

IT University Travel Report

Host University: Hanyang University

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics



Courses Studied during Exchange Agreement:

International Business, Strategic Management, Organizational Behavior, Management Information Systems & Understanding of Accounting

Exchange Period: Autumn 2017

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: aldr@itu.dk

Your Stay Abroad:

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

Hanyang University has more than fifteen thousand active students, with around 7-8% of them being exchange students. This makes the experience at Hanyang University quite different from the smaller ITU. Additionally, Hanyang University offers courses in everything from Business to Medicine, so the students are a diverse crowd. The university is big enough to feel like a small city within Seoul, and you can easily spend your whole day there studying or doing social activities. The university is separated into different “Schools” and depending on what you study, you will take your courses in the specific building. If you’re GBI like me, you will most likely be taking most of your classes in the School of Business.

Signing up for the proper courses might be the most tedious and competitive aspect of your stay in Korea, and you should expect to stay up late one night so you can sign up quickly for your preferred courses. However, even if you don’t manage to sign up for your pre-approved courses, Hanyang is willing to help you out and make sure you get the proper courses. The academic level at Hanyang is quite reasonable and you won’t have any problems if you’re used to ITU. This only applies to the courses in English, as the Korean courses are very competitive.

The social life at campus is amazing. Almost every exchange student is very open-minded, and the bond you get from exploring a foreign culture together is very strong. Personally, I socialized quite a lot with the Korean students as well, mostly through social activities such as volleyball. I would greatly suggest signing up for the mentor-program, as this can help you interact with the locals, which is greatly recommend.

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

I had very high expectations that were all met when I went abroad. I have not heard a single story of anyone regretting to do their exchange. My motivation to travel mainly stemmed from the fact that I love traveling and foreign cultures in general. I have traveled a lot in Asia, and Korea is now definitely my favorite Asian country. I'm a very social and outgoing person, which I believe are quite important traits when going to a country like Korea by yourself. Your experience is going to be dependent on your own motivation to have a great trip. I expected a very social atmosphere between the exchange students and I hoped that I would be able to interact a lot with Koreans as well. It is very easy to make friends with other exchange students, but you must make a little bit of an effort if you want to get to know the Koreans well. I am very happy to say that I met some amazing people, both exchange and local, even to the point that one of my Korean friends will visit me in Denmark this summer.

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?

Academically, I feel like I kept up with the pace that was set at ITU, and I don't feel behind or ahead of the curve back in Denmark. However, the most important thing I learned from my stay was not academic. Living by yourself in a country such as Korea, which is vastly different from any European country I've ever visited, matured me immensely. It is very comforting to know that I could have such a great time in a foreign culture, that I knew very little of when I first arrived. I am happy that I have experienced another university's approach to teaching, as it has confirmed that I am happy with the methods of ITU. In terms of the future of my studies, I think the unique perspective from my time in Korea will help me out a lot in regard to seeing problems in a different light. Additionally, I believe that employers will be intrigued by the fact that I've spent time in a foreign country, and that it will reflect positively on my personal character.

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

Arranging my stay was quite pain free. I booked my flight tickets through Kilroy, because I wanted to travel after the semester, and they offered a great price. Hanyang University provides student housing for exchange students (first come first serve), and some of the facilities are better than other. If you choose to stay at the Hanyang dormitories, make sure to stay in the gender-mixed dorms, as the other were quite boring from what I've heard. Personally, I stayed with a company called Urseoul, that provided quite nice facilities for exchange students, although a little more expensive. When looking for a place to stay, I recommend going for something that is just clean, cheap, and social – you don't spend a lot of time where you live anyway and eating out is almost the same price as cooking yourself.

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

To be honest, I did not use a lot of external resources in any of the planning, as I wanted to arrange everything myself. Kilroy helped me with cheap flight tickets, but other than that, I planned everything myself.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I basically just googled: “Exchange student residence Seoul” and looked around for something that fit my specific needs.

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

My accommodation was on the expensive end, I payed approximately 3500 DKK per month during my stay in rent. My SU basically covered every expense other than flight tickets and rent. I spent a lot of money going out as the nightlife in Seoul is very good. Going out in Seoul is around half the price of going out in Copenhagen, however, a lot of exchange students, including myself took advantage of the semi-relaxed study environment to go out 2-3 times every week.

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

I personally didn’t receive any grants even though I applied for a few. My biggest problem was the fact that I was very late in terms of applying, which meant that the amount I could apply for was very limited. If you want to apply for grants, and you definitely should, I recommend starting right now, even if you haven’t been officially accepted yet.

Recommendations for other students:

Do it, you definitely won’t regret it.