

| General Information  |  |                                      |                                 |
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| Host Country   | South Korea  |                                      |                                 |
| Host School  | Hankuk University of Foreign Studies   |                                      |                                 |
| Program start & end dates  | September 1, 2022 - December 21, 2022  |                                      |                                 |
| Program of Study   | Business   |                                      |                                 |
| Type of Study Abroad   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange   | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| General Evaluation   |  |                                      |                                 |
| In a couple of sentences, summarize and explain your general evaluation of your experience.  | My study abroad experience helped shape my post-secondary education and has taught me highly valuable skills that transfers well into my field.  |                                      |                                 |
| Arrival  |  |                                      |                                 |
| How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?  | Very easy  |                                      |                                 |
| Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?                                | Text   |                                      |                                 |
| How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?                                     | Fast and without any questions asked once I showed my student visa.  |                                      |                                 |
| Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?  | I took the airport limousine bus which dropped me off to one of the closest subway stations to my school. It was ~\$20 CAD and took about 2.5 hours.   |                                      |                                 |
| Orientation and Assistance   |  |                                      |                                 |
| How satisfied were you with the orientation and student assistance available to at your host school?   | Student assistance during the orientation was smooth and the orientation itself was straightforward.   |                                      |                                 |
| What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your evaluation of your host schools international staff or office? | I received help regarding my national scholarship. Although I had a hard time with one of the staff from the office, a new one was hired who was much more helpful and answered all the questions I had. |                                      |                                 |
| Orientation and Assistance (cont'd)  |  |                                      |                                 |
| How was new student orientation at the host university? How did it suit your needs?  | The orientation was held both in person and virtually. It contained all the information from the guidebook posted for the semester.  |                                      |                                 |
| What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people and resources available for you to talk to about            | It was easy enough for me to adjust as their culture was somewhat similar to mine. My peers were there for me if I needed someone to talk to.  |                                      |                                 |

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| what you were experiencing?  |  |
| <b>Housing &amp; Daily Life</b>  |  |
| Describe your accommodation in your host country.  | It was a dorm like facility where we had a shared kitchen but the rest were personal such as our bedroom and washroom area.  |
| How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?               | I had to move out on my own from the school provided dorms for personal reasons which was the day before the first day of school. I was allowed to stay for as long as I want as mine was separate from the school but my scholarship only let me stay 2 weeks after the semester ended.   |
| What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (ie markets, gym, parks, pharmacies..)                     | School gym, convenience stores, grocery stores, pharmacies, optical stores, banks, public gym, running paths   |
| Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?               | I mostly ate from the cafeteria and at restaurants since it was cheaper to eat out than buy groceries. Overall very satisfied with the food and even the school lunches.   |
| How close was your accommodation to where you studied?   | 15-20 mins walk  |
| <b>Academics &amp; Course Registration</b>   |  |
| Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied? | Online where exchange students can register everyday of the registration period unlike the regular students who can only register on specific days. They had guides on how to register and it was simple enough that I would say I was satisfied. However, a lot of it was in Korean so if you can't read Hangul then you might have issues. |
| What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?                         | Find the fastest wifi connection you can get your hands on and make sure you can read Hangul or at least use a translating app.  |
| What course load would you recommend for future students? Are there particular courses would you recommend?                  | I would say it all depends on what type of classes you will be taking. If all of them were labour-intensive classes then maximum 3 but if all were electives, then even 4/5 is doable. I recommend taking Introduction to Korean Media Industry if you were interested.  |
| <b>Academics &amp; Course Registration (cont'd)</b>  |  |
| How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?                                      | 2 out of 3 of my professors were very skilled in their field and taught well.  |
| How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?                    | Very similar and the classes I took were more independent.   |
| How many courses did you take during your time abroad?   | 3  |

