



INCLUDED: How to plan your European Grad Trip Holiday

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LARGE AND IN CHARGE

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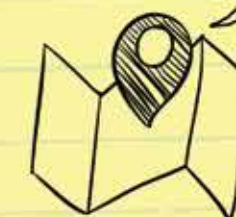
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destinations for your
Grad Trip!



BY GERMAINE LEOW

HOORAY FOR HOLIDAY!

STUDENT-FRIENDLY CITIES TO VISIT THIS DECEMBER

With youth comes curiosity and the desire to explore – but how can we skip out of town when we're students on a tight budget? With the upcoming December holidays around the corner, where can we go to feed our curious minds and energetic souls?

ASIA

Although we may yearn to go on adventurous voyages and explore faraway land, it is not so bad to visit our neighbouring countries for starters.

1 BANGKOK, THAILAND

At just about 2 hours from Singapore, Bangkok could be ideal for a short getaway. Affordable food and shopping might be considered their strong assets, especially at popular markets where you can haggle. A personal favourite would be the Chatuchak Market, although there are other markets to explore, like the authentic Damnoen Saduak floating market, the Talad Rot Fai retro market, or the hipster Artbox.

2 TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Get lost in the many night markets in Taipei! At about 5 hours from Singapore, Taiwan is another haven of cheap and good food. It boasts a profusion of affordable street markets, like the granddaddy Shilin Night Market (with over 500 stalls), Ningxia (famous for oyster omelettes), or Raohe, one of the oldest in Taipei. The buzzing nightlife at the many clubs and live houses in bustling areas like Ximending also means the night is always young!

3 BALI, INDONESIA

Want to be away from the city? Bali is ideal if your idea of fun is getting your feet buried in a sandy beach, or exploring cultural highlights in places like Ubud or Tanah Lot. If you're travelling with a bunch of friends, you can rent a private villa which can be affordable. You can also enjoy some watersports – from surfing to whitewater rafting to diving. Elsewhere in Indonesia, cheaper alternatives would be Batam or Bintan, which are accessible on short ferry rides.

4 SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Although slightly pricier, Seoul remains a popular vacation spot. With the latest trends in fashion, beauty and entertainment, it's not surprising students love the city. Check out Lotte World, Noryangjin fish market, and Dongdaemun, a huge shopping area with tons of malls. Expenses in Seoul can be affordable with the many bargain-friendly street markets as well as Jimjilbang – a curious mix of sauna, spa and entertainment places that double up as cheap accommodation.

5 JOHOR BAHRU, MALAYSIA

As big as Malaysia is, we often forget it's more than just going to Penang for street food, or Malacca to see historic sites (and more street food). JB is just over our border, and makes for Malaysia's easiest get-away. It's close and cheap to get to, and has sites like Legoland as well as cheap shopping and food – all within a budget.

TIPS



AFFORDABLE LODGING:

There are plenty of cheap hotel options these days if you go to hotel aggregate sites like Booking.com (it doesn't require prepayment). If you prefer a more 'local' experience, Airbnb has plenty of options, as you'll be staying at someone's house (although there is a risk that they may cancel your booking for personal reasons). Cheaper still are hostels that dot any major city – and are often spruced up to be cheap, trendy and convenient. There are also free (yes, free) accommodation options via Couchsurfing or share houses (like Borderless House) in Korea, Taiwan, and Japan.



AFFORDABLE FLIGHTS:

Budget flights are now giving us plenty of destination options, whether you're flying within Asia or beyond, like on Scoot or Norwegian. You can also search flight aggregate sites like Skyscanner for discounted full-service flights that may even work out cheaper than a budget airline after you've factored in taxes, meals and luggage surcharges.

OUTSIDE ASIA

In case you're wondering if it is possible to travel out of Asia on a budget... the answer is yes! With a strong SGD, it's possible to travel to as far as Australia or Europe! There are now budget airlines flying to Europe, plus prices for accommodation and food are pretty comparable to Australia (or even cheaper).

6 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

A perennially popular travel destination for Singaporeans, Melbourne is the city for hipster cafes alongside natural landscapes. With just as much sightseeing to do as good food to eat (and photograph), Melbourne may not be the cheapest place but has cooler weather and cleaner beaches! If you're into shopping, there are plenty of outlet shops; if you're into entertainment, there are plenty of cheap (or free) music venues in the inner north. Or go green with free entry to the Royal Botanical Gardens, or rent a bicycle and explore the Yarra Trail.

7 LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

It sounds cliché, but it's easy to lose yourself amidst London's warren of streets and centuries-old architecture. While Buckingham Palace and Big Ben are must-see sites, if you want a bit of nature head over to Hyde Park (established in 1637 and one of the best city parks in the world) or Bushy Park to spot roaming deer, and yes – both free of charge! There are also many great free museums in London – like the Natural History Museum, National Gallery, or the V & A Museum.

8 ATHENS, GREECE

It's said that no matter where you look, there's a museum (or archeological site) in Athens. With a wide array of ancient ruins like the Acropolis and Aristotle's Lyceum, religious sites like the Temple of Hephaestus, and museums (that you can visit for free), Athens is the city for those who are keen to discover and learn something new. Of course there is more to Athens than its monuments; a lot of famous Greek foods – like gyros, souvlakis, and souvlakis – are pretty cheap here too, offering filling meals for under €2! Plus with prices in Greece at almost all-time lows, it's possibly the cheapest place to visit in Europe currently.



Now that you have gotten some ideas for a student-friendly vacation, come together with your pals and start planning for your year-end adventure. Bon voyage!



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(Beside Toa Payoh Library)

6299 3556
Beach Road
Blk 14 Beach Road #01-4661
Singapore 190014
(Beside Golden Mile Food Centre)

6452 4222
Ang Mo Kio Central
Blk 727 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5
#01-4270 Singapore 560727
(Located opposite Blk 724
AMK market & food centre,
5 mins walk from AMK MRT station)

6241 0123
Bedok Central
Blk 210, New Upper Changi Road,
#01-735, Singapore 460210
(3 mins walk from Bedok MRT Station)

6777 1712
Clementi Central
Blk 446 Clementi Avenue 3
#01-187, Singapore 120446
(Near Clementi MRT Station)

6765 5759
Yew Tee
Yew Tee Square #02-228
Blk 624 Choa Chu Kang
Street 62 Singapore 680624
(In front of Yew Tee MRT Station)

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USA

The USA is home to a whopping 46 cats and dogs for every 100 humans, and has an almost equal number of cat and dog owning households. States like Arkansas and New Mexico are home to the most number of dogs in USA; these states have more open space which makes it easier to have dogs. Dogs also act as hiking companions, provide security, and help with cattle and sheep herding.

Meanwhile, Massachusetts and Maryland house the most cats in the country; these states have more urban spaces, leading to more cat ownership. According to popular studies, more dog owners tend to live in rural areas, and tend to skew Republican, while cat owners – who mainly live in urban areas – lean Democrat.



BY DISHI GAUTAM

Middle East. Africa

Most Middle Eastern countries and large parts of Africa have had a long history with cat reverence. Ancient Egyptians believed that they brought good luck, and some were even mummified after death. Cats were held in the highest regard and those who killed them, even by accident, were sentenced to death. Turkey is also famous for its cats – a popular street cat named Tombili was even memorialised as a statue.

Dogs are traditionally viewed as impure in the eyes of the majority-Muslim population, so it is rather understandable that these countries have a higher population of pet cats than dogs. However, in recent years, dog ownership has been on the rise in Saudi Arabia, mainly for large breeds of dogs which are presumably used for security.



Cats vs Dogs

A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY COMPARISON

The "cat versus dog" debate has been an effective ice breaker for a very long time. Don't we all think of ourselves belonging to either one of these categories? Pet preferences can apparently say a lot about a person's personality. A recent study by TIME concluded a person's political inclination by asking a series of questions including one's pet choices. Turns out this is not just a human trait. Countries too, have dominant cat or dog preferences.

