INCLUDED: How to plan your European Grad Trip Holiday
The outdoors beckons. You are captivated by its breathtaking sights, fresh air, blue skies and endless possibilities. When you get out there you can feel the pure intensity and excitement that comes from following your passions but the allure of the outdoors is different for everyone.

Outdoor Channel unlocks a rich collection of stories, personalities, challenges and motivational forces that reflect the desire to get out there and be a part of passionate communities of outdoor lifestyles and events.

#WhatGetsYouOutThere?

Share your favourite outdoor images and stories with us on www.facebook.com/OutdoorChannelAsia
HOORAY FOR HOLIDAYS!
STUDENT-FRIENDLY CITIES TO VISIT THIS DECEMBER

BY GERMAINE LEW

ASIA

Although we may yearn to go on adventurous voyages and explore faraway lands, 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. Delicious food and shopping might not be considered the cheapest options, 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 famous Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, the Talad Silom Night Market, or the Khao San Road.

2. SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Although slightly pricier, Seoul remains a popular vacation spot. With the latest trends in fashion, culture, and entertainment, it's not surprising students love the city. Check out the Myeongdong Fashion Street, and Dongdaemun, a huge shopping area with tons of trendy fashion. Expenses in Seoul can be affordable with the many budget-friendly street markets as well as JH-Mart, a carbon-copy of Hong Kong's famous shopping mall.

3. JOHOR BAHRU, MALAYSIA

As big as Malaysia is, we often forget it's more than Penang. For street food, Johor has the most diverse cuisines.JB is not over our horizon, and makes for Malaysia's costliest getaway. It's easy and cheap to get to, and has all the LalaLand as well as cheap shopping and food — all within a budget.

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 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.

4. MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

A perennially popular travel destination for Singaporeans, Melbourne is the city for nature lovers to admire wildlife and national landscapes. With such a meticulous touch to its own gardens, Melbourne may not be the cheapest place but has cooler weather and more sunshine. If you're into shopping, there are plenty of outlet shops. If you're into entertainment, there are plenty of cheap shows for them musicals in the inner north. Or go green with free entrance to the Royal Botanical Gardens, or rent a bicycle and explore the Yarra Trail.

5. LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

It sounds deep, but it's easy to lose yourself amidst London's quaint streets and centuries-old architecture. While Buckingham Palace and Big Ben are mind-blowing sites, if you want to sit and contemplate your surroundings over Hyde Park, consider taking the Tube and one of the city parks in the world or Rick Stein to park roaming does, and enjoy the National Gallery. There are also many great free museums in London — like the National History Museum, National Gallery, or the V & A Museum.

6. ATHENS, GREECE

It's said that no holiday is complete without a visit to Santorini (I'm not joking). If you're on a budget, visit the Temple of Hephaestus and the Acropolis. There are also many great free museums in Athens, like the National Archaeological Museum or the National Historical Museum.

TIPS

1. AFFORDABLE LODGING:

There are plenty of cheap hotel options these days if you go to hotel aggregating sites like Booking.com. It doesn't require prepayment. If you prefer a more basic experience, Airbnb is plenty of options, or you'll be staying at all-suites although there is a risk of them not holding your booking for personal reasons. Cheaper still are hostels that dot all major cities — and are often spread up to be cheap, trendy, and convenient. There are also many homestay and accommodation options via Couchsurfing or share houses like Rent-a-Room.

2. AFFORDABLE FLIGHTS:

Budget airlines are now giving a plenty of destination options, whether you're flying within Asia or beyond, the like Singapore or Norway. You can also search Flight aggregating sites like Skyscanner for discounted return flights that may even work out cheaper than a budget airline after you're factored in taxes, meals, and baggage surcharges.

3. STRAIGHTEN YOUR TEETH WITH BRACES

$3500 FROM

4. REPLACE YOUR MISSING TEETH WITH IMPLANTS

$1400

*After medical deduction of $250

5. GET WHITER TEETH

$380

*Only applicable depending on individual conditions

Greenlife Dental Clinic

www.greenlifedental.com.sg

6250 0630
6241 0123

Too Payoh Central

6299 3556
6777 1712

Dentist Central

6452 4222
6765 5759

Aag Mo Koo Central

992 88 988

998 88 988

Klinik Dental

www.greenlifedental.com.sg

CALL US OR WALK IN TO FIND OUT MORE!
Urban Dictionary

Robots

Meaning: Some people in relationships 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.

