

## **COST OF LIVING**

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

- Accommodation - SGD\$300 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 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:

- Sophia Campus Ville
- Vita Student Hostel
- Youth Hostel D'sophia Lodge
- [Novena Hall International Student Hostel](#)
- [Trinity Student Services](#)
- 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 SGD\$400. However, HDB room rental in the city starts from SGD\$600.

### **House or Private Apartment**

Private apartment has higher rental fees which start from SGD\$600 for a room. In the city area, expect the rental fees to start from SGD\$900 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:**

Selegie, Bugis, Bras Basah, Dhoby Ghaut

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

Orchard Road, Newton, Bukit Timah, Potong Pasir, Lavender

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

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

**How to look for a place to live?**

**1. Internet Search**

- [Singapore Expats \(Real Estate Guide\)](#)
- [Yahoo! Singapore Classifieds](#)
- [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.
- 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 obtain 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?

## TRANSPORTATION

Getting around Singapore is easy. We have Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), Light Rapid Transit (LRT), buses and taxis which practically cover the whole of 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://www.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 the Bugis area with plenty of bus stops nearby. Neighboring bus stops consist of Bus 48, 56, 57, 64, 65, 66, 67, 131, 139, 147, 166, 170, 851, 857, 960, 980, etc.

Visit <http://www.sbstransit.com.sg>, <http://www.smrt.com.sg> and <http://www.transitlink.com.sg/> 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 10min walk away from either Bugis or Dhoby Ghaut Station.

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

### Taxi

Taxi stands are conveniently situated at major shopping or commercial centers. The average flag down rate is SGD 2.80, with surcharges for peak hours, public holidays, CBD entrance, ERP zones and after midnight charges. You can also book a cab at additional cost.

- [City Cab](#)
- [Comfort 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/POSBank](#)
- [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 according to 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 a walking distance from FZD School. There are other public libraries located at different parts of town.

Visit [http://www.nlb.gov.sg/page/corporate\\_page\\_visitus\\_AllLibraries](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/page/corporate_page_visitus_AllLibraries) for more information.

#### Groceries:

- [Cold Storage](#)
- [Carrefour](#)
- [Fair Price](#)

#### Book and Art Supplies:

- [Kinokuniya](#)
- [Borders](#)
- [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](#)

### Shop till you drop!

- Orchard area

This area is a shopping heaven with malls stretched from one end to the other end. It's often dubbed as Rodeo Drive of Singapore by many tourists.

- Bugis area

Closest mall within the school area is Bugis. This is a convenient place for FZD students to get a quick bite, shopping and other necessities in a rush.

### Catch a movie!

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

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

### Hang-out:

- Holland Village
- Clarke Quay
- Esplanade

## **IMMIGRATION RULES**

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

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

Welcome to a new chapter in your life and we hope to see you soon!