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| If applicable, what impact did the language barrier have on your learning?   | Not applicable   |
| What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility? | The library was good and they had 24 hour study rooms and dedicated study spaces that you can reserve. The school wifi can be a bit unreliable though but the library one was okay.  |
| <b>Cost</b>  |  |
| Books and Supplies/per term:   | \$10   |
| Flight:  | ~\$1600  |
| Accommodation/per month:   | \$350  |
| Meals/per month:   | \$300  |
| Local transportation/per month:  | \$50   |
| Health insurance/per term:   | ~\$250   |
| Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term   | \$37   |
| Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)  | \$78   |
| Vaccinations:  | 0  |
| Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term  | \$1500   |
| Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?   | I was surprised that I still had to pay the national health insurance despite having a travel one that the host school already required. Most items were cheaper than expected, especially food.   |
| <b>Extra-Curricular &amp; Social Activities</b>  |  |
| What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?                  | The school had programs done by the international students organisation such as language exchange programs, welcome parties, and various culture exchange ones such as making traditional food. I would recommend joining the BUDDY program. |
| Did you travel outside the host location? If so, where do you recommend?   | Aside from exploring Seoul, I highly recommend going to the other cities such as Jeju and Busan.   |
| What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?  | I didn't work but you can ask the school to give you permission to do so.  |
| <b>Health and Safety</b>   |  |
| Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.  | I didn't have any health/safety concerns or issues.  |
| What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was   | The constant walking and I didn't need any health care support.  |

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| the experience?   |  |
| <b>Personal and Cultural Connections</b>  |  |
| How successful were you at making friends with local (not international) people and students?                               | It was extremely hard to make local friends and I only managed to meet a few from my school.   |
| How did you find it adjusting to the culture of your host site?   | Easy enough as it was similar to my own and what I was used to.  |
| What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?   | Dressing up was considered normal and if you weren't, sometimes you would feel judged. People were also generally less concerned about others in some instances such as using public transportation or being in public in general. |
| What part(s) of the culture did you most appreciate?  | No tipping culture was the best.   |
| How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?   | The school had a lot of international students and didn't make me feel any different but the locals were sometimes a bit wary.   |
| As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?          | There were ramps and elevators around the school which might help some, but I can't tell enough as we didn't have anyone who had a disability when I was there.  |
| As far as you could tell, for students who are visible minorities in your host country?                                     | Easy enough as the school had a huge number of international students.   |
| For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?   | This was not as apparent as being a minority or having a disability as there were not many who were openly LGBTQ+, possibly because the country itself does not protect those a part of it.  |
| <b>Overall</b>  |  |
| What are <b>five</b> important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?                  |  |
| 1. Learn how to read the local language   |  |
| 2. Be open to mistakes  |  |
| 3. Travel outside of Seoul  |  |
| 4. Try local foods  |  |
| 5. Make local friends if possible   |  |
| What are <b>ten</b> important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency?              |  |
| 1. Maybe consider getting your own place than the school dorms  |  |
| 2. When asking for help from the international student office, talk to anyone but William Stewart                           |  |
| 3. You can buy most things from Daiso but bring a full sized bath towel and bed sheets. Plug adapters too.                  |  |
| 4. The school cafeteria menu is translated everyday at hufspoon ( <a href="http://www.hfspn.co/">http://www.hfspn.co/</a> ) |  |



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| 5. Join the culture exchange programs  |   |
| 6. Explore the food scene around the school and the 2 other universities in the area                           |   |
| 7. The school gym accepts members at the beginning of each month   |   |
| 8. You can reserve study spots in the library or even get a group study room                                   |   |
| 9. Apply for any scholarship you can get your hands on i.e. GKS  |   |
| 10. As long as you're willing to, it's easy to make friends as there are many international students like you. |   |
| What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?  | Meeting and learning about people from all over the world.  |
| What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?                                       | Looking for my own place when I decided to move out of the school dorms.  |
| How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?                                  | Definitely wider, meeting new people was only one thing but the whole experience gives you more self-esteem because of what you go through. |
| What else do you want to add out your study abroad experience?   | Travelling outside of Seoul was one of the best decisions I did.  |