Translation: Taken from the English word “soma”

Yaourter/Chanter en yaourt

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!

Translation: To yoghurt/to sing through yoghurt

Queimar as pestanas

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!

Translation: Burn the eyelashes

Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof

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.

Translation: (I’m) also drunk

Asli vs Dogs

A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY COMPARISON

The “cat vs dog” debate has been an effective ice-breaker for a very long time. Don’t we all love expressing whether we belong to either one of these categories? Pet preferences can apparently say a lot about a person’s personality. A recent study by FbCa labeled a person’s personal collection by taking a series of questions including such topics as cleanliness, hygiene, and lifestyle. Countries that have dominant cat or dog preferences

It seems that either nature tends to have a preference for fellow felines, or the location where people live in the world. People living in the UK and Ireland are more likely to prefer cats as pets, while those living in South America are more likely to prefer dogs.

Asia

CATS

South America

In Latin American nations, almost every family has at least one pet dog and that percentage has been increasing day by day. Perhaps that’s because of the large Catholic population of the region – according to studies, nuns are considered a sign of affection.

China, Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico are in the top 10 for the most dog ownership in the world. Brazil has the largest dog population. Sadly, dog ownership has become a symbol of wealth and status in recent years.

Middle East, Africa

More Middle Eastern countries have launched campaigns to combat the spread of rabies and other diseases caused by dogs. In countries like Egypt and Iran, the vast majority of people have never owned a dog as pets. In Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, cats are common pets, and it’s common to see cats and dogs running around together.

Europe

Although Europe is predominantly cat country, the percentage of dog owners is increasing. Countries like the Netherlands, Italy, and Spain have seen a rise in dog ownership in recent years. In the UK, the number of dog owners has doubled in the past decade. This is likely due to the increased need for physical activity, as well as to the rise of social media. Germany’s dog population has also seen a significant increase in recent years.

South Africa

This country is known for its high ratio of cat to dog owners. In South Africa, the number of cats is more than double the number of dogs. This is likely due to the fact that cats are more independent and easier to care for than dogs. In addition, dogs are legally required to be vaccinated against rabies, so many owners opt for cats instead.

By DISHI GAUTAM

South Asia

Every country has its own slangs and sayings used colloquially by the locals. Slang words can tell us a lot about a country’s culture and lifestyle while keeping the language interesting and fresh. But what if we were to literally translate those phrases into English? The result might be a bit weird, or even hilarious. Here are some funny and interesting slang words from around the world – try and guess their meanings!

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Country: France

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 slang – it’s a numerical phrase used to express fear. Try using this expression with your friends when you don’t understand them and watch their baffled, confused reactions!

Translation: I don’t understand anything

Meaning: I don’t understand anything

Country: Germany

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SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

by Tartan Ow

refereendums & independence

You’ve probably seen a lot of news about referendums recently - some happened this year in Catalonia, Iraq, and Peru. The world is a volatile place these days, and even in the absence of war, the quest for independence is becoming more instructive for what we might be facing.

Geography is an ever-changing subject, as borders are shifted, and new entities are created.

Case in point: Spain’s recent declaration of independence from Catalonia, followed by referendums that passed with surprising ease, led to a new country being carved out of the Spanish landscape.

SOWING THE SEEDS

The Catalans aren’t the only ones who are going through this - there have been many others, and although the reasons for such referendums are complex, the outcome is unique.

For the Kurds in Iraq, it’s an ethnically black issue. They ran a referendum the same week as Catalonia, with a 94% vote in favor. In Scotland, there was a close vote (49.9% in favor) but it’s independence from the UK doesn’t seem to be on the horizon. Scotland was declared a separate country by referendum, but not recognized by the rest of the European Union, which upheld its independence from the UK.

In the same case in Kosovo, which became a separate nation after the war, it’s not quite the same today. Kosovo has been recognized by several countries, but its recognition by major world powers is limited, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has not recognized Kosovo as an independent country.

