/TOEFL, and also any university entrance examinations. There could be exceptions for some programs within the universities, so make sure to check these carefully before applying.

You will also have to keep subject-specific requirements in mind when doing your A Levels. For example, some degrees may want you to do more Science based subjects, while some will expect you to do more Mathematics based subjects, and etc.

Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)

The requirements for the six universities of Singapore vary when it comes to the HSSC. These requirements are listed below. Generally, you should do either the SAT or the ACT (with Writing) as well as either the IELTS or TOEFL before starting your application. You may also have to do specific university entrance examinations for some places.

- [Nanyang Technological University \(NTU\)](#) — A minimum of 85% in your HSSC. You will also be required to take the entrance examination of the university.
- [National University of Singapore \(NUS\)](#) — You need to have passed your HSSC, and are required to do the SAT or the ACT with Writing, as well as the IELTS/TOEFL.
- Singapore Institute of Management (SIM)
- Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
- [Singapore Management University \(SMU\)](#) — A pass in your HSSC with a good score is required, along with the SAT/ACT and IELTS/TOEFL.
- [Singapore University of Technology and Design \(SUTD\)](#) — A pass in your HSSC with a good score is required, along with the SAT/ACT and IELTS/TOEFL.

For international or foreign universities with campuses in Singapore, please go through the profile for the country these universities are located in.

International Baccalaureate

If you have done the IB, you will typically be exempted from doing the SAT/ACT, the IELTS/TOEFL, and also any university entrance examinations. There could be exceptions for some programs within the universities, so make sure to check these carefully before applying.

You will also have to keep subject-specific requirements in mind when doing your IB. For example, some degrees may want you to do more Higher Level Science courses, while some will expect you to do more Mathematics based courses.

For international or foreign universities with campuses in Singapore, please go through the profile for the country these universities are located in.

DIPLOMAS

Polytechnics and specialized art schools in Singapore (Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and LASALLE College of the Arts) do offer diplomas to students. You can usually apply for these once you have finished high school (do check your prospective school website for requirements -- i.e. score requirements, and relevant experience requirements).

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

As outlined above, students can either apply to general programs (Bachelor's of Arts and Sciences) or apply to programs that are more focused within these categories. If you apply for general programs, you must later declare your 'major', which will be a specialization within these fields that you are interested in. The first step before applying is researching the various options Singapore has to offer.

Some of the major undergraduate programs include:

- Engineering and Technology
- Computer and Mathematical Science
- Applied and Pure Sciences
- Architecture, Building, and Planning
- Health and Medicine
- Creative Arts and Design
- Humanities
- Business and Administrative Studies

Application Components

- Completion of a secondary school program
- Academic scores: transcripts, GPA and official certificates
- Letters of Recommendation
- Proof of Proficiency in the English Language
 - TOEFL: usual minimum requirement is an 80 score
 - IELTS: usual minimum requirement is a 6.5 score
 - Note that it is always better to check the university/program requirements to confirm these.

Application Process and Timeline

1. Research and Shortlist Programs	Research through the various programs available in Singapore and shortlist the ones you are interested in.
2. Download and Fill in Application Forms	After you finalize the institutions that you want to attend, you must download their application form, and fill it out.
3. Sort out Supporting Documents	The required documentation varies according to programs, but the general requirements are mentioned above.
4. Send the Application Package	After you have gathered all the required documentation, double check everything and send it to the short-listed institutions.

SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY

DIFFERENT KINDS OF DEGREES

Master's degrees are usually divided into two types: Master's (Research) and Master's (Coursework). In the Research degree, you will typically need to submit a thesis to graduate, whereas in the Coursework degree you will typically need to submit a dissertation to graduate. Doctorate degrees are also usually divided into two types: Doctorate (Research) and Doctorate (Professional). In research, you will have to submit a dissertation. Master's degrees will usually take 1-2 years, whereas doctorate degrees will require 2-5 years of study.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S

Requirements for each program within each of the universities could vary, but you generally need to have at least a Bachelor's degree to be able to apply for a Master's. Please check your prospective university website to see if it accepts 3 year Bachelor's degrees. Generally, it does not matter if your Bachelor's degree is 3 years in length or 4 years, but you are highly recommended to confirm this by visiting your prospective university website.

