

COST OF LIVING

Singapore is a unique metropolitan city with various range of lifestyle. Living expenses will vary for each student according to the lifestyle and individual preference. Below is a general estimation of monthly expenses for your reference;

- Accommodation - SGD\$500 onwards
- Food - SGD\$300 - 600
- Transport - SGD\$50 -150
- Telecommunications and Utilities - SGD\$40 -100
- Personal Expenses - SGD\$150 - 400

ACCOMMODATION

A wide range of accommodation can be found in Singapore to suit the individuals' budgets and needs. List of rooms and properties for rent are available through real estate agencies or daily press. The accommodation fees are usually collected on a monthly basis.

Student Hostel

Some private hostels for your reference:

- [Yo:HA Hostel](#)
- [Palm and Oak Hostel](#)
- [Novena Hall International Student Hostel](#)
- And many more are available online

HDB Flat (Government Owned Apartment/Condominium)

If you choose to rent a room in HDB flat outskirts the city area, the rental fee starts from approximately S\$600. However, HDB room rental in the city starts from S\$800.

House or Private Apartment

Private apartment has higher rental fees which start from S\$900 for a room. In the city area, expect the rental fees to start from S\$1100 for a room. Private apartment has additional amenities such as swimming pool, gym, tennis courts and etc.

The following areas are within walking distance to the campus:

Killiney, Somerset, River Valley, Clarke Quay

The following neighborhoods are a 5 to 15-minutes commute to campus via MRT:

Orchard Road, City Hall, Bugis, Chinatown, Tanjong Pagar etc.

The following areas are within a half hour's distance to campus and are more affordable options:

Kallang, MacPherson, Katong, Marine Parade, Tiong Bahru, Queenstown, Holland Village, Toa Payoh

How to look for a place to live?

1. Internet Search

- [Property Guru](#)
- [99.co](#)
- [Hostel Hunting](#)
- [Singapore Expats \(Real Estate Guide\)](#)
- [Easy Roommate](#)

2. Daily Press Advertisement

The [Straits Times](#) is Singapore's major daily newspaper. Its Classifieds Section lists rooms, apartments and HDB flats for rent.

3. Real Estate Agents

These agents will bring you around to take a look at the properties which are available for rent. Typically, agents charge one month's rent as fee for their services.

What do you need to know?

- You must be at least 21 years old in order to sign any legally binding documents, including rental contract. However, the age requirement to enter into an agreement can vary per management.
- Landlords and agents will ask for a one month refundable security deposit, in addition to the first month's rent for a one-year lease.
- Always clarify the agent fee before signing any contract. Agents normally charge a fee ranging from a month to two months' rent.
- Avoid making any payments until you have signed a contract and obtained the keys to your new place.
- Clarify whether the HDB owner has the approval from the Government to rent it out.

What should I ask about the property that I am going to view?

- Are utilities, such as electricity, water, laundry, cooking facility, internet, and gas included in the rent? Do you have to pay extra for them?
- What type of furniture is provided?

Please note FZD is located in District 09, Orchard/River Valley area. If you find an accommodation within District 09, the commute would be 5 min to 20 min. For example, a private condo, Langston Ville would be 5 min walking distance from FZD.

TRANSPORTATION

Getting around Singapore is easy. We have Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), Light Rapid Transit (LRT), buses and taxis which practically cover the whole Singapore.

EZ Link Card

The EZ Link card is used to pay for rides on the MRT, LRT and public buses. You may purchase and top up the card at any MRT station. Visit <http://ezlink.com.sg/> for more information.

Bus

You can find a bus stop practically anywhere in Singapore. You can pay the bus fare using cash or with an EZ Link card.

Our school is located in District 9, Orchard/River Valley area with plenty of bus stops nearby.

Visit <http://www.sbstransit.com.sg>, <http://www.smrt.com.sg>, <http://www.transitlink.com.sg/> and <http://gothere.sg/maps> for more information on bus and MRT routes. You may also buy a copy of the bus guide at major bookstores.

MRT & LRT

The MRT system is the fastest way to get around in Singapore. The train stations are located near shopping malls, places of interest and government/corporate offices. Our school is about 15 min walk away from either Somerset or Clarke Quay Stations.

Visit <http://www.smrt.com.sg/> for more information.