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The case is split

Not all referendums have the desired outcome. In Quebec, a French-speaking province of Canada, two votes were held.

In 2014, Scotland held a referendum for independence from the UK, but it was defeated. In Catalonia, there were two referendums for independence from Spain, but both were declared illegal by the Spanish government.

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BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

The question of independence is not just a matter of political correctness. It's a matter of economics, social and cultural development.

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The Highs and Lows

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THE LIST

BIG MAC IN SWITZERLAND: $9.00

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

BIG MAC IN GREECE: $5.20

One of the cheapest places to travel in Europe these days, you can get a Big Mac with chips, which is beef wrapped in pita for a total. They have chicken here, with 5 versions on offer including chicken burger greek.

BIG MAC IN USA: $7.20

One of the most expensive places to travel in Europe these days, you can get a Big Mac for $7.20. They have chicken here, with 5 versions on offer including chicken burger greek.

BIG MAC IN AUSTRALIA: $6.15

In addition to burgers, Australia is known for its delicious gluten-free options, as well as their famous macarons. In addition to desserts, they have salads and sandwiches, as well.

BIG MAC IN EURO ZONE: $6.10 AVERAGE

The average price of a Big Mac in the Euro zone is $6.10. Prices vary due to local taxes and regulations.

BIG MAC IN SINGAPORE: $3.60

Sitting at the 7th place of the Big Mac Index, Big Macs in Singapore are cheaper than in the US but it’s almost twice the cost of a regular fast-food chain. However, there are limited menu items, like the regular Singapore burger and the Singapore burger with beef cutlet wrapped in pita.

BIG MAC IN UKRAINE: $2.30

With the cheapest Big Mac in the world, you can try all the burgers in the world, including the Dnesovskiy, and the Roshchinsky burger. The beef cutlet wrapped in pita is the most popular.

BIG MAC IN JAPAN: $4.30

In Japan, the Big Mac is known for its interesting seasonal offerings, like pumpkin chocolate fries and sesame seeds. As well as a tasty and filling meal vending machines with an egg to top it off.

BIG MAC IN INDIA: $3.75

In India, the Big Mac is known for its innovative local version, as well as its popular curry version.

BIG MAC IN TAIWAN: $3.20

Taiwan McDonald’s has an incredible chicken sandwich in their menu, ranging from saucy chicken to nuggets, and a variety of burgers including the Big Chicken Burger. Breakfast includes local-style hack toast.

BIG MAC IN ARGENTINA: $2.90

With the second cheapest Big Mac in the world, you can try all the burgers in Argentina, including the famous Asado Burger and the Asado burger with beef cutlet wrapped in pita.

BIG MAC IN NORWAY: $7.00

In Norway, there are many chains located close to the North Pole called Loppi, which is perfect for a quick snack.

BIG MAC IN DANMARK: $6.65

In Denmark, they have a unique version of the Big Mac, with a thick meat cutlet and a delicious sauce.

BIG MAC IN NORTH KOREA: $2.85

In North Korea, McDonald’s menu is a bit more limited, but it’s still worth trying for the experience.

BIG MAC IN UNITED STATES: $4.20

In the US, the Big Mac is a bit more expensive, but the quality is top-notch. They have local specials, like the California burger.

BIG MAC IN BRAZIL: $5.00

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BIG MAC IN SOUTH AFRICA: $2.90

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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.

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 capitalize 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 UK 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 MRI 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 conceptualizing 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 airspace, 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 to stream video from墨水 and other content directly to you.

Between those two extremes, almost anything you can imagine is possible, with the relentless growth of UAVs 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 Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics or Aviation Business Administration with an opportunity to choose a specialisation in Unmanned Aerial Systems.
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 buildings were not as tall as in Singapore.”

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.

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### Uniforms, textbooks, school supplies are very expensive: about SGD $300 for ONE set of uniform. Priyanka’s Human Biology textbook costed $80 and is 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 13ºC 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. It’s 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 means that the school year is divided into two halves, with each half lasting 11 weeks.

### School Life Like Overseas?

There are several culture 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 how 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.

