



IT University Travel Report

Host university: Hanyang University ERICA, Ansan, South Korea

Study Programme at IT University: Software Development

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad:

1. Management Information Systems
2. Human-Computer System Design
3. Global Business Communications
4. Drawing Foundation

Period studying abroad: Spring 2025

Your stay abroad

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

Studying at Hanyang University ERICA was a completely different experience compared to ITU. South Korea has nailed the school spirit aspect of the student life. From school festivals, many extracurriculars, cabin trips (known as MT) with the student clubs to everybody wearing the university varsity jacket on and off campus, you will really feel a sense of belonging as a university student.

There aren't too many courses in English, as most students are not fluent in English, but the few courses that are available are rather easy with little to no homework, and exams that last under one hour. For SWU, it is very difficult to find approved courses, and I ended up having to follow a 4th semester course "*Functional Programming*" at ITU remotely, while also moving other courses from other semesters around to make it all fit.

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

Going abroad has been something I had dreamt about for a long time, and especially going to a country as far away and different as South Korea has been a great experience. My honest reason to go abroad was needing a change in my life and a break from the daily routine. And my exchange semester has certainly delivered! I made friends from many different countries, I travelled more in 4 months than I did in the last 4 years, and I had the fullest days of my student life. As courses are way less demanding than at ITU, there was plenty of time to engage myself in several student clubs, sports and social life. So, take full advantage of that! (Just remember, attendance is taken, so do not miss more than one third of classes.)

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.

Four months in a dorm, sharing a room with another girl was a great challenge and an unforgettable experience. I was the most social I had ever been in my life. Being constantly surrounded by people from so many places gave me the opportunity to connect with people I would otherwise never have met. Through these encounters, I got the opportunity to practice speaking new languages and learn about the way of life in other countries.

As for the academic aspect, I experienced a new way of learning, very different from the Danish way. In South Korea, self-study is not at all as prevalent, instead courses are usually conducted in smaller classes, and the professor is quite involved in the students' learning. I also got to try some interesting elective courses that are not available at ITU.

I believe that this exchange has truly broadened my horizons, and that it will contribute to my future studies and career, as after this experience, I am now very keen to work or further my studies abroad if the opportunity arises.

Arranging your stay

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

After receiving approval from ITU to go abroad, I had to begin the process of getting course pre-approvals. While that was ongoing, I began preparing the many required documents for the student visa.

For non-Danish/OECD citizens: You might require extra documentation, so be prepared for the process to take longer.

For SWU students: Course pre-approvals take a very long time, and you will get many refusals. Begin sending pre-approval request as soon as you can.

Arriving in South Korea, I spent the first 5 days in Seoul, before heading off to Ansan for the semester start. I recommend taking a couple of days to discover all that Seoul has to offer.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Thankfully, Hanyang University ERICA provides on campus dormitories for exchange students, so I took advantage of that. The dorms being on campus and very inexpensive made life (and my personal economy) much easier. There is also a table tennis room & billiards room, a convenience store and food court with affordable food. Also, living in a dorm allows for wonderful friendships!

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The two biggest expenses were the rent for the 4 months and the plane tickets: 6500kr and 6000kr respectively.

Monthly expenses: I spent around a total of 7000kr per month, excluding the rent I had paid before my departure and excluding any travel expenses. I fully believed it would be possible to be more frugal, but realistically, it is quite hard to keep expenses much lower.

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

I applied for many scholarships and grants, but none responded positively. Many are reserved for students at universities other than ITU. Another issue was the fact that I went during the spring semester - there are more scholarships granted during the autumn semester.

Recommendations for other students:

1. Join the Hanmille mentor program offered by the university, as that gives you a mentor who knows the reigns and the Korean language.
2. Also join the Residential College Center offered by the dorm - here you can meet many of the other dorm residents.
3. Just join as much of the campus life as possible; it's an opportunity we don't get back home.
4. Be sure to prolong your visa through the university program. Doing it on your own is a difficult and lengthy process.
5. Try learning a little Korean before your departure - Koreans don't speak a lot of English, and knowing the language even a bit is really well perceived and helps break the ice.