

Hi Everyone,

My name is Ngu Sheau Ling and I am a 2004-2005 graduate of Alexandria School of Scientific Therapeutics. As an international student from Malaysia, I would like to share my experience studying and living in Alexandria.

I first learned about the school while searching for COMTA-accredited schools on the internet. I have a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy and initially I was interested in the school's post-graduate classes in Pfrimmer Deep Muscle Therapy. After going through the curriculum offered by all of the COMTA-accredited schools, I was very impressed with the variety of techniques taught at ASSTI and I decided to enroll in the Swedish Massage program as well.

I am very pleased and satisfied with the quality of education at ASSTI. There were many eye-opening and "Wow!" moments and I can truthfully say that this is one of the best schools I've been to. It was definitely worth it for me to travel from Malaysia to the United States for the school.

Alexandria is a small town and everyone I've met here is friendly and helpful. Even though I didn't know anyone before coming here, the school, fellow students and the local community soon made me feel welcome and at home.

It is a breeze to get around in Alexandria. Most stores, banks, and restaurants are within walking distance from the school, and it is always easy to get a ride from my friends. Free internet access is available from the local library and I was able to stay in touch with my family and friends, and stay connected to news from home, in a cost-effective manner.

During my year's stay in the United States, I was fortunate enough to visit other cities like Indianapolis, Chicago, New York City, Washington D.C. and Disney World in Florida. As a female solo traveler, I have never felt unsafe or threatened in any way, whether it was traveling by bus (there is a Greyhound station in nearby Anderson), by air (Indianapolis Airport) or while sightseeing on foot in different cities. (Of course I used my common sense too!)

I would like to recommend the Dormitory House as well. It is located next to the school and is very well furnished, well maintained, comfortable, clean, and convenient. There is even a practice area complete with massage table and linens. The school also kept us supplied with distilled water for drinking and cooking. The rent is very reasonable and certainly value-for-money. It would cost much more to rent and furnish a 1-room apartment here.

I have had a great experience here and will strongly recommend the school to anyone who is interested in an education in Massage Therapy.

Sincerely,

Ng Sheau Ling

“Information That May Be Helpful To International Students”

Getting to Alexandria from Indianapolis Airport:

Do get a printout of the map and driving directions from the school’s website. Many taxi drivers haven’t even heard of the town and will need the directions to get you to Alexandria. Taxi fare from the airport to Alexandria is at least \$120-\$150.

Getting around Alexandria:

Walking distance from the school:

****Around 10-15 minutes to grocery store, public library, banks, post office, movie theater and other shops/restaurants downtown.***

****Around 20 minutes to CVS (drugstore/pharmacy)***

****Around 25 minutes to Subway, McDonalds, or Dairy Queen.***

Getting to Anderson:

****Call TRAM (Transportation for Rural Areas of Madison County, phone# 644-6626) 24 hours in advance for door-to-door transportation. Costs \$3.00 each way.***

****Call a cab from Anderson (you can get the telephone# from the Yellow Pages). Costs around \$20.00 each way.***

****Or, ask for a ride from friends and fellow students.***

Getting To Indianapolis:

****Call a cab from Anderson (usually requires 2-hour notice). Costs \$90.00 to \$100.00 from Alexandria to Indianapolis Airport.***

****Take Greyhound from Anderson (the bus will go to downtown Indianapolis). Costs around \$12.00 for a one-way ticket.***

****Or, ask for a ride from friends and fellow students.***

Accommodations:

****1-room apartment rents for around \$375.00 per month, unfurnished. Utilities to be paid separately each month. Most apartments are around 15-minute walk from school.***

****Dormitory House is your best choice!***

Opening a Bank Account:

****You will need to provide TWO photo ID (e.g. passport, driving license)***

****If you opt for interest-bearing account(s), you will be asked for TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number) a few weeks later. (The interest is considered income.) To get a TIN, go to IRS website for instructions (basically you will need to print out the relevant forms, fill in the forms, provide notarized copies of documents, and include proof of why you need a TIN, then send all these to the IRS and wait for their reply.)***

Money:

It is not easy to change foreign currency in U.S. dollars in Alexandria. Some local banks here don’t provide this service at all. Other banks will only accept certain foreign currency and you will need to deposit the money into your account with them and wait a week or two before you can withdraw the money. The exchange rate is not too good either. I’ll suggest buying traveler’s checks in U.S. dollars before coming here.