

One of the Asian Tigers, Singapore experienced astounding economic growth over the last few decades to become a global financial centre. It is a diverse, vibrant urban center of 5 million set at the heart of Southeast Asia. It is also a crossroads of cultures, home to long-established Chinese, Malay, and Indian communities – as well as to millions of foreigners from around the world who've been drawn there by Singapore's thriving economy.

The port of Singapore is now the busiest in the world, shiny new condos dot the landscape, and up to a million tourists pass through every month. Yet as is the case in many global cities, Singapore's modernity is often described as existing alongside elements belonging to the past: the ethnic neighborhoods, the traditional ways of life, and the entrenched attitudes of 'heartland Singapore'.

This module features a 12-day intensive field visit to Singapore, where students will have ample time to explore the human geographies of the city through independent field observations and group research projects. Prior to the trip, lectures and seminars will introduce contemporary geographic research on Singapore's people, landscape, and economy. The fieldtrip usually takes place in March. Before the fieldtrip, students work in groups to finalise their research topics and make a presentation in class. After the fieldtrip, students are expected to write a reflective diary to critically examine the inter-cultural dynamics in the process of research. Each research group will also write up their projects.