It seems that richer nations tend to have a preference for feline friends, which could be attributed to the smaller urban homes and safer environments – cats are merely companions while dogs can double up as security. While Singapore has no clear preference, it is a pet-friendly country despite its tiny size and HDB pet rules. Here's a look at the cat versus dog debate on a global level.



Asia

Dog ownership is rising fast in India and the Philippines, the latter boasting the most dog ownership among Asians. This is chiefly due to the increased need for domestic security, although with rising wealth, there are also many who see dogs as indicating social status.

In Japan, pet owners prefer dogs slightly more than cats, and there are even doggie rentals where you can rent them by the day. Dog owners tend to indulge their prized pooches with pet spas and costumes, and show them off as status symbols.



South America

In Latin American nations, almost every family has at least one pet dog, and this tradition of dog ownership dates back to Incan times when pooches were found buried with their masters. Another factor could be the largely Catholic population of the region – according to studies, owning cats is considered a sign of atheism.

Chile, Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico are in the top 10 for the most dog ownership in the world; Brazil has the largest toy dog population. Smaller dogs have become a symbol of wealth and status in the cities, as owners pamper their pooches with salon and spa trips, and even pet retreats.



Europe

Europeans – especially those in urban environments – incline towards owning cats, possibly because dogs require more space and vet expenses.

The most cat-friendly nation is Russia, with twice as many cat owners as dogs; they have an affinity for cats which are part of their Russian culture, and are particularly revered in St. Petersburg where cat paraphernalia are sold everywhere. The next biggest country for cat-owners is France – 40% of people keep a cat – and some owners see cats as a fashion statement.

Urban Dictionary of the World

by Lydia Tan



Sparrow's fart

Meaning: Sunrise/dawn
Country: Australia

This slang sounds like it might describe a small, soft sound – which is what you'd imagine a tiny bird's fart would sound like. Who'd have thought that a sparrow's fart could be used to signify the start of a new day?

也是醉了 (yěshì zuìle)

Translation: (I'm) also drunk
Meaning: Something/someone is unreasonable
Country: China

This phrase might not make much sense at first – what does being drunk have to do with being unreasonable? But try to imagine two drunk people not being able to understand or make sense of each other, so they keep thinking the other person is being unreasonable.



Yaourter/Chanter en yaourt

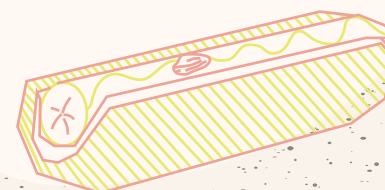
Translation: To yoghurt/to sing through yoghurt
Meaning: Pretending to speak or sing in a language you don't know well
Country: France

A rather yummy-sounding slang, but it doesn't make sense in English. It refers to trying to sing along to a song when you don't know the lyrics or the language, or when you mimic speaking a foreign language without using actual words. Leave it to the French to create a term for these situations!

En rosin i polsen

Translation: A raisin in a sausage
Meaning: A pleasant surprise in something already good
Country: Norway

Raisins and sausages may not sound like a delicious combination but to the Norwegians, apparently it does. You could liken it to the English expression "the cherry on top", although I'll take a cherry over a raisin-sausage any day.



썸 (Sseom)

Translation: Taken from the English word "some"
Meaning: "Something" between two people not in a relationship with each other
Country: South Korea

Some what? The meaning is as ambiguous as it sounds; it's used to describe the special "something" between two people who may have feelings for each other but have not started dating yet.



Queimar as pestanas

Translation: Burn the eyelashes
Meaning: To study hard
Country: Brazil

Who knew studying hard could have such dangerous consequences? This Portuguese expression comes from the fact that in the past, students had to study with a candle at night. Sometimes their faces got too close to the flame as they strained to read in the dim light, thus burning their eyelashes. Thank goodness for modern electrical lighting!



Robots

Meaning: Traffic lights
Country: South Africa

When you think "robots", the first things that come to mind are those walking, talking humanoids that you see in sci-fi movies, and traffic lights definitely don't fit that description. Who knows, maybe robots directing traffic flow on the roads might be a common sight in the future!



Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof

Translation: I only understand the train station
Meaning: I don't understand anything
Country: Germany

We saved the best for last. There's not much to say about this idiom – its nonsensical nature speaks for itself. Try using this expression with your friends when you don't understand them and watch their baffled, confused reactions!



かおがひろい (kaoga hiroi)

Translation: To have a wide face
Meaning: Someone who has a lot of friends
Country: Japan

Don't be too quick to take offence to this phrase; it's actually a compliment. It's used to imply that you have a wide circle of friends and you're well-liked. Maybe having a wide face isn't so bad after all!



SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

referendums & independence

◀ by Tartan Ow ▶

You've probably seen a lot of news about referendums recently – three happened this year alone: Catalonia, Iraq, and Puerto Rico. The world is a volatile place these days, and even in the absence of war, the quest for independence is a common narrative for many would-be nations.

Geography is an ever-changing subject, as boundaries shift, and new countries are created.

Case in point: South Sudan gained independence in 2011 following a referendum that passed with 98.83% of the vote, becoming the newest country in the world. Closer to home, East Timor (now Timor-Leste) achieved the same in 2002 amidst a highly volatile vote.

CURRENT ISSUES

You may have heard the brouhaha over the referendum in Barcelona on Oct 1, which resulted in a chaotic ballot-casting exercise.

The primary argument by Catalonia for independence is economic: the wealthy region (and its capital Barcelona) sees itself as propping up the (poorer) rest of Spain. The Catalan region has a good maritime position, and is the HQ for many large brands (i.e. Desigual, Mango, Torres, etc.), but tax revenues go directly to the central government, with only a portion returned to the region.

While 90% of voters backed independence, only 42% of the population's votes were counted, as hundreds of ballot boxes were destroyed by the Spanish government, who declared the referendum illegal, arguing that under the constitution the country is indivisible. For that reason, no group has the legal right to try to split, making the disputed referendum automatically illegal.

BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

Catalonia's referendum raises complicated issues due to trade negotiations, debt repayment, freedom of movement, and more. Just look at Brexit.

For the EU, the legality of Catalonia's referendum could serve as a benchmark for many of their members' own simmering independence movements, for instance in Belgium (Flanders) and Italy (Venice). It would also have ramifications on the global stage, especially with the US and China who trade with the EU as a whole.

SOWING THE SEEDS

The Catalans aren't the only ones who are going through – or have been through – a bid for independence, although the reason for each would-be nation's referendum is unique.

For the Kurds in Iraq, it's an ethnic issue. They ran a referendum the same week as Catalonia, with a 73% turnout and a 92% vote for independence from the Arab-majority Iraq. Like Catalonia, their referendum was declared illegal by Baghdad and pretty much the rest of the world, citing that a unified Iraq is needed to defeat ISIL. Kurds are the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East without a nation state, and form the largest ethnic group in Iraq's Kurdistan region.

It's the same case in Kosovo, which became a Serbian province after a 90s civil war that split the former Yugoslavia into several countries. Its ethnic Albanian majority wanted autonomy from Serbia, and after a US-backed intervention, a referendum declared their independence in 2008. Today, while over 100 countries recognise Kosovo, Spain and Serbia don't.

In 2018, New Caledonia will hold its referendum. Though the Kanak people recognise that they're economically dependent on France, the trend towards independence is based largely on their cultural identity, which they feel is not respected by the French.

THE CASE IS SPLIT

Not all referendums have the desired outcome for organisers: Quebec, a French-speaking province of Canada, has voted twice against independence.

