

## IT University Travel Report

**Host University:** Hanyang University (Seoul Campus)

**Study Programme at IT University:** GBI

**Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:** Agreement between ITU and Hanyang University

**Courses studied abroad:** Quantitative Business Analysis, Marketing Management, Organizational Behavior, International Business, IT and Data Strategy, Introductory Korean (level 1)

**Exchange Period:** Autumn 2019

**If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:** [jawl@itu.dk](mailto:jawl@itu.dk)



### Your stay abroad

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

It is a great experience to see how studying at campus looks like. Comparing to ITU, Seoul campus is huge, with 20-30 building and hundreds of students at any time. I enjoyed walking between buildings and seeing different people at every course. Academic level of every course depended on the teacher – some were rather easy and effortless, some required more work. Comparing to any course at ITU 1:1, those in Korea are easier. The difference is that I took 5 courses (6<sup>th</sup> – Korean – I took additionally), and most of exams took place in the last week of the semester, so the workload was really high. However, a lot of learning is based on memorizing definitions and information, not necessarily on understanding things. So, courses are easier than those at ITU, but combined they require time spent on them, especially during the exam period. Regarding social life, they were some events during the first week of the semester. Most of the time I spent with other international students – I got to know only a few Koreans. On campus, there are a lot of student organizations and clubs, such as football club, or hiking club. Nevertheless, during intro days in the majority of them, we have been told that we need to know Korean to join.

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

I always wanted to go for an exchange, and I always wanted to go outside of Europe, as it might be the best opportunity to stay somewhere longer than two weeks, and to soak into another culture. I was thinking about Asia from the beginning, and when I've read about Hanyang, Seoul, and Korea in general, I've decided to go for it. My semester abroad definitely met my expectations, I saw many places in Korea as well as plenty in nearby countries. I learned a lot about local culture, met a lot of people, and after all I am captivated by South Korea. I will visit Seoul again, for sure.

**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?**

Traveling to Korea alone was a challenge for me, especially that knowledge of the English language is not very common there. Undoubtedly, it gave me some confidence and self-reliance. I met a lot of great people from all over the world, and I hope I'll stay in touch with some of them. In academic terms, it was indeed an interesting experience to see a different model of teaching and compare it to

the Danish one. There were teachers I liked more, other I liked less, but a few were very inspiring with their international background, knowledge, and approach to the teaching. Moreover, I've visited companies such as Samsung and Hyundai, and I gained scope of how it is to work in that big, international company. This affected a little bit my plans and attitude towards my future job.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

Regarding application, I just followed information included in the newsletter sent by Hanyang. It is very important to wake up during the night for the course registration, as indeed it is very competitive. I was ready at 4am, and all courses were full within 4-5 seconds. When the semester started I was missing one course, but they were helpful and I got this one as well. If you're lucky, there is also a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of course registration before semester starts.

You need to be aware that you will need ARC (Alien Registration Card), and you can't leave Korea before you'll get it, as you will lose your student visa. So you need to either apply for ARC as soon as possible after you'll arrive to Seoul, or plan any abroad trips no earlier than in October. I booked flights to Japan before I learned about ARC and made it work, so it's feasible, but it required a lot of effort and time spent in the Immigration Office.

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

I found most of the information on Google. There are a lot of travel blogs and guides about Seoul and South Korea. I also received invaluable help from my mate from ITU, who has lived in Seoul before, and he went there again last semester. His Travel Report is also available.

### **How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

Regarding my stay, I just googled for opportunities, and found a Gochiwon (popular kind of accommodation in Seoul, 7-8 square meter room including the bathroom) called Happy House near the campus. It was one of the cheapest options, and even though a standard wasn't high, it was okay. Unfortunately, in December it turned out that it is very cold in the room, so you need to be aware of that. A lot of my international friends lived in an accommodation called Unidence – own room and shared bathroom and kitchen. I cannot remember the price, but it was quite nice standard and atmosphere, as there were only exchange students (in Gochiwon lived ordinary Koreans as well).

## **Expenses and Financing**

### **Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

During my stay in Korea, I've been using my Revolut debit card, and the card is acceptable almost everywhere. The exception is topping up the T-money card (the transportation card) – cash only. You will also need some cash at the beginning to pay for registration in the Seoul Immigration Office (~30,000 KRW), and sometime to pay for street food etc. So, you don't need to bring a lot of cash. Also, withdraw at the ATM is usually charged 3,600 KRW.

Because of staying in Gochiwon, I paid for the accommodation relatively less – 430,000 KRW, which is ~2,500 DKK. In terms of daily spending, I've never cooked for myself, always eat out. During weekdays I've been eating in the campus canteen, where food is often two times cheaper than in the restaurants. In the evenings and weekends I usually ate in the restaurants. I've been partying once a week, usually, once a month I did some trips outside of Seoul.

To sum up, I spent in Korea around 42,000 DKK. This includes trips inside the Korea (Busan, Jeju, Sokcho), and excludes trip to Japan and flights from/to Europe.

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

Since I am not Danish citizen, I couldn't really apply for any scholarships, as almost all of them are dedicated to the Danes. I spent some time looking for scholarships that fits me, but didn't find any.

**Recommendations for other students:**

- The cost of mobile networks in Korea is very high. In Denmark I have 3likeHome package in "3" network, which gives me the opportunity to use data and network abroad as in Denmark. "3" employee informed me that in Korea it works only for one month, however, worked during the whole semester without any additional costs.
- If you have time and money – go to Jeju island and Japan!
- If you are not sure about the exchange yet – just do it! You won't regret