



IT University Travel Report

Host university: Hanyang University

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Mathias Henriques Hvass (mahh@itu.dk)

**Courses studied abroad: International Business – Service Operations Management – Marketing Management – International Organizations – Strategic Marketing
Communication**

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring) autumn year 2024

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at the university (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

To study in Hanyang University was all in all a very good experience. However, it started a bit rough with the choice of courses, as I initially did not get what I wanted.

You choose courses by selecting them from a school website within the given time slot.

However, the courses have limited capacity, and selection is very competitive, so a lot of the popular courses are gone within seconds. Moreover, the same course is given at different times during the week, so you also must make sure that the classes do not overlap, as that is not allowed. Luckily there are several rounds of course selection, as well as the possibility of dropping and adding courses within the first two weeks of school, so there is no need to worry, if you do not get the wanted courses at first. It is also a good idea to apply for pre-approval of more courses than you are taking, so that you don't have to do it after picking a course that was not initially desired.

The academic level of the courses I took was very different from each other. In some courses it was only lectures with minimal or no interaction. The classes are usually 2-3 hours long, so these courses got pretty tedious. I had another class which was strictly group presentations and feedback. I found out from other people who took the same course with a different teacher, that they did more normal lectures following a curriculum, so it can depend on which teacher you end up getting. There was also a few assignments during the

semester, as well as midterms and exams, also varying in form. Most were multiple choice tests with no aids, other were essay type exams or presentations.

The social life at Hanyang was really nice for me. There are a lot of cafeterias and cafes where you can enjoy some nice cheap food or coffee. There is a lot of exchange students at the school, so plenty of people in the same boat as you, looking to make new friends. There is also a lot of school clubs you can join like sports, art, and more. I joined a club called HECC (Hanyang English Communication Club), which is a language exchange club with both Koreans and foreigners. The club meet once per week, and after the meeting, you could join them for eating and drinking at nice restaurants near the university. This club was very fun and useful for creating a network, I highly recommend it.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

My initial motivation for going abroad was that I have always wanted to try to live in a different country. Going on exchange is an amazing opportunity to do so, in a way that is both fun, challenging and enriching. Both personally, socially, and academically. The reason I chose Korea was that I recently had been very intrigued by the east Asian culture, and I would love to see if it lived up to my hopes. Another big reason for choosing Korea was that I wanted to try a culture very different from my own. Had I chosen somewhere in Europe im sure it would have been nice, but the culture and people would not be new to me, and I don't think the experience would have been as rich in learning.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

Personally, I have gotten a lot out of my stay in Korea. I have learned a lot about myself, including when to balance being social and when not to. It has also pushed me to get out of my comfort zone, when meeting new people, or saying yes to doing something, that might seem a bit scary or awkward at first. It has also given me insights in a lot of different nationalities and cultures, and to be open and accepting to these. My stay have also given me a lot of great memories, that I will remember forever, as well as a few international friends that I am sure I will be seeing again.

Academically, I have learned how to go to university in a different way than we do in Denmark. For example, it is mandatory to show up for class, and it can be difficult to do group work, when people are from different countries, as there is both a different way people usually do it, as well as language barriers. Moreover, I would say my English have improved, as I have been hanging out with international people and therefore spoken English 90% of the time.

I will definitely take my English and collaborative improvements with me in my further studies. I also think that I will appreciate the Danish university "model" more, as I have realized that I like it better than the Korean model.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

After being accepted to the university, came the arranging of my stay. It involved figuring out when school started, booking flights, and arranging accommodation. You receive emails from Hanyang University in good time. They give all the information you need, so you are not in doubt over any part of the process.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

I found the recommendations I got from an ITU student who previously went to Hanyang very useful. I also looked at all of the travel reports from ITU students, to get an idea of what is was going to be like, where to live, what classes to take, etc.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

At first when arranging my stay, I tried to look up various options, while considering things like price and location. This can be a big challenge in Korea, as they are not that good at speaking English, which also means that a lot of websites aren't translated either. Be aware that the process can take time.

I talked to an ITU student, who went to Hanyang the year before, and he helped me a lot. It was also he who recommended the accommodation I chose to stay at. It is called Hanyang Habitat. It is a goshiwon, which is pretty much a dorm, located just across the street from Hanyang University. I got an email address of the caretaker at Habitat, and told her that I wished to have a room there. She gave me the information I needed, and after I transferred the money, she told me it was in order. The goshiwon is also recommended by the school. You will receive an email with a list of recommended places to stay.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The flight from Copenhagen to Seoul was approximately 4.000 kr. I bought a one-way ticket as I decided to travel Asia after my semester, therefore I did not have an exact return date. The Goshiwon I stayed at was approximately 4.000 kr. A month, which is a bit more expensive than most others. However, this included free food like rice, noodles, eggs, toast, cereal, etc. Most things in Korea are a lot cheaper compared to Danish prices, so you can eat out every day for not that much money. A months worth of metro travelling is around 300 kr. And your trip obviously gets a bit more expensive, the more stuff you do. All in all I think I spent 35.000-40.000 kr. Which is including trips, nights out, and shopping as well.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

I only applied for ITU's travel pool, which I was fortunate to get. 2.500 kr. After you return home and have completed the demanded objectives, such as filling out a travel report such as this one, and also attaching expenses like plane tickets, rent, and your report card/transcript from your

exchange university.

I did not apply for other scholarships, but I highly recommend that you do it. Having extra money, makes your stay a lot better, as you can basically do what you want, without thinking too much about economics.

Recommendations for other students:

I highly recommend being very sociable in the beginning. Be open to meeting people and go do stuff. The bigger the network you have abroad, the more options you are going to have to have fun. Join school clubs you find interesting, and invest time in talking to people.

I also recommend travelling outside of Seoul. Busan and Jeju Island are vey nice places to visit, and cheap and easy to get to. A lot of people also travelled to nearby countries like Japan and China with great success.

Look into what kind of events that are going on in the city. There are a lot of drone-shows and light-shows, concerts, and sports. I watched football and Baseball and the fan culture in Korea is really amazing and should definitely be experienced.