In 2014, Scotland held a legal referendum to split from the UK,



their reason is mainly economic. The Scottish government cited that an independent Scotland would be one of the world's richest countries with its North Sea oil and gas reserves, while detractors highlighted the fact that Scotland received more aid than it paid in taxes. Although the majority voted to stay, Brexit posed another opportunity for a second referendum (Indyref2), and Scotland's choice will be between Brexit Britain and Scotland in Europe.

Earlier this year, Puerto Rico held a status referendum which had 3 options: independence, maintain status quo (as a US territory), or become a US state. A whopping majority chose the latter, but even with 97% turnout, Puerto Rico has a very slim chance of being the US's 51st state simply because the US Congress is not required to take up the matter at all.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

Although there are plenty of independence movements around the world, not many can be successful. Countries like South Sudan and Kosovo had major international backers, notably the US – something Catalonia and Kurdistan don't have. Even with de facto independent status, some "nations" – like South Ossetia, Republic of Artsakh, and Transnistria – sound more like Game of Thrones locations than places on a map.

While the circumstances in every country are different, the result of an independence bid is the same – a reshaping of the world's geopolitical landscape, rendering your primary school map obsolete.



TRADESMEN AROUND THE WORLD:

CHEAP LABOUR OR SKILLED PROFESSION?

How do nations regard those working in blue collar jobs like construction workers, plumbers and electricians? How does a country's economy influence the recruitment of foreign labour, minimum wage policy and job bias? Here is a general comparison of wages for the same occupation across different nations.

SINGAPORE

Singapore's economy is heavily reliant on foreign labour, particularly for blue collar jobs in areas like construction and service sectors. With the tightening of the labour market in 1978-79, it became a challenge to fill the jobs in these sectors – jobs in construction are continually shunned by locals due to the social stigma attached to vocational education and its association with manual and labour-intensive work.

As a result, low-skilled migrant workers are hired to bridge the gap between high demand and a limited local labour pool, and are often paid very low wages of SGD3.98/hour compared to a counterpart working in Australia (AUD24.60/hour). Even in Japan, there is a minimum wage of JPY823/hour (SGD9.95) across the board, with construction industry jobs paying about JPY1,700/hour (about SGD20).

However, among construction workers in Southeast Asia, Singapore's hourly wage is among the highest when compared to Cambodia (SGD0.43/hour) or Bangladesh (SGD0.52/hour).



\$26.11/hour
AUSTRALIA
\$20.54/hour
JAPAN
\$3.98/hour
SINGAPORE
\$0.52/hour
BANGLADESH
\$0.43/hour
CAMBODIA

AUSTRALIA

In Australia, the amount you earn depends on the type of qualifications and what you have been trained to do. The average salary is AUD81,536 for electricians, similar to that of electricians in the USA. **In contrast, an electrical engineer in Singapore earns about SGD44,000 a year.** Plumbers and electricians are Australia's richest tradesmen, charging more than double what the average lawyer earns.

National figures from job quote website serviceseeking.com.au reveal the average plumber charges AUD78.40/hr, up 1.9% on last year, and the average electrician charges AUD74.61/hr, up 4%. The average Australian lawyer, by comparison, earns AUD37 an hour and although that figure may seem low, given the high wages commanded by barristers, the reality is many lawyers work long hours for a mediocre pay.



FINLAND

On the whole, they have one of the world's highest paying wages for skilled blue collar workers. This can be attributed to their emphasis on high quality vocational education that enables high school students who choose the vocational track the chance to progress to further studies at university or applied sciences level by including the national core curriculum required for access to university, as well as strong on-the-job training and lifelong learning components.

Their restructured curriculum has helped remove the social stigma attached to vocational training where its low status is often rooted in a country's colonial past that is associated with the training received by 'inferior' groups for blue-collar jobs.



GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA

Similar to Finland, these European countries offer vocational education with apprenticeships that have evolved to provide high levels of knowledge which young people need to work effectively in the modern economy.

A shared advantage of the German, Swiss and Austrian education systems is that core knowledge and skills are taught in context. When these young graduates complete their vocational training, not only are they skilled in their niche trade, they are also equipped with university-level mathematical, analytical and communication skills that prepare them well for the demands of industry and private sector employment.



THE HIGHS AND LOWS

The question is not so much which country pays blue collar workers the highest rates but rather a reflection of the overall level of economic, social and human development. Instead of adopting a low-road strategy of trying to reduce manufacturing costs and wages to compete with China and other emerging economies, we would be better off with a high-road one, promoting policies that improve innovation, skills and productivity.

THE LIST

BIG MAC INDEX

BY YIN LOON

BIG MAC IN SWITZERLAND: \$9.00

The Swiss pay the most for Big Macs, so if you're thinking of a cheap meal here, think twice. They do have an interesting menu with quinoa curry, gluten-free burgers, and mixed buckets of nuggets and shrimp.



quinoa curry

Big Mac with guacamole



BIG MAC IN USA: \$7.20

The home of the Big Mac has over 14,000 McDonald's outlets, offering burgers with Sriracha sauce, or guacamole. They also offer 8 sauces, like Big Mac Sauce, Sriracha Mac Sauce, and Spicy Buffalo.

BIG MAC IN AUSTRALIA: \$6.15

In addition to burgers, salads and wraps, Macos (as they're known) has Gourmet Burgers and toasties, in addition to desserts like Salted Caramel Pie, gluten-free cakes, and frozen Coke.



Homestyle Angus gourmet burger

Maestro Bohemia



BIG MAC IN EURO ZONE: \$6.10 (AVERAGE)

Across the EU, Italy is the most expensive (\$6.50) while Czech Republic is the cheapest (\$4.45). Menus vary, but most include locally-sourced beef, like Italy's 1955 burger, and Czech Republic's Maestro Bohemia.

BIG MAC IN SINGAPORE: \$5.60

Sitting in the middle of the Big Mac Index, a Big Mac in Singapore is cheaper than in the US but it's almost twice the cost of a regular hawker fare. However, limited offerings like the Nasi Lemak Burger and Samurai Burger keep bringing in the crowd.



Nasi Lemak Burger

Coined in 1986, the Big Mac Index was used by The Economist magazine to convey country-by-country consumer purchasing power by comparing how much a Big Mac was worth in each country. Who knew that in addition to quelling that snack attack, this humble burger can actually tell us a lot about a country's economy?

BIG MAC IN GREECE: \$5.20

One of the cheapest places to travel in Europe these days, you can get a Greek Mac here, which is beef wrapped in pita, aka a kebab. They love chicken here, with 5 versions on offer, including Premium Burger Chicken.



Greek Mac

Vega Tamao



BIG MAC IN JAPAN: \$4.50

Japan's McDonald's is known for its interesting seasonal offerings, like pumpkin chocolate fries and cheese-cake McFlurry, as well as tsukimi (full moon viewing) burgers with an egg in them to represent the moon.

BIG MAC IN INDIA: \$3.75

As India isn't a beef-consuming country, their burgers and wraps - are mainly veggie, paneer (cheese) or chicken patties, so you'll get a Veg or Chicken Maharaja Mac which is their version of Big Mac.

Chicken Maharaja Mac



Big Chicken Burger



BIG MAC IN TAIWAN: \$3.20

Taiwan's McDonald's has plenty of chicken in their menu, ranging from fried wings to nuggets, and a variety of burgers including the Big Chicken Burger (大大雞腿堡). Breakfast includes local-style thick toast.

BIG MAC IN UKRAINE: \$2.30

With the cheapest Big Mac in the world, you can try all their local versions including the Camembert McToast, Chicken (outlet) Roll and the Breakfast Roll (hashbrown and pork outlet wrapped in pita).



Chicken Roll

CRAFTS

INFO

FINANCE

TO-DO

SHOPPING LIST

CARTON

Obscure International Laws You Didn't Know...

by Shamilha Segaran

According to Dictionary.com, a law is a system of rules which a country or community uses to regulate the actions of its members and are enforced by the imposition of penalties. In simpler words, it is a set of rules you must follow or you will be punished for not complying. Or, must follow law.