### 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 despite my previously high expectations. I realized 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 is very aware of what’s happening in their government - past and present. I realized that the day I became the laughing stock among my new friends after I commented on something really silly about Hong Kong’s History.

### Parting Shot

Hong Kong may be similar to Singapore as an Asian metropolis, but I learned that you can’t enjoy and be part of your student life back in Singapore here. While studying overseas poses an opportunity to experience new classroom, make new friends, and discover new places, all 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 you do have to adapt 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 build a relationship with the faculty to key to maximising overall experience.

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**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.
What are you Google-ing?

SOURCES ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

Google is almost everyone's go-to when searching for answers or events on the internet. Unless you're 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 all at nation specifically. Here are the top most Googled terms in various countries across the globe.

**CANADA**

*“Puerto Rico”*  85,000+

Hurricane Maria left a devastating impact on the affected areas in Puerto Rico, leaving them with no access to electricity or clean water. A Googler is hurricane, this is the strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in 88 years. Also, just 12 Hours before “Puerto Rico” became the most searched keyword on Google, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted about its impact, probably thanks to canadians among Canadian residents after the hurricane hitting Puerto Rico.

**USA**

*“North Korea”*  300,000+

North Korea has threatened to shoot down any US warplane near their loss in the Korean War. This is the most powerful keyword in the United States. South Korea in addition, has a strong football team who are World Cup winners. This adds to the keyword’s popularity.

*“Pokémon Go”*  200,000+

The popular game which has downloaded more than 500 million times since it’s release. US adults no wonder now down for once, less time affecting over worldwide. Players complain of not being able to get into the are there. On the other hand, as the game is not popular. It’s an example of how the internet can be used to express opinions and concerns.

**RUSSIA**

*“crazy cat lady”*  50,000+

Both memes with a mixture of a cat and a woman. This mix of a cat and a woman is often referred to as a “catwoman.”

*“Pokémon Go”*  50,000+

The game’s success, which has downloaded over 500 million times since its release. On the internet, unlike previous virus creations, the demand was due to the limited times. Players want to play on the internet were using new features with this country.

**JAPAN**

*“Japan”*  250,000+

This keyword highlights the fascination with Japanese culture. From manga to anime, it’s all about Japan.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

*“Meghan Markle”*  20,000+

Prince Harry appeared in Toronto at the Autumn photocall with American actress, Meghan Markle. Meghan Markle’s fashion choice has become a topic of conversation. However, what makes Meghan Markle the most Googled term in different countries? Perhaps the next most Googled term will be the dress she wore in the games, “The Matsuri”.

**BRAZIL**

*“Brazil”*  50,000+

This Brazilian singer made it to the top most Googled terms after he signed his new album. The singer’s decision to change his performance style to heavy metal.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

*“Canada Strike”*  10,000+

In their resistance against corrupt government, a country where you can order a decent smartphone for less than BDT. The country’s obsession with smartphones is evident in their most Googled search, the Nokia 8, which is paired similarly to premium smartphones such as Samsung’s S9. The stories are true as many in the country market are driven by smartphones.

**INDIA**

*“India”*  50,000+

This keyword highlights the fascination with Indian culture. From Bollywood to cricket, it’s all about India.

**INDONESIA**

*“Korea”*  50,000+

This keyword highlights the fascination with Korean culture. From k-pop to Korean food, it’s all about Korea.

**AUSTRALIA**

*“Rob McCorMack”*  50,000+

This is a keyword related to a hotel chain that is known for its unique interior designs. In Australia, Rob McCorMack is a popular artist known for his creative and innovative designs.

**NEW ZEALAND**

*“Australia”*  50,000+

This keyword highlights the fascination with Australian culture. From surfing to rugby, it’s all about Australia.

**DRINKING CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD**

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

**BRITAIN**

Alcohol is a huge part of British culture, so much so that if you order food at a restaurant, alcohol is often paired with your meal. Usually, there’s a designated wine for each course. In Europe in general, two forms of alcohol are consumed before and after a meal. Before a meal, you can enjoy a small amount of wine, which is essentially to excite your appetite. After the meal, you may consume a small digestif to help promote digestion.

