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The Jagiellonian University has 15 faculties, located on three campuses:

- Faculty of Law and Administration
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of History
- Faculty of Philology
- Faculty of Polish Studies
- Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science
- Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
- Faculty of Chemistry
- Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences
- Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology
- Faculty of Management and Social Communication
- Faculty of International and Political Studies
- Faculty of Medicine with the Division of Dentistry
- Faculty of Polish Studies
- Faculty of Philology
- Faculty of History
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of Law and Administration
- Publishing and Printing House
- Guest houses and conference centres
- Academic Choir
- Botanical Garden
- Centre of Innovation, Technology Transfer and Development of the University
- Regional Laboratory of Physicochemical Analyses and Structural Research
- Centre for Postgraduate Medical Training
- Jagiellonian University Extension
- E-Learning Centre
- Physical Education and Sports Centre
- Careers Office
- Jagiellonian Language Centre
- Centre for Pedagogical Training
- Museum of the Faculty of Medicine
- Anthropological Museum
- Geological Museum
- Zoological Museum
- Museum of Pharmacy
- Jagiellonian University Museum
- Medical Library
- Jagiellonian Library
- Jagiellonian Library

There is also an intensive student life. Numerous events take place on campus. I joined some of them to have more opportunities for interactions with local people. The most interesting one was International Exchange Day 2009 on 3 September. There were various exhibition booths at the Central Library and country talks conducted throughout the day to give Singaporean students an idea of the exciting overseas options available. Present exchange students were asked to promote their home countries as an exchange destination and answer queries about studying and living there. Two Jagiellonian University students and I really enjoyed the day and were happy to advertise not only our home institution but also other Polish universities and our country in general. Thanks to the Embassy of Poland in Singapore we had many leaflets, maps and brochures about Poland. The event was also personally very beneficial as we had a chance to exchange our opinions on studying abroad with both Singaporean and European students.

Making my way out of the large metallic sliding doors at Changi Airport, I was hit by the wall of heat and humidity of the tropics. I could barely believe that I was really in Singapore and that I was going to stay there for the next few months under the National University of Singapore student exchange programme.

Singapore is a place of many facets, where modernity and tradition go hand in hand. Where Asian and Western culture and values meet and mingle. Singapore has fascinating ethnic brew. You can you dip into the cultures of China, India and Muslim Malaysia and taste the flavours from every corner of the world. All in a tiny island city-state. Although before coming to Singapore I read a lot about it, it never stops surprising me.

Living as well as studying here is a rewarding experience. The National University of Singapore is a very modern institution which offers a big variety of interesting courses. All classes are designed open what allows a discussion of the topics and close contacts to the lecturers. The professors encourage students to participate and ask questions if there is something we don’t understand. Also the contact to the Singaporean students is easy to build, as they are very friendly and contribute to my adaptation to the new university environment. Another important thing is that the service of the academic office is excellent; they help me to solve almost every academic problem I have to deal with.

One of the facts that surprised me most was how beautiful the NUS campus is. Well-planned, spacious with outdoor hallways surrounded by tropical nature, free bus service and numerous food courts and sport and leisure facilities. It is like a student town, where you can find everything you need and which, in fact, you don’t have to leave if accommodated on campus.

From the left: Nicolas from Switzerland, Karolina Paluch and Michal Szermer from JU, Marianne from Holland.

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I am so glad to have a chance to study in Singapore and I am very proud of being an exchange student from the Faculty of International and Political Studies at the Jagiellonian University. Studying in Singapore is one of the most unique and rewarding experiences in my life. I can learn firsthand about small discoveries about Singapore that I can never find in any textbooks as well as interacting with young people from different parts of the world. I hope to absorb as much knowledge as I can, and take it back to my homeland.

Karolina Paluch