We all know that regulations are necessary for the peace and safety of a country, and while there are many different laws for the different crimes committed - like stealing, murdering,

littering, kidnapping, etc - in some countries, some laws have just gone off the rails.

Try googling 'weird laws' and you'll discover that there are plenty of outlandish ones out there. Some of these absurd laws are almost impossible to uphold because they were based on outmoded opinions or are ineffective in general.

Here's a list of obscure laws that will have you (maybe) thinking twice about breaking them.

Denmark

Ever felt like it was a total waste of money eating at a restaurant you weren't really satisfied with, and wished you could get a refund? Then, eat all you want in Denmark, because you don't have to pay a single cent for your meal unless, by opinion, you are 'full' at the end of your meal. Cool, isn't it?

Norway

In a small Norwegian coal mining town located close to the North Pole called Longyearbyen, it's illegal to die. Yes, you read that right!

Bodies do not decompose in the permafrost (rock, soil or sediment frozen for more than 2 consecutive years) of the local graveyard, so it stopped accepting bodies 70 years ago. So, if you're ill and/or don't have much time left, you'll be sent off by plane to the mainland, where you can die without getting arrested.

Argentina

Thinking of moving in to Argentina and going furniture shopping for your new home there? A word of warning: don't buy feather beds. It's against the law to buy feather beds in Buenos Aires, as it apparently evokes lustful feelings!

United States of America

North Korea

Don't even think about committing a crime in North Korea.

North Korea practises the 'Three Generation' rule. If you're found guilty of committing a crime (even minor ones), your entire living generation are guilty by association, and receive the same sentence - generally life at hard labour in a horrific prison camp.

This law was imposed to scare would-be dissenters for fear of dooming their entire family (grandparents, parents, siblings, etc.) to death. Overkill much?

United States of America

The US has a lot of weird laws that vary from state to state. Want to visit your friend in Louisiana, the Pelican State, and surprise them with some delicious pizza?

You may want to drop that ideal. Sending a surprise pizza to someone is deemed as harassment in Louisiana for some reason. You'll have to pay a fine of \$500 for committing that felony.

Iran

Last but not the least: it's illegal to dance to Western music in Iran!

A group of young Iranians, back in 2014, were arrested for dancing and tapping their legs to Pharrell's 'Happy'.

They were sentenced to 91 lashes and jail time.



Denmark

Iran



Argentina



Norway

North Korea



The Sky's the Limit

THE DRONE POTENTIAL

Drones. We've all seen them. They're in Hollywood. They're on National Day. They're in your FB feed. They're taking over the supply chain that delivers your Amazon purchase, and helping support global conservation, whether it's rescuing stranded koalas in Australia or protecting endangered elephants in Africa.

While a lot of us still think of drones as recreational toys – albeit very cool ones – the reality in just the last few years is that UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) have become so much more in terms of



the almost limitless possibilities they provide.

The industry is seeing double-digit growth every year. It's estimated worldwide spending on drones (both commercial and recreational) will top US\$100 billion between 2016-2020. Someone considering enrolling in a drone-related programme now will be graduating at literally the exact moment UAVs

become huge, says Dr. Kenneth Witcher, Dean of the College of Aeronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the world's largest aviation university.

Expert insights by Dr. Kenneth Witcher, Dean of the College of Aeronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (FRAeS), an award given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in aeronautics.

How it got so big

Anyone can learn to fly a recreational drone – that's why the market for UAVs has grown exponentially. In a broader sense, that's also great for the entire UAV industry, since the more familiar (and comfortable) society becomes with the idea of drones in our skies, the more readily we'll start imagining new and innovative uses for them.

Drones are perfect for any job that's too complex, dangerous or expensive to risk doing with a multi-million dollar aircraft (and its crew).

They're also ideal for fitting into tight spaces, whether it's search-and-rescue operations, or flying into a sewer tunnel to see what's causing a blockage. They've become highly-mobile, low-cost platforms for mounting complex, lightweight tech



such as lidar sensors (radar that uses lasers) to make 3D maps of almost any structure or landscape.

Some of today's fastest-growing applications for drones are in areas as diverse as agriculture and insurance, with drones heat-mapping farm fields to determine where to water or assessing risk factors facing a city.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"When you scale drones up to a global commercial level, education and training will play a huge part in unleashing the industry's latent potential," says Dr. Witcher.

In fact, you could say the sky's the limit.

What does this mean to new students?

Anyone studying unmanned aerial systems (UAS) today will soon be graduating into a new era of aviation – as drones are already becoming a normal aspect of our society, students will get the chance to push that innovation further by creating the technology and businesses that leverage on a drone's capabilities.

This game-changing drone industry is worth billions, and will be worth even more in the future.



According to Dr. Witcher, you don't have to be a student of technology or engineering to capitalise on it – there are so many aspects to drones that require students from many backgrounds and fields.

These include:

- * Analytics and Big Data
- * Engineering and IT
- * Business Development
- * Public Policy and Law
- * Marketing and PR

OPPORTUNITIES IN ANALYTICS, BIG DATA, ENGINEERING AND POST-FLIGHT DATA ANALYSIS

Gathering, managing and deciphering Big Data is a huge area of future growth for the UAS industry. For example, a drone equipped with lidar sensors and 3D mapping software can accurately create a digital model of a complex indoor space such as an MRT tunnel, or accurately calculate how much paint is needed to cover the outside of a skyscraper, in just a fraction of the time and cost it would take a person to do it.

There are opportunities in everything from conceptualising the physical hardware, such as new measuring tools and sensors, to pioneering the post-flight data analysis software that crunches the numbers, and makes sense of the vast amounts of data collected. Drones are important machines, but it's what you do with it that counts more.



OPPORTUNITIES IN AVIATION LEGISLATION AND POLICY

At their core, UAVs still operate within tightly regulated airspaces, with laws differing greatly by jurisdiction. Once you take off outdoors, you're operating in an environment shared with professional pilots (and commercial aircraft) who have a very strict safety culture. Other aspects to consider are privacy laws surrounding airspace usage, and types of licences required to fly them (if at all).

This means the relatively new commercial drone industry needs even more future professionals with the ability to understand the environment this technology operates in – namely busy commercial airspaces. That's where the business and tech aspects of UAS merge with abstract concepts like planning regulations and controlling air space, meaning there will be huge future growth in areas such as UAS-related public policy and legislation.



BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

What can you do with a drone? Actually, even the sky isn't the limit, only your imagination. Drones are already being used by companies like Amazon and Alibaba to deliver products, while Mark Zuckerberg plans to use a fleet of them in the stratosphere to bring internet connectivity to the entire planet.

Between those two extremes, almost anything you can imagine is possible, with the relentless growth of UASs year after year meaning they're only going to become more a part of our daily lives. Because of that, the industry will be ripe for aspiring entrepreneurs to pioneer entirely new uses for drones, as well as the new technologies that accompany them.



HOW TO BE A PART OF THE INDUSTRY

Given the huge opportunities (and revenues) in the coming years, the UAV industry offers great career potential for graduates. While the future of the UAV industry will be heavily knowledge-driven, it'll be equally imagination-driven, so even if you're not tech-minded, there are opportunities at every level.

For that reason, tomorrow's UAV professionals will have degrees in

areas you'd expect – like aeronautics and engineering – to areas you may not, like aviation-related business development. Leading aviation schools like Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University [<http://asia.erau.edu>] offer full and part-time degrees in Singapore including a 3-year Bachelors of Science in Aeronautics or Aviation Business Administration with an opportunity to choose a specialisation in Unmanned Aerial Systems.

From Rural to Urban Australia

AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

by Germaine Leow

Ever wondered what it is like to study overseas? Priyanka Darishaini, 20, shares her story about studying abroad in Australia. Here's the difference – she has experienced school life in both a rural town and an urban city. So what's it like to study in two very different locations?