**ITALY & FRANCE**

These two nations are known for their love of alcohol. With food being a part of their culture, you’ll be served snacks, and if you ordered food at a restaurant, alcohol is often paired with your meal. Usually, there’s a designated wine for each course. In Europe in general, two forms of alcohol are consumed before and after a meal. Before a meal, you can enjoy a small amount of wine, which is essentially to excite your appetite. After the meal, you may consume a small digestif to help promote digestion.

**INDIA**

In the land of caterers and spices, alcohol is not normally consumed with meals. One’s drinking habits tend to be kept secret, especially between elders and youths. So it’s still very much seen as a sin. Alcohol is forbidden in 17 states, while in many others, the legal drinking age is 25 (Delhi included).

**AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

Both countries generally view alcohol openly and have very little social associated with it. In the UAE, there is a system of strict licensing among friends, and in both countries, although recent surveys have shown a decline in favour of this.

**KOREA & JAPAN**

Alcohol is a normal part of Korean and Japanese life, which influences social and business culture. In Korea, alcohol can be seen as a way to build relationships. Accordingly, both countries have plenty of hangover cures like miso soup or orange juice.

**USA**

The land of Truckers and koupers, one of the most obvious drinking cultures, which is commonly associated with weekend drinking. Alcohol’s legal age for drinking is 21, meaning, they can drink in extreme environments. However, it’s illegal to drive while under the influence of alcohol.

**UK**

Alcohol is generally bought in liquor stores, and in many parts, women are not allowed to drink in public. In Italy, most alcoholic drinks are served at bars, while in many countries, the legal drinking age is 21 (Delhi included).

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OUT AND ABOUT

MOVIES

Victoria & Abdul
(November 9)
Cast: Jenna DLynch, 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. As Abdul gains the confidence of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance with a loyalty to one another that defies convention and inspire the world.

SICO Beach Party
(SIICO)
As the SIICO Beach Party season wraps up, we will see more of the season’s favorite clubs participate in the event. The SIICO Beach Party season celebrated the season with a full lineup of events, including DJ sets and music, outdoor parties, and more.

4 Nov. 19:30pm - 10:30pm
Taijiang Pier Park Centre: Urban Park Entry: Free with purchase of FB3 ($25)

Starker Music Carnival
The one-day event will be headlined by A-list superstar Adele (Manny Li & Ling), supported by five notable local acts - electronic artist Stamine, singer-songwriter No One, and emerging artists.

Justice League
(November 11)
Cast: Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Ezra Miller, Ray Fisher, Jason Momoa
Fielded by his restored faith in humanity and inspired by Superman’s selfless act, Batman enlists the help of his mythological ally, Diana Prince, to face an even greater enemy. Together, Batman and Wonder Woman work quickly to find and recruit a team of metahuman heroes to stand against the newly awakened Final! 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.

CAMPUS.SINGAPORE

CAREER FEST 2017
20 Oct. 1 - 20:30pm - 6pm The Padiclum East Square Admission: FREE
Jobstreet.com
Career Fest 2017
Today’s job market is more competitive and dynamic than ever, so 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 careerers, Jobstreet.com’s Career Fest will emphasize on how to be a more valuable, future-proof career path including export talents and effective advice, register online at www.jobstreet.com.

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 school 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 16, after they typically set 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 pupil pace, helping students to work at their own pace and class activities to facilitate better learning, instead of merely teaching students to cram for exams. According to the 2015 OECD survey, Finland ranks 12th in math, 11th 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.
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 prudish society. Recently, SMU got into a bit of hot water when it sent out a mass mailer to their students, offering discounts on condoms—breaking 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 exceptions for low teen birth rates (they’re in luck). Modern sex ed in schools across Asia are about abstinence and family and in some countries, there is virtually no sex education at all—save for the usual biology lecture due to it being a taboo subject.

JAPAN

Although it’s known for its profusion of sex toys and massage parlor, Japan remains very conservative sex remains a subject that parents and teachers are embarrassed to discuss. But even when do they have sex ed, it’s in the usual context of having a family or preventing STDs rather than topics like abortions or BFV. In fact, public attitudes are becoming less permissive than before—half of teens in 2015 under 15 years have to use condoms, which resulted in 88% of teen pregnancies ending in abortion.