For certain Master's degrees, you will need to have done a Bachelor's in a related field. Make sure to check the requirements of your specific program before planning ahead.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs

Degree requirements vary depending on the type of program and PhD you are going for. You will need **at least** a Bachelor's degree to be able to apply. Depending on the university and the program, they may expect you to do have a Master's degree, or even a Master's degree in a related field or subject. You may also have to pass the university's entrance examination for a specific PhD. Make sure to check the requirements of your specific program before planning ahead.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

To pursue postgraduate and doctoral studies, students must attend universities or colleges. When deciding the subjects of study for this level of education, students need to be very critical during the decision making process, because they involve a deeper and more specialized approach in study.

The two main forms of Master's study are:

1. **Master's degree - Research:** For this, students must submit a thesis in order to graduate
2. **Master's degree - Coursework:** For this students must submit a dissertation in order to graduate

Students must have completed a Bachelor's degree before applying for a Master's degree.

The two main forms of Doctoral study are:

1. **Doctoral degree - Research:** This degree involves the submission of a dissertation
2. **Doctoral degree - Professional:** This degree involves both coursework and research

Application Components

Application requirements vary according to institution; some may require prior experience/background in the field, while others may not. Similarly, some programs require some form of work or volunteer experience before applying, while others do not.

Other common components of the application include:

- Statement of Interest
 - Here it is good to write about your past experience, related to the field you are applying. Relevant qualifications and strengths should also be highlighted here. You should write in such a way so to grab the reader's attention; a persuasive manner of writing is best,
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Usually 2 letters of recommendation are required when applying. These letters should include your strengths/weaknesses from the perspective of someone who has worked with you. Relevant extra-curriculars, achievement and personal traits can also strengthen the letter.
- Resume/Transcripts (Academic Records)
- Proof of Proficiency in the English Language
 - TOEFL: usual minimum requirement is an 90 score
 - IELTS: usual minimum requirement is a 7.5 score
 - Note that it is always better to check the university/program requirements to confirm these.
- Bachelor's Degree or Master's certification
- Standardized Tests
 - GMAT is usually a required test for students pursuing management courses

- GRE is usually required for students pursuing Doctoral studies.
- Work History

For doctoral studies, a research proposal, abstract for a project and/or a publication are additionally required.

Application Process and Timeline

1. Research and Shortlist Programs	Research through the various programs available in Singapore and shortlist the ones you are interested in.
2. Download and Fill in Application Forms	After you finalize the institutions that you want to attend, you must download their application form, and fill it out.
3. Sort out Supporting Documents	The required documentation varies according to programs, but the general requirements are mentioned above.
4. Send the Application Package	After you have gathered all the required documentation, double check everything and send it to the short-listed institutions.

SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

TRANSLATABILITY KEY

How applications to Singapore are different to those to the US and the UK?

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for Singapore compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

COMPONENTS	Are they required? And how important are they compared to UK/USA?
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	Required for some programs; is considered to be quite important at these universities
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	Required by some universities, similar to the US/UK
STANDARDIZED TESTS	Usually required.
TRANSCRIPTS (which qualifications are accepted; if they are not, then what happens?)	Required, and may be more important than US/UK in some universities. Transcripts can be much more important than other components.
INTERVIEWS	Some universities may have interviews for applicants. You may have the choice of giving an online interview. The importance of the interview will depend on the university.
RESUME/CV	This may be required by some programs. Some Master's programs may require certain kinds of work experience. Importance is similar to that of UK/USA.