Rural: Tamworth

At the age of 17, Priyanka moved to the tiny town of Tamworth, Australia to continue her post-secondary studies.

For someone who has spent all her life in Singapore, she took a while getting used to seeing all that grassland and nature. "It was a small town where you would meet half your school on the streets during the weekends," Priyanka recalls, "and no building was higher than 2 storeys."

School life was stress-free and relaxed; there were no remedial or supplementary classes, as students study at their own pace.

Interestingly during their state examinations, they get 5 extra points because they are from a rural town in Australia. They are believed to learn differently compared to students from the city; her peers from the countryside are less competitive and led more carefree lifestyles.

Here, 60% of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) marks are from class assignments and 40% of it is from actual examination, hence they had to produce constant results throughout the academic year. In Singapore, the final examination is unrelated to day-to-day school work.

Uniforms, textbooks, school supplies there are very expensive: about SGD \$300 for ONE set of uniform. Priyanka's Human Biology textbook costed \$80 and it was thinner than her Biology textbook in Singapore.

While we have our meals in the canteens here, they have lunch out on a field. On the other side of the fences, there were kangaroos, horses and sheep. One of her sleepovers was in a tent at a cowgirl's backyard at 13°C staring at the milky way.

There would be a party every weekend and Priyanka would always be invited even if she did not know the host personally. Overall, the people there were genuinely friendly; the whole school was pretty much friends with everyone and she forged really good friendships that would last a lifetime.



Urban: Perth

After two years in Tamworth, she left the countryside and headed to Perth to attend pre-university, majoring in Psychology. She was all on her own in Perth and stayed in the dormitories. This meant gaining a lot of independence and doing everything herself.

When she first enrolled, she was given a form that asked about her preference in the type of roommates she wanted; she could choose genders, personality traits and lifestyle habits such as cleanliness and tolerance to noise. Living expenses in Perth are also high – her dorm fee came up to \$493 every 2 weeks.

Their campus culture was very sociable and open, and there were monthly events where dorm residents would socialise.

As she is currently in the preparation course period, she has very short days and short classes. She expects her workload to increase after she progresses into her first official year in university.

Something she enjoys about university life is that there is a week of holiday after every three weeks of school, which she has not experienced in both Singapore and Tamworth. This ensures that the students get enough rest every month to recharge for the next month's worth of studies.

People are usually on their own in university as everyone is more independent but when it came to friendship, there were people who chose to befriend those who are smart just to do well academically. Everyone is very competitive and goal-oriented.

IN SUMMARY

In just a span of three years, Priyanka got to experience life in both the rural and urban areas in Australia.

"There's good and bad in both," she adds, "and compared to Perth, I prefer Tamworth, but if you were to ask me where I would want to be, it will be Singapore."

Priyanka is currently studying in Perth and will be returning to Singapore to continue her university studies next year.



TAMWORTH



TAMWORTH



BY ZELENE LEE

WHAT'S STUDENT LIFE LIKE OVERSEAS? AN EXPERIENCE IN HONG KONG

Pursuing an education in Singapore not only provides us with knowledge but also given us the opportunity to travel abroad be it for an exchange or a project. Most of my fellow Singaporean friends have spent at least a semester in a foreign land, and the three most significant challenges they face are homesickness, cultural shock and language barriers (for some).

Like my friends, I was also going abroad to study – not just for a semester, but for a three-year degree. Of course, I still do experience the homesickness, cultural shock and language barriers like my friends do, but those weren't the most challenging aspects. The most notable challenge was, in fact, maintaining a balance between studies, adapting to local culture and social life.

Having lived in Singapore almost all my life, I was keen on going abroad to study and be more independent. I opted for Hong Kong because it is said to be very similar to Singapore, but despite the similarities, I was astonished by some of the adjustments I had to make.

CULTURE SHOCK

There are several cultural and social issues embedded in Hong Kong that the average tourist would not be able to discern. Their open discrimination can come as a shock to many.

If you've been following the news, you'll notice that the locals here aren't exactly on a very friendly basis with the Mainland Chinese – especially with those who cannot converse in Cantonese or English. Though Hong Kong is said to be a city where the East meets West, it's not as diverse as Singapore culturally.

Furthermore, the mindset of its citizens is surprisingly still very conservative; for example, having bright-coloured hair or a punk fashion style may land you in a lousy spot among the locals as they perceive you like the MK Mui or MK Jai, similar to our Ah Lian and Ah Hui.

LOCAL LINGO

Unlike studying in English-speaking countries, a move to Hong Kong posed a linguistic challenge since I can only converse in broken Cantonese. This forced me to get out of my comfort zone, but despite countless mispronunciations I realised that this is the only way to learn a language fast. Unlike learning in classrooms, it teaches you useful words as well as colloquial terms, but most importantly, it taught you not to be afraid to speak up. This is probably one of the benefits of coming here alone instead of with a group of Singaporean friends.

Another aspect of Hong Kongers is their attitude towards politics; the younger generation are very aware of what's happening in their government – past and present. I realised that the hard way when I became the laughing stock among my new friends after I commented on something really silly about Hong Kong's history.

But despite all of that misunderstanding and communication beething, I became more fluent in my Cantonese and grew to understand their culture more day by day.



PARTING SHOT

Hong Kong may be similar to Singapore as an Asian metropolis, but I learned that you can't copy and paste your student life back in Singapore here. While studying overseas poses an opportunity to experience new classrooms, make new friends, and discover new places, at the end of the day, you're there to study.

Studying abroad isn't an escape from home – it's not all fun and games and holidays; it's about adapting to new social pressures in addition to gaining an education. Being in any university, you'll need to understand the requirements and expectations of each course, and building a relationship with the faculty is key to maximising that overseas experience.

uk1 kei5 屋企 = 家 jia

What are you Google-ing?

SEARCHES ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

Google is almost everyone's go-to when searching for answers or events on the internet unless you are in a region where Google is not supported such as the People's Republic of China or where there are other stronger players such as Naver in South Korea. What we Google could be a big event that is going on in our country or it can also reflect on what we are interested in as a nation holistically. Here are the top most-Googleed terms in various countries across the globe.

CANADA

"Puerto Rico"
No. of hits: 20,000+

Hurricane Maria has left a devastating impact on the affected areas in Puerto Rico, leaving them with no access to electricity or clean water. A Category 4 hurricane, this is the strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in 89 years.

Also, just 12 hours before "Puerto Rico" became the most searched keyword on Google (Canada), US President Donald Trump tweeted about it which probably sparked interest among Canadian residents after a week of the hurricane hitting Puerto Rico.

USA

"North Korea"
No. of hits: 500,000+

North Korea has threatened to shoot down any US warplane, even if they are not within North Korea's airspace. Again, this action from NOKO is a reaction from @realDonaldTrump's tweet which comes off as war-provoking.

RUSSIA

"спартак ливерпуль"
(Spartak-Liverpool)
No. of hits: 100,000+

Both teams ended the match with a draw of 1-1. Spartak Moscow is Russia's strongest football team having won countless local-based matches. With a draw of 1-1, perhaps Russians were interested to read about how the match went.

JAPAN

"Pokemon Go"
No. of hits: 200,000+

The popular game which was downloaded more than 500 million times since it kicked off in 2016 had its servers down once again: this time affecting users worldwide. Players complained of not being able to get into the Pokemon Go server. However, unlike previous server crashes, the downtime was due to a limited-time Equinox event going on so players were experiencing more frustration with the poor connectivity.

UNITED KINGDOM

"Meghan Markle"
No. of hits: 100,000+

Prince Harry appeared in Toronto at the Invictus Games with American actress, Meghan Markle. While the couple had debuted in July last year, what probably made residents Google about her was her public display of affection (they were holding hands) with the fifth in line to the British throne. It is also worth mentioning that Megan Markle was the most Googled term in 10 different countries. Perhaps the next most Googled term will be the shirt she wore at the games, "The Husband".