CHINA

The Communist Party under Chairman Mao was famously prudish, and that attitude has persisted to this day. Sex ed is formally offered in the country (in 2013 a Chinese couple used to get pregnant by lying next to each other for 5 years. Earlier this year, a province’s propaganda official even stated sex ed wasn’t up for kids, but grade 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 sex and HIV cases).

SOUTH KOREA

Despite being in the same continent, South Korea still has very strict sex education laws. Students are only taught about contraception and abstinence, with topics like sexual consent and diversity barely mentioned. In addition, sex education is not mandatory in South Korea’s schools, leaving it up to the parents to decide if they want their kids to learn about sex.

THE REST OF THE WORLD

SCANDINAVIA

Scandinavia has some of the lowest rates of teen pregnancies in the world, but it also has some of the most comprehensive—and drilled—sex ed in the world. Norway has a cheerfully explicit sex ed video for 9- to 12-year-olds that would shock fans of Transformers, and includes French kissing, bicycles, sex, and masturbation. Swedish students learn about everything from consent and condoms to challenging sexual and gender norms in relationships. In Denmark, sex ed is using a comic book that runs through parenting, pregnancy, and sex education. Students are warned about the risks of being pregnant, and those who do are not shamed but are encouraged to seek help. Overall, the Danish system promotes healthy relationships and sets students up for success.

ENGLAND

Sex ed has only recently been made mandatory for all schools since earlier this year only public schools were required. The new curriculum will be taught from 2018, 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 friendships and staying safe, while in secondary school it would focus on sex and relationships. However, parents can still pull their kids from these classes.

USA

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

AUSTRALIA

Despite being a 2015 Australian study that found children as young as 8 are having sex without consent, there’s a “shaming” lack of sex education in schools. A report revealed that a Victorian school allowed a Christian group to teach sex ed, using scientifically-based materials and reinforcement of moral values. However, this group was not well-received by many Australian students, and the government is currently reviewing the situation.

THE VATICAN

The Vatican has a few restrictions on sex ed. For instance, the Pope Francis said to keep sex ed “cool and charity” among Catholic schools—although there are no specific categories. Nonetheless, many US-based Catholic groups are pushing for the scrapped Vatican sex ed program.

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, save their lives and make children grow up with healthy relationships. And in today’s world, that’s more important than ever.
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. Some of these slaves consisted of kidnapped boys as young as 5 years old.

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

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, Britain 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’.

To replace African slaves, the British first experimented with a new kind of slave: coolies. They used Macao as a trading port for slaves from China, as well as (predominantly) Japan and the rest of Asia. From there, these 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 17th century. To Other Far Flung Parts

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

HOW THE CHINESE LANDED FAR FROM HOME

Portuguese & Macao: Slave Trade

In the case of Cuba, the number of Chinese in Cuba resulted in the creation of Chinese Chifas (Barrio Chino de La Habana), one of the oldest in Latin America. Peru has one of the largest Chinese communities in the world, thanks to the Chinese Peruvian fusion food. In Brazil, the Chinese live alongside large Japanese populations in Liberdade, Sao Paulo.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER?

For over 300 years, Portuguese Macao was a marketplace for human labour – initially trading in slaves, they simply switched to trading in sugar plantations, as well as in the guano, salt and cotton industries. About 125,000 coolies were sold to Cuba between 1847 and 1874 to work on sugar plantations and guano pits.

The hazardous conditions the coolies faced resulted in a high mortality rate up to half-deaths – as a result, many coolies revolted by escaping or killing their overseers. The Chinese government eventually stepped in and eliminated the coolie trade in 1874. However, coolies were still used until the early 20th century.

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 1860. Even the Germans were using coolies in German Samoa in the late 1880s for their tobacco plantations.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER?

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

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Fast forward to the 1840s and we start seeing the Chinese being traded people in colonial South Africa from the 1650s. Some of these were bought by Portuguese viceroys who procured them from China and Malacca along these routes. Some of these slaves consisted of kidnapped boys as young as 5 years old.

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

EZEBELLA BINTI ABDULLAH
Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechanical Engineering, Class of 2017
Coventry University, UK
Engineering Assistant in Aerospace Manufacturing

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