

General Information			
Host Country	South Korea		
Host School	Hankuk Univeristy of Foreign Studies		
Program start & end dates	March 1 st - June 30 th 2023		
Program of Study	Bachelor of Arts		
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.	I had a really good experience abroad overall, I made really great memories and connections and I would not change it for anything. It really challenged me and inspired a new confidence on me.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	it was fairly straightforward getting all of the travel documents required for my exchange, my visa was issued within a week which was surprising to me.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	I was responsible for getting myself from the airport to the school, then I took a cab. But after that I took public transportation and that was fairly reliable.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	It was fairly simple and straightforward, all the paperwork had been done beforehand and they had my passport number, so I was able to walk straight through.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I took a cab from the airport to my dorm I took a cab, it took about 40 minutes and costed about 70 Canadian dollars.		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the orientation and student assistance available to at your host school?	I was satisfied with the orientation and student assistance that I got from my exchange institution.		
What help did you receive from the international staff or office?	The international office and student organization were fairly helpful with most questions and challenges. They set up the orientation and events and helped with questions.		
Orientation and Assistance (cont'd)			
How was new student orientation at the host university? How did it suit your needs?	It was helpful to have the orientation, they cleared up questions about the school and classes as well as some cultural things. They gave us emergency numbers and gave us a tour of the school, as well as guidance for how to apply for our residency card.		
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people and resources	It was a bit challenging to adjust to the culture of the school and country, but I was lucky that there were people around me that were going through or had gone through something similar to me, so there were so many resources available to me.		

available for you to talk to about what you were experiencing?	
Housing & Daily Life	
Describe your accommodation in your host country.	My dorm was a shared room with bunkbeds, with a mini kitchen and washing machine.
When could you move into housing and how long were you allowed to stay?	I could move into the dorm about a week before classes started, and I had to leave on the last day of classes.
What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (shop, cafe gym, parks, pharmacy, stations...)	Pharmacies, gyms, doctors' office, grocery store, cafes, bus stops, subway station, bars, and much more. The dorm was in a very central location and close to a lot.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	The school cafeteria was a good option for meals, affordable, there were also lots of local restaurants and convenience stores that also had great options for food.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	My accommodation was a 3-minute walk to the school.
Academics & Course Registration	
Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	The registration process was actually quite challenging, as the time is at a weird time for us and it was also somewhat complicated to actually do.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	Be patient and keep trying again the next day if you do not get the exact classes that you want.
What tips to you have for finding the courses and course syllabuses/ outlines?	Look at the course calendar well before the registration so you have a good perspective of it. And you can have options in case other classes fill up.
Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)	
How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	I was satisfied with the amount of knowledge and skills I acquired while I was abroad.
How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?	In my classes, it was more independent learning. Style of teaching was fairly similar, and my workload was not as intense as my course load back home.

How many courses did you take during your time abroad? Are there particular courses would you recommend?	I took 2 classes as well as a bonus language class, I would highly recommend taking some kind of Korean class while there, especially if you have little to no knowledge of Korean.
If applicable, what impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	It was very challenging to navigate the language barrier most of the time. It was also very frustrating, and mostly with myself as I was disappointed that I couldn't communicate as well as I wanted to in the language that was spoken.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	The library, computer and internet were all top of the line and up to date. Technology that I had never even seen before and the fastest internet I have ever experienced.
Cost	
Books and Supplies/per term:	\$0
Flight:	\$1300
Accommodation/per month:	\$290
Meals/per month:	\$250
Local transportation/per month:	\$160
Health insurance/per term:	\$393 travel insurance + \$72 Korean insurance
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	\$150
Travel documents (Passport, Study permit, visa, etc.)	\$200
Vaccinations:	\$0
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$200 per month
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	
Extra-Curricular & Social Activities	
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	The international student office organized a few events for the students that I would recommend. It was a great opportunity to meet other students and make friends. As well as some cultural events to connect to the local culture.
Did you travel outside the host location? If so, where do you recommend?	I did, I went to Busan and Incheon. I would highly recommend Busan.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	It was not possible for me to work on my visa until I got my residency card, and I missed my opportunity to volunteer with the school clubs.
Health and Safety	

Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.	I got sick quite a lot while I was there, which may be due to the fine dust in the air and the air pollution. As well as what I think was not very good ventilation in my dorm. And maybe being in a more populated city breaking out of their covid restrictions.
What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was the experience?	I was able to get medication from the pharmacy for a fairly good price when I needed it. And I was able to see a doctor when it got really bad.
Personal and Cultural Connections	
How successful were you at making friends with local (not international) people and students?	I was somewhat successful at making local friends whilst there, my classes were all taught in English so it was mostly international students in my classes. But I still tried my best.
How did you find it adjusting to the culture of your host site?	I found it a little hard to adjust at first, but it was easier since I found a community of people that were also experiencing something similar to me at the same time.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	Something that I found quite challenging was the study and work culture, everyone moving fast and not always noticing the people around them. People are focused on where they need to go.
What part(s) of the culture did you most appreciate?	I really appreciated the university and local culture I got to experience while there. It was also cool to experience the drinking culture which is very different but interesting experience.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	For the most part, I was treated really well by local people and people in the university. There will always be outlier encounters and instances where people were not so nice, but I would say that was a minority.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	Depending on the disability, they might have a harder time. Just because mental health and non-physical disabilities are still not as recognized there.
As far as you could tell, for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	There were definitely some instances where students of visible minorities had a hard time, as it's such a homogenous country some people especially outside of the big city may not be used to that. So sometimes they would get more stares or comments.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	There is tolerance amongst the international students, but it was hard for me to tell with LGBTQIA+ communities. They are very private and sacred there, as they do not really want people outside of the community to ruin their safe spaces.
Overall	
What are five important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?	

1. Bring cash for local vendors and to reload your transportation card.	
2. Download an app called Naver maps, because google maps does not work there.	
3. Apply for your RC card right away.	
4. Transportation stops after a certain time and starts again early in the morning.	
5. Make sure you attend your classes, after 4 absences you fail automatically.	
What are ten important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency?	
1. Don't panic, things will happen but you can work through it.	
2. Be prepared to have to use your phone to translate.	
3. Don't be afraid to use more body language to communicate.	
4. Have fun but stay safe and be smart.	
5. Download Kakao taxi app for when you need to take a cab.	
6. Try to learn a few basic words to start. (Hello, thank you, please etc.)	
7. Get out of your comfort zone and try new things.	
8. It may be hard to find vegetarian or alternative diet options.	
9. Be prepared to try new things. • .	
10. It can be polite to hand over and receive things with two hands instead of one. (i.e. cash, credit cards.)	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	All the people I met and the memories I made there; it was truly unforgettable.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	I would say the language and cultural barriers were the biggest challenges I faced whilst I was there.
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	I think I definitely have a more global perspective after being abroad. From both the local Korean culture and all the people I met from all over the world.
What else do you want to add about your study abroad experience?	I am very grateful for my opportunity to study abroad. It is such a special experience, and I would not trade it for the world.

Below is a space to share any photos (this is optional and may be shared on our website).