BRAZIL

"Luan Santana"
No. of hits: 20,000+

This Brazilian singer made it to the top most Google-d term after he posted on his Instagram that he wanted to change his performance style to heavy metal.

SOUTH AFRICA

"Cosatu Strike"
No. of hits: 5,000+

In their resistance against rampant corruption, the trade federation, Cosatu has called for a nationwide strike which has received backings from various "business groups".

INDIA

"Nokia 8"
No. of hits: 50,000+

This is a country where you can get a decent smartphone for less than \$50. The country's obsession with smartphones is evident in their most Google-d search, the Nokia 8, which is priced similarly to premium smartphones such as Samsung. Will it be able to remain in the competitive Indian market?

INDONESIA

"Real Madrid"
No. of hits: 100,000+

In another football trend, this Spanish team was searched by Indonesians because their match the following day would be streamed live. The most popular sport in Indonesia, it was no wonder that more than 100,000 Google searches were on the LIVE streamed match.

AUSTRALIA

"Ben McCormack"
No. of hits: 20,000+

This ex "A Current Affairs" journalist made it to the most searched term in Australia after pleading guilty to child porn offences. Now, when you Google this guy's name, you can only find links on articles written about his offences and not what he has written.



A Different Tipple

BY ESHWARAN

DRINKING CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD

Besides water and coffee, alcohol is a universal beverage found almost anywhere you go. However, each nation and culture has a unique way of viewing and consuming alcohol. Some more reserved, while others are excessive and party-fueled. Some view it as a drink to be paired with cheese, while others require a special occasion to pop the bottle.



Italy & France

These two nations are known for tying alcohol closely with food, if you went to a bar for drinks, you'll be served snacks, and if you ordered food at a restaurant, alcohol is often paired with your meal. Usually, there's a different wine for each course - like a champagne with your starter, red wine with your steak, and dessert wine with your dessert.

In Europe in general, two forms of alcohols are consumed before and after a meal. Before a meal, you can enjoy a small aperitif, which is meant to start your appetite. After the meal, you may consume a small digestif to help promote digestion.

This has created an interesting pre-dinner custom called an aperitivo (or apericena) in Italy, and apéro in France. Basically, order an aperitif and you'll have access to tapas-sized snacks; in Italy, it may come in the form of a buffet. This custom encourages socialising.

Korea & Japan

Alcohol is a normal part of Korean and Japanese life which influences social structure and business culture, as it's viewed as a way to build connections. Accordingly, both countries have plenty of hangover cures like miso soup or turmeric powder.

There are very strict social rules that dictate one's drinking habits. For starters, one should always pour drinks for others - especially the oldest - first, and fill up glasses whenever they're empty. In Korea, drinks should be drunk while facing away from the table if there are elders present; in Japan, the youngest (or female) member usually pours drinks for the entire table.

Britain

Alcohol is a huge part of British culture, so much so that if you told someone you don't drink, they assume you to be anti-social (unless you literally cannot drink, which is respected). One of the biggest cultural norms there is the round system, which essentially dictates that every guy in a group must take turns to buy a round of drinks for everyone.

Although UK society is open about alcohol, as a rule, it's an offence to drink alcohol in public spaces, and pubs and clubs are given strict closing times when they have to stop serving alcohol.



India

In the land of curries and spices, alcohol is not normally consumed with meals. One's drinking habits tend to be kept a secret, especially between elders and youths, as it is still very much viewed as a vice. Alcohol is forbidden in 5 states, while in many others, the legal drinking age is 25 (Delhi included).

Alcohol is generally bought in liquor stores, and in many places, women are not seen in public buying it. While most alcohol consumed are beers or liquor, cocktails and wines are just beginning to make their foothold in the country at posh bars.



USA

The land of Budweiser and bourbon has one of the unhealthiest drinking cultures, which is commonly associated with underage drinking. America's legal age for drinking is 21, meaning they can drive and own guns before being able to take a sip of alcohol. This has led to many college students, who are under 21, drinking heavily during university parties.

Apart from after-work beers, Americans generally drink more for celebratory reasons - like during a football, basketball or baseball game. Like the UK, it's an offence to openly drink alcohol in public spaces.



Australia & New Zealand

Both countries generally view alcohol openly with very little taboo associated with it. Like the UK, there is a system of shouting rounds among friends in both countries, although recent surveys have shown a decline in favour of this.

This system has fed the Australian culture of binge drinking, and those wanting to opt out may feel pressured to keep drinking. Also, those who have been shouted a drink are often made to feel as if they cannot leave the table for fear of being 'bludgers', referring to people of a parasitic nature.

OUT AND ABOUT

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN TICKETS AND PREMIUMS, CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

facebook
CAMPUS.SINGAPORE

MOVIES



Victoria & Abdul
(November 9)
Cast: Judi Dench, Ali Fazal

The extraordinary true story of an unexpected friendship in the later years of Queen Victoria's (Judi Dench) remarkable rule. When Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal), a young clerk, travels from India to participate in the Queen's Golden Jubilee, he is surprised to find favor with the Queen herself. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance with a loyalty to one another that her household and inner circle all attempt to destroy. As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes and joyfully reclaims her humanity.



28 Oct | 4pm - 12am
Palawan Green, Sentosa
Tickets: \$70 (solo)/\$100 (VIP)
Register: <http://blacklight.sg>

Siloso Beach Party

This year's Blacklight Run participants will meander the course of Sentosa's Palawan Green with Blacklight Zones, where they will be doused with green, pink and orange non-toxic Glow Powder. This Instagrammable 5K run blends fitness and partying: post-run, there will be an electrifying after-party featuring DJ Hypebeats (KL), DJ Lady Punch (BKK), and DJ Momo. Ah Boys To Men heartthrob Joshua Tan will be hosting the VIP fun run.

EVENTS

JobStreet.com CAREER FEST 2017

Survival Skills for The Ever-Changing World

28 Oct | 1.30pm - 6pm
The Pavilion@Far East Square
Admission: FREE

JobStreet.com Career Fest 2017

Today's job market is more competitive and dynamic than ever. No matter what field or industry you're exploring, skills like networking or harnessing information and technology are key. Targeted at fresh grads and early jobbers, JobStreet.com's Career Fest will emphasise on how to trace successful, future-proof career paths including expert talks and on-site advice. Register online at www.jobstreet.com.

GIGS

4 Nov | 3.30pm - 10.30pm
Tanjong Pagar Centre Urban Park
Entry: Free with purchase of F&B (\$25)
Stärker Music Carnival

The one day carnival will be headlined by A-list superstar A-Lin (Huang Li Ling), supported by five notable local acts - electronic artist Jasmine Sokko, alternative pop band The Façade, synth pop band Disco Hue, bilingual singer Alfred Sim and Ling Kai as well as 4 emerged finalists of Stärker Music Jams.



Justice League
(November 11)
Cast: Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Ezra Miller, Ray Fisher, Jason Momoa

Fueled by his restored faith in humanity and inspired by Superman's selfless act, Bruce Wayne enlists the help of his newfound ally, Diana Prince, to face an even greater enemy. Together, Batman and Wonder Woman work quickly to find and recruit a team of metahumans to stand against this newly awakened threat. But despite the formation of this unprecedented league of heroes - Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Cyborg and The Flash - it may already be too late to save the planet from an assault of catastrophic proportions.



10 Nov | 8pm - 3am
Stewarts Riverboat
Tickets: \$20 - \$45

Bandwagon Riverboat

Bandwagon Riverboat will be hosting a nostalgic throwback party featuring Singapore's top music collectives, EATMEPOPTART and EMONIGHTSG, on Southeast Asia's only Mississippi Riverboat. Prepare for BritPop, Indie Rock, Pop, Emo and other head-banging guilty pleasures, and retro arcade games like Pac-Man, games like beer pong, and even an Emo make-up counter. Food from Santa Fe Tex-Mex Grill all night. Tickets from www.bandwagonriverboat.com.

work hard, study harder?

