

# Study visit Education, Singapore 2016

Exploring the Singapore example  
14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016



Lex Stomp: [c.stomp@windesheim.nl](mailto:c.stomp@windesheim.nl)



# Study Visit Education: exploring the Singapore example

## For whom?

This study visit is aimed at stakeholders within Dutch (teacher) education, that are interested in comparing the main focus of the Dutch "Lerarenagenda", teacher policies with the Singapore situation. By doing so and by reflecting upon this comparison we will be able to contribute to the quality of (teacher) education in The Netherlands.

## Comin out on top

On various rankings Singapore education comes out on top. Does this mean that education there is special or excellent? What makes it topping the list?

To find out what is good about the Singapore educational system you have to see it with your own eyes, experience it. Then you can compare it to your own situation. Learning from both worlds it is possible to improve education.

This is what this study visit is all about: experiencing the Singapore system, comparing and reflecting on it, with the Dutch system in mind and then finally find the useful things, those you can apply 'at home'.

## Aim of the study visit

The study visit to Singapore will contribute to the strengthening of the policy and practice with regard to teaching and teachers. Through means of visits to various schools, educational institutes and through meetings with colleagues from Singapore we will be able to exchange knowledge and have some valuable experiences, by which we can transfer new insights into the Dutch situation.

We aim at a good mix of expertise and experience in our delegation: teachers, teacher educators and managers. This way we will be able to oversee the whole issue and we will also be able to analyse the situation from various perspectives. This will help us enormously with the transfer into the Dutch situation.

## Character of the study visit

The study visit offers a rich program with visits to the Singapore ministry of education, schools and institutions. We will meet different stakeholders: teachers, directors, policy makers, teacher educators, etc.

There will be two meetings in which we will reflect on what we have seen and how we can apply or transfer this once back in The Netherlands.

## Content

The study visit is realized in collaboration with partner institutions of Windesheim in Singapore and supported by the Dutch embassy.

We will focus on four themes, that are part of the Dutch policy on teachers: "De Lerarenagenda".

These themes are:

### Professional development of teachers

Singapore has defined three very clear career paths within education. We will see how these work and how teachers and school leaders experience these career paths. What does the induction phase look like? How do those involved cooperate? What are their responsibilities? How is it organized? How is support given?

Development of a professional organization: to what extent are teachers organized, what is the most important aim to do this, what kind of organizations are there?

### Schools as learning organizations: human resource management, professional development of school leaders, etc.

How do schools create a professional culture (ongoing development, teamwork, feed-back, etc.), how is this culture instilled? What are the formal rules and facilities, what is the freedom in professional development? What does the 'Leaders in Education' look like; how do teachers and school leaders experience this?

How do school leaders experience the professional 'space' of teachers and how do they deal with it?

### Quality of teacher education

How does selection in Singapore work: how does it work, for what reason, what are criteria for selection?

What is the view of teachers, potential teacher education students or other stakeholders in society on selection for the teaching profession?

In what way is the quality of teacher education expressed and how is it stimulated, how is it accounted for?

### Innovation and flexibility, by means of modern technology/digitalization of education

What will be the new and progressive examples of the use of modern technology within education?

How is it used within teacher education?

What is the role of modern technology in (further) professional development of teachers and/or school leaders?

Many issues that are also recognizable in the Dutch educational system.

## Programme (concept)\*

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup>/Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October: Amsterdam - Singapore

- Travel to Singapore (night flight): probably KLM, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 21.30 h. – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 16.30 h.
  - Alternative to Singapore: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 21.30 h. – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 16.30 h. (€100 discount)
- Whether we can book with KLM depends on various issues like the amount of people on one flight.
- If we cannot fly with KLM, times might differ, it may then be not a direct flight.

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October

- Arrival in Singapore, late afternoon; you will be in the hotel at about 18.00 h.
- Free evening

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October

- Free day to get used to the time difference of 6 hours, we will give hints and tips for spending time in the culturally diverse and rich city of Singapore (Chinatown, Little India, Botanic Gardens, Science Museum, etc.)
- Breakfast near the hotel (together); a free opportunity to find partners to go to ..... (or just discover Singapore on your own)
- Evening: 18.30 h.: Briefing on the programme and its content at the Dutch embassy, 20.00 h. Dinner (together)

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October

- Primary school visit + meeting with teachers
- Singapore Ministry of Education/Singapore Academy of Teachers + meeting with teachers
- Free evening