Taxi

Taxi stands are conveniently located at major shopping or commercial centers. The average flag down rate is from SGD 3.20 onwards, with surcharges for peak hours, public holidays, CBD entrance, ERP zones and after midnight charges. You can also book a cab at additional cost.

- [Comfort Cab and City Cab](#)
- [SMRT Taxi](#)

BANKING SERVICES

We recommend students to open an account with an access to the Automated Teller Machine (ATM). Most ATM cards also act as debit cards on the local Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS), which can be used at supermarkets and many retail outlets.

Major Banks in Singapore:

- [DBS](#)
- [POSB](#)
- [OCBC](#)
- [UOB](#)
- [HSBC](#)
- And many more

Opening an Account

To open a bank account, you have to visit the bank in person. You will also need the following documents:

- Valid passport
- Student Pass
- Initial deposit (amount varies per bank)

MOBILE /INTERNET/LANDLINE PROVIDERS

There are 3 major communication providers in Singapore:

- [Singtel](#)
- [Starhub](#)
- [M1](#)

GETTING AROUND IN SINGAPORE

Library:

Singapore National Library is located at Bugis, which is within 20 minutes MRT ride from FZD School. There are other public libraries located at different parts of town.

Visit <http://www.nlb.gov.sg/VisitUs.aspx> for more information.

Groceries:

- [Cold Storage](#)
- [Fair Price](#)
- [Giant Hypermarket](#)

Book and Art Supplies:

- [Kinokuniya](#)
- [Art Friend](#)
- [Popular](#)

Furniture Supplies:

- [Ikea](#)

Recreation:

- [Sentosa Island](#)
- [Resort World Sentosa](#)
- [Universal Studios](#)

- [East Coast Park](#)
- [Singapore Botanic Gardens](#)
- [Jurong Bird Park](#)
- [Singapore Zoo](#)
- [Night Safari](#)

Shopping and Food

- Orchard area

This area is a shopping heaven with malls stretched from one end to the other end. It's often dubbed as the Rodeo Drive of Singapore by many tourists and it is located only 15 minute's walk away from FZD School.

- Chinatown, Clarke Quay and Robertson Quay areas

Only 15 minutes' walk away from FZD School. There are many restaurants and cafes in these areas for FZD students to get a quick bite.

Catch a movie!

There are few movie theatres in Singapore and they are located within the school vicinity.

- [Cathay](#)
- [Golden Village](#)
- [Shaw](#)
- [Filmgarde](#)

Hang-out:

- Holland Village
- Clarke Quay
- Esplanade

WEATHER

Surrounded by sea and located just 1 degree north of equator, Singapore's weather is always tropical with a mix of seasonal rain showers. You only need to pack along your summer clothes, thin jackets, and umbrella. However, the FZD classrooms are cold due to the air conditioning, so you might want to bring along a thick jacket to keep you warm inside the classroom.

IMMIGRATION RULES

International students studying in Singapore are not allowed to engage in any employment while you are still under the Student's Pass rules and regulations. Furthermore, International Students are not allowed to remain in Singapore after the expiry of your Student's Pass.

Relevant Singapore laws especially those relating to ICA and Ministry of Manpower. This include, but are not limited to, immigration requirements, laws on driving, drugs and alcohol abuse, employment, smoking, traffic and littering;

IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE TO BREAK THE LAW, THE RESPONSIBILITY LIES ON EVERYONE TO KNOW THE LAW.

	Relevant Law
Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All international students studying in Singapore must have a valid passport and a Student's Pass from the ICA (Immigration and Checkpoint Authority).
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International students are not allowed to work in Singapore without a Work Pass Exemption from the MOM (Ministry of Manpower).
Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All drivers must be in possession of a valid Singapore driving license and the vehicle must be insured.
Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possession of Controlled Drugs is presumed to be for trafficking, an offence which can carry the death penalty.
Alcohol Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any offense committed while being intoxicated (drunk) is punishable under the law. Drunk driving is a serious offence.
Smoking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoking in specific public places and indoor restaurants is prohibited.
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jay walking is an offence.
Littering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Littering, spitting and vandalism (with graffiti) in public areas are serious offences.

Should you have further questions in regards to the immigration rules, feel free to approach any one of us.