By
Natalie
Kwan

How competitive are Singaporean students compared to the rest of the world



south korea

Many of us love to binge watch Korean dramas and gaze longingly at the suave oppas, but these picture-perfect romance serials are a far cry from real student life in South Korea. First of all, South Korean students spend more than 12 hours per day in school, including after-school classes and self study.

Competition to gain entry into the three top-tier universities, often referred to as the SKY universities, is rigorous and intense. As such, not only do Korean students attend regular school, most of them are enrolled in cram schools, known as hagwons, which offer private lessons to help students improve in their core subjects. Hagwons offering English lessons are especially popular, since English is not their native language. It is typical for these lessons to run till late at night. In 2009, the government even had to impose a curfew which stated that hagwons had to cease operations for the day at 10pm. Even so students often arrive home around 11pm, only to rise around 6.30 am to perform that punishing routine all over again.



finland

Finland has often been praised for its efficient and holistic education system, one that other countries seek to emulate. Finnish children do not start schooling until the age of seven, based on the belief that children learn best when they are ready.

School is the only place where students study; extra classes are pretty much unheard of. Finnish students also do not sit for any major exams until the age of 18, where they typically sit for the matriculation exam. Here's the interesting bit - each paper lasts a duration of six hours, and some schools even provide sandwiches and juices during this time, allowing students to take their time to complete the exam and even have their lunch while they are at it.

Due to the absence of major exams, teachers can focus on planning lessons according to pupils' pace of learning, including field trips and class activities to facilitate better learning. Instead of merely teaching students to cram for exams. According to the 2015 OECD survey, Finland is ranked 12th in math, fifth in science and fourth in reading.

It seems that Finnish students have a good balance of study and play, and still manage to yield respectable grades.

united states of america

Are American students really all about the partying, as seen in popular television series like Gossip Girl and Jersey Shore?

It turns out that about 40% of American high school students are chronically disengaged from school, according to 2003 National Council Research Council report on motivation. This leads to bored students who invest little to no effort in their work, leading to subpar academic performance. Hence, it was no surprise when the 2013 OECD survey revealed that the U.S. scored below average in math and ranks 17th among the 34 OECD countries.

That being said, studies suggested that in 2012, more than 41% of college freshmen said they did not party at all. This was a record low amount of time dedicated to partying, as compared to years before. The survey also discovered that students have become increasingly concerned with financial success and less concerned with having a good time.

It appears that what we see on the media is indeed larger than life.



BY NINA GAN

THE PRUDENCE PROTOCOL

SEX ED AROUND THE WORLD

Thanks to the internet, the youth of today have more than school to turn to when it comes to learning about the birds and the bees. However, it's also important to stress the importance of sex ed in classrooms, since it's probably the first time kids will be exposed to the concept of 'sex'. And because it sure as hell is awkward to ask parents for advice.

When it comes to Singapore, it's not a stretch to say that we are a prude society. Recently, SMU got into a bit of hot water when it sent out a mass mailer to their students, offering discounts on condoms – breaching their policy that prohibits companies from selling condoms to students. On Facebook, keyboard warriors were quick to point out that schools shouldn't 'promote promiscuity' that way. And so remains Singapore's stance on prudence.

But what is the view on sex ed – and prudence – around the world?

ASIA

The age of consent in Asia varies wildly by country – while in Singapore it's 16, it's only 13 for both Japan and South Korea. Even so, all three countries are notorious for low teen birth rates (they're in single digits). Much of sex ed in schools across Asia are about abstinence and/or family, and in some countries, there is virtually no sex education – save for the usual biology lesson – due to it being a taboo subject.

JAPAN

Although it's known for its profusion of steamy manga and 'massage' parlours, Japan remains very conservative: sex remains a subject that parents and teachers are embarrassed to discuss. But even when they do have sex ed, it's in the usual context of having a family or preventing STDs rather than topics like abortion or IVF. In fact, public attitudes are becoming less permissive than before – half of teens in 2015 under 15 knew how to use a condom, which resulted in 80% of teen pregnancies ending in abortion.

Teenage birth rate: 4 in 1,000

CHINA

The Communist Party under Chairman Mao was famously prudish, and that attitude has persisted to this day. Sex ed is famously abysmal in the country: in 2011 a Chinese couple tried to get pregnant by laying next to each other for 3 years. Earlier this year, a surprisingly progressive sex ed curriculum was set up for kids, but prude parents called for the programme to be promptly removed. Recently, university students are demanding better sex education from their schools to counter rising abortions (10% of students admitted to having one) and HIV cases.

Teenage birth rate: 7 in 1,000

SOUTH KOREA

Textbooks on sex ed in Korea include sections on biological sex and the 'culture' of sex, but it largely involves the concept of love and 'communicating with the opposite sex' – for example, students are quizzed on hypothetical situations like "why is your boy/girlfriend always late?". Even with hundreds of illustrations, sex ed in Korea is obsessed with everything surrounding sex, except the act of sex itself, so it's no surprise that Koreans turn to porn (they're the highest spenders on porn in the world, with \$527 per person – the US spends \$45).

Teenage birth rate: 2 in 1,000



THE REST OF THE WORLD

When it comes to Western countries, the sex ed curriculum varies wildly – some are very inclusive (with issues like gender identity and explicit sex 'instructions') while some are surprisingly vague. Meanwhile to get around a 'taboo' subject, the Middle East and Nigeria have turned to the digital world, creating apps and online platforms to inform folks about their sexuality.

SCANDINAVIA

Scandinavia has some of the lowest rates of teen pregnancies in the world, but it also has some of the most comprehensive – and chilled – sex ed curricula out there. Norway has a cheerfully explicit sex ed video for 8-to-12-year-olds that would shock Game of Thrones fans, and includes French kissing, hickies, sex, and masturbation. Swedish students learn about everything from consent and condoms to challenging racial and gender-bias in relationships. In Denmark, sex ed is doing a curious thing: rather than preventing pregnancy, teachers are warning teens about the risks of waiting too long to have kids (birth rates are plummeting in Denmark).

Teenage birth rate: 6 (Norway, Sweden), 4 (Denmark) in 1,000

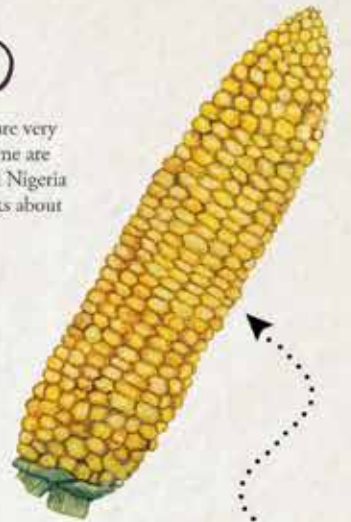
ENGLAND

Sex ed has only recently been made mandatory for all schools since earlier this year; previously only public schools were required. The new curriculum will be taught from 2019, and will include relationship issues, as well as the dangers of sexting, online pornography and sexual harassment. In primary schools, the focus would be on building healthy relationships and staying safe, while in secondary school it would focus on sex and relationships. However, parents can still pull their kids from these classes.

Teenage birth rate: 14 (for all of UK) in 1,000

THE VATICAN

Pope Francis and his crew revised Church sex education recently, sparking controversy across the Catholic world – but it's not because they were against sex ed, they argued FOR it. The new guidelines recommend co-ed sex ed classes, and don't encourage celibacy or condemn adultery, homosexuality, masturbation and contraception. Unsurprisingly, these were too much for conservative Christians to handle, leading many US-based Christian groups to protest this revamped Vatican sex ed program.