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

FEES

Undergraduate Study

The fee structure in Singapore is highly varied, and depends on the university and program that you apply for. The fee structures can be found for each university on the following links:

- [Nanyang Technological University \(NTU\)](#)
- [National University of Singapore \(NUS\)](#)
- **Singapore Institute of Management (SIM)** — For SIM, there is no single table available that shows any ranges, but tuition fees for individual programs can be found on each program's website.
- [Singapore Institute of Technology \(SIT\)](#)
- [Singapore Management University \(SMU\)](#)
- [Singapore University of Technology and Design \(SUTD\)](#)

Postgraduate Study

- **Nanyang Technological University (NTU)** — Fees for Research programs can be found [here](#) (page 3). Fees for Coursework programs can be found [here](#) (page 3).
- **National University of Singapore (NUS)** — Relevant information on page 2.
- **Singapore Institute of Management (SIM)** — For SIM, there is no single table available that shows any ranges, but tuition fees for individual programs can be found on each program's website.
- **Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)** — SIT currently offer only 3 postgraduate degrees. The fees structure for these can be found at the end of page 3.
- **Singapore Management University (SMU)** — For SMU, there is no single table available that shows graduate program ranges, but tuition fees for individual programs can be found on each program's specific page. The programs can be found [here](#).
- **Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)** — link broken <http://sutd.sg2uat01.sys.adelphi.digital/Admissions/Graduate/PhD-Programmes/SUTD-PhD-Programme/Financial>

BUDGETING

All figures given are in Singaporean Dollars.

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

Keeping all of these non-tuition costs in mind, you will need between **SGD800 - 2,510 per month (USD 585-1837)**. The range is relatively large because there are things you can choose to save up on and things you can choose to spend more lavishly on. For example, a low-budget mobile phone plan will cost you SGD20 (USD 15) per month, but a more high-end data package will cost you anything between SGD30 and SGD60 (USD 22-44). [This](#) is a very useful link to help you understand the major differences in low-end and high-end facilities in Singapore.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

You may be eligible for some scholarships or financial assistance. Go through [this link](#) to find out more about the options that are available. Note: some of these options may be available only to Singaporean residents/nationals. You are also encouraged to check your prospective university website for more information on university-specific scholarships (if applicable).

APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA

If you have been accepted by an educational institution in Singapore to pursue full-time study, you will need to apply for a Student's Pass unless you have an Immigration Exemption Order.

If you wish to attend a short course, you do not need the Student's Pass, but you will need a Short-Term Visit Pass. Your course must be completed during the validity of the Short-Term Visit Pass or within 30 days (whichever is lesser). Your course should also be a full and stand-alone module, and should not include any occupational training or industrial work (that is conducted at premises that are a place a business or that include interacting with walk-in customers).

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY

You should submit your application for the Student's Pass at least one month before your course begins, and not more than two months in advance of the starting date.

HOW LONG DOES VISA PROCESSING TAKE

The general processing time for a Student Pass is 5 days (without including the day of submission) if you do not require a visa to enter Singapore. If you require a visa, then it will take 10 working days (which will be the case for most Pakistanis).

Some applications could take longer to process, especially during the peak period (i.e. July and August) so you should begin your application as soon as possible.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

- **Processing Fee: SGD30 (USD 22)** (this is non-refundable, regardless of the outcome of the application/withdrawal after submission)
- **Issuance Fee: SGD60 (USD 44)** (for the issued student pass)
- **Multiple-Entry Visa Fee: SGD30 (USD 22)** (for countries that require visa)

You may need valid health insurance as well.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN SINGAPORE

As decided and specified by Immigration

APPLYING

This section was last updated in November 2018.

To find out which documents are required for the Student's Pass application, click [here](#) (Document Required section). For documents that are not in English, you will need to provide original documents and official translations.

To access the online application, click [here](#). You will need to enter information as provided on your letter of enrollment (including your SOLAR application number, and other details mentioned).

For frequently-asked questions, click [here](#).

ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL OPTIONS

Singapore offers students quite a few accommodation options -- and you should make your selection, based on your budget. The different options include:

1. Hostels,
2. Halls of residence,
3. Flats (Private Flats, Shared Flats, Housing Development Board Flats).

The cost of each accommodation option varies: for instance, if you choose to live in a hostel, you will need to pay somewhere between SGD140 and SGD440 (USD 102 - 322) per student, per month (the actual figure will be dependent on the number of students living in the accommodation). If you choose to live in an HDB flat (Housing Development Board Flat), you will most likely have to pay an amount between SGD250 and SGD1500 (USD 183 - 1098) (based on how many rooms you are renting and which geographical area your flat is in). If you rent the entire flat, the cost can be higher.

