



IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.

Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.

Host university: Dankook University – Jukjeon Campus

Study Programme at IT University: Bsc Data Science

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad:

- Pattern recognition techniques - 5 ETCS
- Mobile Communication - 5 ETCS
- Basic mobile programming - 5 ETCS
- Critical thinking - 5 ETCS

Period studying abroad: 5. semester Autumn 2025

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

Your stay abroad

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

Dankook University is located about an hour from Seoul and has around 30,000 students, with roughly half on the Jukjeon campus. Course selection for exchange students was severely limited last-minute, and although the classes were labeled as English-taught, most instructors switched to Korean due to language barriers, leaving exchange students to figure out much of the material independently. While the coursework itself was fairly easy, exams focused heavily on memorization of minute details, though grading was generally lenient toward exchange students. Socially, exchange students mostly stuck together since the university made little effort to integrate them with local students, but this still led to a strong and supportive exchange-student community. There wasn't any moment where I felt lonely.

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

For me it was the perfect point in time to go on an exchange and I figured the further away the more interesting it would get. I knew very little about Korea except that they had an amazing food culture. It felt like a good opportunity to visit a country where I had little to no idea about.

The food definitely surpassed any of my expectations. I was very surprised at how pretty the country is. You have gigantic cities like Seoul where you can never get bored and go on incredible hikes the next morning overlooking this vast sea of cities and mountainous forests. I can say it was a very rich experience and I am extremely thankful for it. I climbed mountains on random tiny islands, got to know Korean drinking culture, looked over to North Korea, stayed at Buddhist temples and so much more.

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?

The topics of my courses were interesting but due to the language barriers and design of the courses it made it hard for me to get insights. For example, in the course Pattern Recognition Techniques the teacher only wrote down formulas for ML models, switching to Korean halfway through and giving no explanation as to what this formula is.

I was lucky that all my courses fell on Monday and Tuesday, leaving me the rest of the week to go off and explore everything the country had to offer. I got a very deep insight into Korean culture and met a lot of wonderful people.

Arranging your stay

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

The university provided a dorm place for exchange students. It is a shared room in a quite small room but from what I have heard from other exchange students who decided to stay off campus, it happened more frequently that there were some troubles such as the landlord trying to kick them out of the apartment without any warning. This led me to choose the dorm option.

On the flip side, the dormitory has some rather strict rules. No outside people are allowed into your room; genders are split up. Frequent room controls to check if you have alcohol stashed and if the room is somewhat clean / if you smoked in it. Also, twice a day there were announcements from built-in speakers in the room at 8am and 10pm, even Sundays.

However the room was very cheap (roughly 7500 kr for 4 months) and my roommate and I got along with each other which eased the compressed living situation.

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

I got tremendous help from Anna Elizabeth Thomsen and SAP by rearranging my two remaining semesters after Dankook changed its course list last minute. From an organizing perspective, this was the only stressful thing.

Since Dankook offered the dorm room upfront, I didn't organize a place to stay by myself. By chance some friends of mine were visiting South Korea at the same time, making the arrival easier.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

As mentioned above, it was offered to me.

If you are interested in staying in Seoul – there is something called “Kims Community” in Seoul which I got as a tip. Highly recommended if you’re looking for a place to stay for your exchange and don’t want to stay at the university’s dormitory.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

I spent around 60K Dkk on the whole trip. Including the flights from and to Korea and four trips, twice traveling around in the country and once to China and Japan on separate occasions. Further I spent roughly 7500kr on the dorm room and 6200kr on the flights.

I didn’t go shopping, but I heavily frequented restaurants and cafes, and my travels had a strong influence on my spending. In general, it is relatively cheap to eat out. A meal at a restaurant is somewhere between 30 - 70kr. Western food is in general more expensive.

On an average day where I stayed on the campus, I’d spend around 100 – 150kr which mostly consisted of three meals and three coffees.

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

I tried but most I could find were either for Danish students or master degrees.

Recommendations for other students:

If you’re planning whether to go or not – I’d highly recommend it. Please don’t be put off by how academic life might not be as ideal as you’d imagine. There is so much to see and so much to do in this country. If you decide to go, you will certainly have an incredibly rich and culturally diverse stay.

I learned so much not only about Korea but also about the countries of the other exchange students as well as Japan and China.