USA

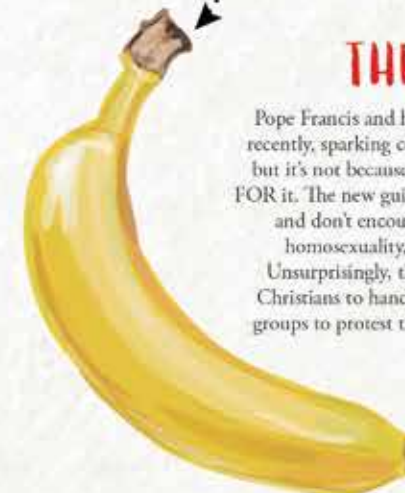
There are 2 sex ed curricula in the US: comprehensive sex ed, or abstinence-only, and these depend on which state the kids live in. Sex ed in the US is largely about abstinence, and there's no national standard for what kids learn. Surprisingly, not all states require compulsory sex ed classes, and some of these classes aren't even required to be medically correct. In fact, studies have shown that formal sex education has been on a steady decline for 20 years as religious beliefs dominate how this topic is dealt with. As a result, the US has the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the developed world.

Teenage birth rate: 21 in 1,000

AUSTRALIA

Despite a 2015 Australian study that found children as young as 8 are showing early signs of puberty, there's a "baffling" lack of sex education in schools. A report revealed that a Victoria school allowed a Christian group to teach sex ed using scientifically-dubious materials and misinformation like how females have chemicals that make them more "needy". Research indicates students' knowledge about STIs remains inadequate, even though young Australian students are generally sexually experienced.

Teenage birth rate: 14 in 1,000



TO FINISH OFF...

In this day and age, it's ironic that the more the world becomes interconnected, the more sex ed comes under attack. Sex ed can protect children from sexual abuse, or even help young adults make choices about their bodies – and it should come from the right source, and certainly not via porn. No matter how prude a society, one shouldn't mistake ignorance for purity.



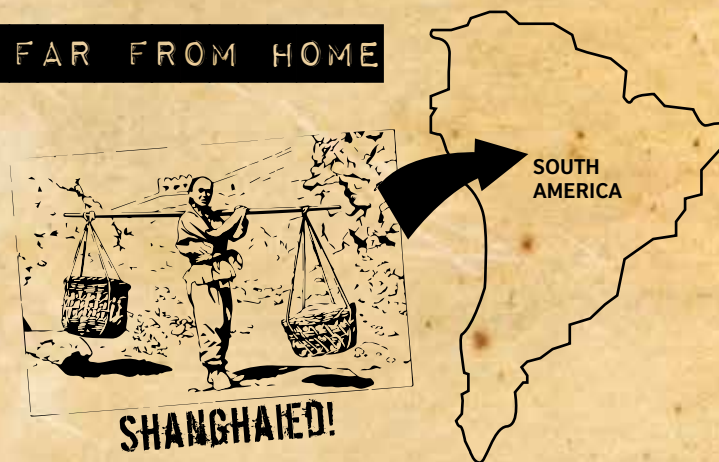
FAR FLUNG COOLIES

by Nina Gan

HOW THE CHINESE LANDED FAR FROM HOME

Long before Xi Jinping declared his 'one belt one road' initiative, the Chinese diaspora had spread far beyond the usual Chinatowns that we know. We have the colonial European powers – particularly the Portuguese – to thank for shipping the first batch Chinese to far flung lands way back in the 16th century as slaves.

After the African slave trade was outlawed in the 19th century, the British came up with a dodgy form of employment: contract labour. And they turned to Asia to stock up on 'coolies', aka slaves with a signed contract. From 1847 to 1874, up to 500,000 Chinese coolies were shipped to the Americas, Africa and Southeast Asia, often shanghaied into their new "careers".



PORTUGUESE & MACAO: SLAVE TRADE

When Portugal started trading in Asia, they were already experienced slave traders. As far back as the 1520s, Chinese slaves have been bought, and then traded in Lisbon in the 1540s. Some were brought over by Portuguese viceroys who procured them from China and Malacca along spice routes. Some of these slaves consisted of kidnapped boys as young as 5 years old.



China's relationship with the Portuguese began in 1557, who used Macao as a trading port for slaves from China, as well as (predominantly) Japan and the rest of Asia. From there, slaves were shipped to Goa (then a Portuguese colony) and Lisbon – from where some found their way to Brazil, becoming the first Chinese to set foot there in the 16th century.

It wasn't until 1624 that the King of Portugal forbade the enslavement of the Chinese and Japanese, due to international pressure rather than conscience. However, the Dutch picked up the slack and enslaved Asian people in colonial South Africa from the 1650s.

Fast forward to the 1840s and we start seeing the Chinese being traded again – this time under the official title of 'coolie'.

A NEW KIND OF SLAVE

By the early 19th century, slave trading was being outlawed across Europe – beginning with Denmark (1802), then Britain (1807), Holland (1814), France (1818), Spain (1820) and finally Portugal in 1836.

To replace African slaves, the British first experimented with this 'coolie' system when they imported 200 Chinese to Trinidad in 1806. Coolie traders claimed that workers were willing to indenture themselves for 6-8 years. In reality, contracts were rarely honoured, and most of the men were kidnapped or deceived; the trade was even referred to as 'mai jiu jai' (sale of piglets), possibly referring to their pigtail hairstyle.

MACAO TO SOUTH AMERICA

For over 300 years, Portuguese Macao was a marketplace for human labour – initially trading in slaves, they simply switched to trading coolies once Portugal outlawed slavery. Most of the coolies ended up in Latin America.

The Portuguese brought coolies to its Brazilian tea plantations. Even the Dutch brought Chinese coolies from Macao



A coolie revolting

to their colony, Suriname, to replace the African slaves in sugar plantations after slavery was outlawed.

Most coolies from Macao ended up in Spanish colonies. Over 100,000 coolies were sent to Peru from the 1850s to the 1870s for work in sugar plantations, as well as in the guano, rail, and cotton industries. About 125,000 coolies were sold to Cuba between 1847-1874 to work on sugar plantations and guano pits.

Typical Chinese coolies



TO OTHER FAR FLUNG PARTS

The British and French also imported coolies to Africa. The British began importing Chinese coolies into Mauritius in 1829 to replace their slave labour in sugar plantations, and used them to work in gold mines in South Africa. The French used coolies for railroad-building in Madagascar in 1896. Even the Germans were using coolies in German Samoa in the late 1800s for their tobacco plantations.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER?

After their contract ended, many coolies returned to China, although many stayed on and opened small grocery stores or restaurants, and married local wives.

In the case of Cuba, the number of Chinese in Cuba resulted in the creation of Havana's Chinatown (Barrio Chino de La Habana), one of the oldest in Latin America. Peru has one of the largest Chinatowns, Calle Capón (Barrio Chino), and over 6,000 Chinese restaurants called 'chifas' which serve Chinese Peruvian fusion food. In Brazil, the Chinese live alongside a large Japanese population in Liberdade, Sao Paulo.

Many of the coolies who've settled overseas have thrived for generations, and can generally be distinguished from newer immigrants by the languages they speak – in addition to local languages, they speak either Hakka or Cantonese as they originally were mainly from Guangdong.



Guidebook of chifas in Peru

STRESS RELIEF

The urge to travel is within all of us, so while you're dreaming away at your lecture, why not indulge in a bit of a map game? You've definitely seen some of these world-famous landmarks – but can you place them on a map? Here's a game that tests your knowledge of geography!

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut out the markers containing the landmarks
2. Try and pin them to the respective locations
3. Consult with an actual map: if you've pinned it in the right country, congratulations!

Pin the landmark



Disclaimer: the map is not accurate. As if you didn't know that.

“The future is about engineering ideas that take flight.”

EZEBELLA BINTE ABDULLAH

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