

General Information			
Host Country	South Korea		
Host School	Kookmin University		
Program start & end dates	September 1st 2023 to December 20 2023		
Program of Study	Business		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> UMAP exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize and explain your general evaluation of your experience.	I overall enjoyed the opportunity to study abroad. These 4 months have given me a great insight on how other countries work through business decisions.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	For Visa it was a little complicated as the Korean embassy in Vancouver was not able to understand my questions on which application I should fill as there are various types of student visas available. However, receiving the permits and travel documents was easy for me.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	I booked via flight from Seattle to Seoul. Reason for that was from Seattle, it is \$300 less compared to from Vancouver. Before my flight I drove to Seattle. I would not change any part of these arrangements.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	With immigration, there was no issue. I only showed my Visa I have printed and they gave me access to the country.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	As I stayed at an off campus dormitory, I travelled via bus. The amount of time it took was 50 minutes to arrive at the university and the cost of one way trip was \$1.60.		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the assistance available to at your host school? Were there people and resources available for you for support?	The information presented during orientation was extremely helpful for me as they explained the classroom requirements and what the university expects the students to do. They provided a booklet for residency application, classroom timings, different building maps and the public holidays.		
What help did you receive from the international staff or office?	I have received assistance towards residency application and classroom navigation as everything is written in Korean.		
How was new student orientation at the host university? What did they do?	The student orientation was extremely helpful. We were able to network with other international students and get to know some seniors in the university. They gave us a tour on where the medical clinic is, bookstore, international classes and administrator staff available for assistance.		
Housing & Daily Life			
Describe your accommodation in your host country. Were you pleased with this choice or what would you have done differently?	I stayed at a off-campus dormitory that was 50 minutes away by bus. I was overly satisfied with this option as I was able to have a room to myself with a kitchen provided and a fridge for my necessary food. Compared to the dormitory on campus, it is usually a room shared with 3 other people with a shared cafeteria that does not have the variety of food options as I cannot eat specific meat.		

When could you move into housing and how long were you allowed to stay?	I moved into housing on August 28th and was there till December 28th 2023.
What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (shop, cafe gym, parks, pharmacy, stations...)	As I stayed in Hongdae, I had a variety of cafe's (study and normal) shops, malls, gyms, pharmacy, bus exchange and metro station.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I mainly cooked my meals and the most ingredients were available at the supermarkets or street shopping (vegetables). If I chose to not cook, there was a variety of restaurants in the area.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	50 minutes away by bus.
Academics & Course Registration	
Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	The Host University provided me the necessary documents for me to fill and notified me for any additional documents I had to obtain. They were available through email and I found it extremely helpful as they knew what was to be provided.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	There is no need to be afraid in asking for assistance if you are confused. Due to language barrier, it is better to ask than keep those question to yourself.
What tips to you have for finding the courses and course syllabuses/ outlines?	Make sure to do the test experiment for registering courses and make sure to do the "plan ahead" before that portal closes. Otherwise it will be difficult to find the course you want as everything will be in Korean.
Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)	
How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	I am extremely satisfied as I have developed my street smartness and knowledge about the cultural difference towards business in Korea.
How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?	It was an independent study. The professors were not well prepared in teaching international students due to the language barrier. However, they tried their best in briefly explaining the lecture but they continued rambling.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad? Are there particular courses would you recommend?	I took three courses. I recommend taking a basic Korean course as it helps you right away in communicating the same language.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	The facilities were very similar to KPU's facilities, which was helpful.
Cost	

Books and Supplies/per term:	\$80
Flight:	\$1,500
Accommodation/per month:	\$550
Meals/per month:	\$300
Local transportation/per month:	\$50
Health insurance/per term:	\$300
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	\$170
Travel documents (Passport, Study permit, visa, etc.)	\$27
Vaccinations:	
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$400
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	Fruits and Vegetables were more expensive. For example, Strawberries were \$12 of the same box similar to the Canadian supermarkets. Apples were \$10 with only a bag of 4.
Extra-Curricular & Social Activities	
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	There were clubs available for international students to join. There were also interesting cafes such as escape rooms, PC cafe, puppy/kitten cafe, archery rooms etc. available for us to explore as well.
Did you travel outside the host location? If so, where do you recommend?	I have gone to Busan for 3 days. Highly recommended
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	For work oriented activities, they require a different type of visa which I did not have.
Health and Safety	
Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.	There was no safe concerns I have received during my time in Korea. However I have gotten a normal fever in the mid October due to the sudden drop in weather temperature. Other than that, I had an eye infection due to constant rubbing but that got treated within 3 days.
What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was the experience?	Their medication and health system was really amazing. They provided the correct medication right away and there was no wait to see a doctor whether it was a scheduled appointment or walk-in.
What wellness supports did they offer at the University? Were there counselling or medical services?	The university had its own walk-in clinic which was no extra cost.
Personal and Cultural Connections	
Were there any cultural differences you had to adjust to? Were there language barrier	The cultural difference I had to adjust to was the food and mainly the language. However, the locals were extremely kind and helpful for me to understand.

issues?	
What part(s) of the country and culture did you most appreciate?	I highly appreciated the punctuality everyone was. The busses and trains were always on time regardless of traffics or any situations.
How was it traveling alone and making friends?	I have made friends who are from around the world. There were some times where I travelled alone but I enjoyed it. I did not feel isolated from my actions.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	Everyone was nice and helpful to whatever I required. The students are introverted but once you start talking to them, they're extremely friendly.
How accommodating are they to students with a disability? Were there any accommodations offered?	A lot of the university contains stairs and hills for students to walk. There are elevators around the campus but it takes a while for students to reach there.
How is the situation for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	As South Korea is known to have a lot of foreigners, there are locations that are foreigner friendly.
How welcoming are they to for those who identify as LGBTQIA+?	I noticed that they simply respect people who identify as that, but they do not acknowledge it.
Overall	
What are 5-10 important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?	
1. Download Naver and Papago for accurate translation, and accurate location travel as Google doesn't work	
2. At least learn the alphabets for better reading (or known as Hangeul)	
3. Keep your documents safe and create copies incase of emergencies.	
4. If you are planning to stay in Korea for more than 90 days, you will need to apply for ARC through your university.	
5. If going during Fall, plan your Chuseok Holidays beforehand as flights and metro is not available right away.	
6. Make sure to withdraw cash beforehand as some universities do not recommend to open a Korean bank account	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	The people I met and the education I have received through surviving
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Understanding that my family is not with me and I have to take care of myself more better.
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	I became more patient and understanding towards my career.
What else do you want to add about your study abroad?	

Below is a space to share any photos