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October

- Secondary school visit (a Singapore Future School) + meeting with teachers and management
- Visit to Nanyang Technological University + workshop on modern ICT in schools + Future schools of Singapore
- Free evening

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October

- Visit to the National Institute of Education (Teacher Education) + meeting with lecturers and students
- Discussion with Mr. Pak Tee (NIE), head of training for management and school leadership
- 'Half-way'- reflection moment; what have we seen, what do we need to look at the coming days?
- Partly free afternoon
- Reception by the Dutch ambassador (if possible)

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October

- Visit to Nanyang Polytechnic (MBO) + modern technology in education + meeting with students
- National Institute of Education; workshop on the use of mobile technology in education by Zachary Walker
- Free evening or join us on a visit to the Dutch club (if possible)

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

- Special Needs school visit
- Reflection meeting + Windesheim lector Sui Lin Goei + Round up (what did we learn, what will we do with it?)
- Partly free afternoon
- Closing dinner (together)

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

- Travel home (very early day flight) Singapore – Amsterdam: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 01.30 h. – 8.00 h. (!!!)
  - Alternative to Amsterdam: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (very early day flight), 01.30 – 8.00 h. (this means an invoice for you for 1 extra night in the hotel).

*\* This program is a concept. The final program aims to have the same content, but the order might differ due to real travel times and final appointments with the schools and so on at the time of our actual study visit.  
On the weekdays of our visit we will be traveling as a group with a bus.*

## Note

The Basic Programme runs from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October (leaving Schiphol) till Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October (arriving at Schiphol very early in the morning!).

This means that the extra costs of staying longer in Singapore (the hotel) will be your own extra costs. You will receive an extra invoice for this, if applicable. If you travel to Singapore on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October (so one day later than the majority of the group), you will get a discount of €100,-.

## Practical information

### Number of participants

The Study visit has a minimum of 10 participants. We can only have a maximum of 14 participants. Participants will be placed in the order of application. Payments must have been received 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016, otherwise participation is impossible.

### Travel

We will try to book a direct flight from Amsterdam to Singapore (preferably KLM). In Singapore we will make use of a bus during the weekday visits.

Private travel is easy in Singapore with taxi's and/or the Singapore metro and bus system (MRT), which is very good, accurate and not expensive.

### Stay

We will stay in one or two hotels in the centre of Singapore (hotels like IBIS Ben Coolen or the Innotel Singapore), depending on availability.

### Costs

Participating in this unique Study visit will cost € 2700,-. Included are: organization- and travel costs (flights and travel connected to the study visit in Singapore) and accommodation.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner (except the closing dinner) are not included. Your own further expenses are estimated at € 50,- a day. Things like breakfast, lunch and dinner can be obtained very cheap if you want to.

If you want to stay longer, extra costs will be put on an extra invoice for you.

You will receive an invoice for the participation in the first month after your registration.

### VIOS subsidy

In a *few cases* (mostly referring to teachers) you might be able to receive a VIOS subsidy. For this you must inform yourself at the Europees Platform/NUFFIC. You can call them: 070 426 0260. Best time to apply for a subsidy is in April. Be advised to start with this as soon as possible. <http://www.europeesplatform.nl/projecten/vios-lerarenmobiliteit>

### Registration

You can register for this study visit by email to [c.stomp@windesheim.nl](mailto:c.stomp@windesheim.nl)

The registration will then be finalized by filling out the registration form on Internet for which you will receive a link by email. The registration form also asks you for a copy of your passport. Please do not forget to attach a copy of your passport! Your passport must be valid until at least 6 months after arriving in Singapore.

### More information

To receive more information on the content of the study visit you can contact:

Lex Stomp (Hogeschool Windesheim): [c.stomp@windesheim.nl](mailto:c.stomp@windesheim.nl)

### Study visit community

More and new information will be posted on the Study visit community. When you have been assigned a place on this study visit, you will also get an e-mail to become member of this community.

The community will always contain the most recent travel information. It will replace all other communication for this study visit.

It will also contain the most relevant background information and literature to support the study visit. We expect you to visit the community to prepare yourself.

*We are sure that this unique study visit will inspire you and that it will remain an unforgettable memory. It will influence you both professionally and personally.*

Regards,

Lex Stomp

Senior Projectleider Internationalisering en Senior Consultant Onderwijs

Domein Bewegen en Educatie

Hogeschool Windesheim

e-mail: [c.stomp@windesheim.nl](mailto:c.stomp@windesheim.nl)

tel: 088 469 9296/06 1944 6250