Undergraduate students tend to opt for on-campus options (like halls of residence, student residences or residential colleges). Graduate students should look into off-campus options too, since on-campus options tend to finish quickly. Make sure you have arranged for some housing before you arrive in Singapore (even if it is temporary).

Accommodation Option	Details
Halls of Residence	<p>These will typically be on-campus accommodation options. In a residential hall, you will probably have access to many facilities such as communal reading rooms and living areas. Some places might even have compulsory meal plans, others may be self-catered. If you are an undergraduate student, you should try to go for these options as they have more social events/present more opportunities to meet new people.</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You might have the option of choosing from single or double occupancy rooms. - Wings/floors could be co-ed. - Rooms will usually be fully-furnished. <p>Note: halls of residence are in high demand, so try to apply as early as possible.</p>
Student Residences	<p>Some universities (like NUS) may provide Student Residences as well -- and may allow graduate students to apply for these. These residences typically allow <u>independent</u> living in a <u>communal</u> setting, giving students a greater chance of interacting.</p> <p>Note: Since the demand for these is high as well, you might not</p>

		<p>receive this accommodation.</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In some research-intensive universities, Graduate Students of Research are prioritized for campus-based accommodation. In such cases, it is unlikely that Graduate Students by Coursework will find on-campus accommodation. - Student residences may have different options for single and family accommodation. There will be separate residences for those who are living alone, and for those who are being accompanied by their spouse (and children, if applicable).
Flats	HDB Flats	<p>These are government-subsidized public housing options, that are available in all parts of the country, This will generally be one of the more cheaper options for international Students.</p> <p>Note: students are advised to be cautious when renting these flats. Make sure you consult or get assistance from an agency or the International Student Services department at your university before finalizing the agreement.</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HDB flats might not have 24-hour security (but Singapore is generally considered to be a very safe country). - For more information on the types of flats available, click here.
	Shared Flats	<p>These are usually very expensive options. They can be private, but you can also choose to share them with fellow students (sharing them would decrease the per-person cost). Total Cost will vary based on size of flat, location and the facilities being provided to tenants.</p>
	Condominiums	<p>These are usually very expensive options. They will usually provide many facilities, and full-time security to the residents. Total cost will vary based on size of flat, location and the facilities being provided to residents.</p>
Private Student Hostels		<p>This an economical accommodation options, that graduate students (mostly) can look into if they do not find on-campus accommodation. Most of these hostels would be close to university campuses.</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You will usually have to share the hostel/room with someone else. - They may be variation in quality and facilities, based on which hostel you choose. It is recommended that you check the accommodation before finalizing the agreement and settling in

Usable Resources

Here are some resources you can go through, if you are interested in off-campus options:

- Click [here](#) to find renting options (includes houses, apartments, HDB flats and rooms)
- Click [here](#) to find hostel options near major educational institutions.

Other

Singapore has a well-developed transportation system -- and all parts of the countries are accessible through the MRT (Mass Rapid Transport) system and Bus Shuttle service. Both services are usually operative from 5:30 AM till 11 PM/midnight. You can pay for your rides either through standard tickets or through a stored-value card. There are a number of maps at each station as well, to help you find your way around.

CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers. The contributors to this tip-sheet include the following people:

- [Fatima Abbas](#), MPP National University of Singapore

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

In addition to that, the following sources were consulted in developing this country profile: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore](#), [The Complete University Guide](#), [Times Higher Education](#), [Ministry of Manpower - Singapore Government](#), [Immigration and Checkpoints authority](#), [Prospects](#), [Singaporeeducation.info](#), [Finance - Yahoo](#), [Career Lever](#), [NUS](#), [NTU](#),