

Singapore Management University

Singapore Management University (SMU) is located at the heart of the city. It is surrounded by shopping malls and other commercial centers. Orchard, Chinatown, City Hall, Clarke Quay, and Bugis are all within walking distance. To add more convenience, the school is right in between two MRT stations (Dhoby Gaut and City Hall), with another one being built in the middle of the school! For other destinations, there are numerous bus stops right outside the school.

The campus has excellent security, with a strict ID system and security officers on duty twenty-four hours a day. All the schools are connected by an underground concourse that makes it very easy and comfortable to travel between buildings. The seminar rooms and classrooms are equipped with built-in computers and projectors for use during lectures and presentations. They are also equipped with LAN/wireless connection for the convenience of all students since notes are usually uploaded onto the school database. Of course, rooms are air-conditioned, like the rest of the campus. The students can access a wide range of databases and resources available at the school library or the national library, just across SMU's Administrative Building. The school also provides quite a number of group study rooms, each with a capacity of six to ten people, for project discussions or preparations for presentations. These rooms do not only serve as a convenient meeting place for group work but also serve as a safer alternative rather than public places for students who need to work till midnight to meet their deadlines in school.

Moving away from academics, the school also has a gym, recreation center, dance studio, student organizations center, and numerous commercial shops along the concourse. Upon looking at the facilities and amenities that the school provides, we can say that the school aims to offer its students the most holistic environment.

As for the professors, there is a healthy mix of foreign and local teachers who are very qualified and foster an interactive class environment. The general style of teaching is the same as that of Wharton. Students carry on active discussions with teachers and classmates regularly. Participation is emphasized so much because in the real world, if you do not make yourself known, no one else will know you. This fusion of structured lessons and freeform discussions give students priceless insight and practicality essential in the real world.

There is minimal discrimination against foreign students among professors and local students. Most of the local students are quite friendly and are more than willing to introduce their country to us. They would also offer to bring us around the city. A point to take note of, though, is that they have minimal exposure to Filipinos and are quite curious about our culture and country. They are aware of the rampant kidnappings and the political crisis in the Philippines, as these are the only news they hear about our country. We tried to present the good side of our home country to them, including the numerous tourist spots. Some of them have shown interest in visiting the Philippines in the near future.