IT University Travel Report

Host University: Hanyang University

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Media & Design
Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement
Courses studied abroad: Theories of Media Effects, Media Planning, Advertising & Promotion, Research Methods, Professional Academic English
Exchange Period: 5\textsuperscript{th} semester Autumn Year 2016

My Stay Abroad

As part of my bachelor I went to Seoul as part of the exchange agreement that ITU has with Hanyang University. Going to Seoul for a semester was a great experience, mostly in terms of meeting a different and contrasting culture from what we are used to back home, which was my reason to go to Seoul for a semester.

Prior to my stay abroad, I already heard great things from friends who had studied abroad in Seoul, so I kinda knew it would become a great time abroad and it was. During my stay I got to interact with a lot of people both native Koreans and other exchange students, not only from Hanyang University but from other universities as well. One thing worth to mention though, is that Koreans are very shy when it comes to speaking in English, which means you would have a difficult time engaging in deeper and complex conversations. Nonetheless, they are very friendly and funny to hang with.

Besides that, I found everything in Seoul to be very convenient, not only when it comes to infrastructure and getting around but also services, which I consider them to be well ahead of compared to what we have back home. My overall impression of Seoul was that it is a very dynamic place, offering lots of great experiences.

Studying at Hanyang University

Throughout my semester at Hanyang University I noticed that the academic level is somewhat lower than what we currently experience at ITU. Reasons I can think of is their educational system being more about input and not discussing and reflecting upon the issues handed. This meant that most of the lectures was about being able to repeat what has been presented by the professors during lectures and what has been read through mandatory literature. Another reason could also be their English proficiency, which showed through some of the professors having broken English and most of the students not wanting to indulge in deeper conversations.
Despite that, I found the Korean students to be very disciplined, which is something that we can learn from. All courses are strict when it comes to attendance, only allowing for about five absent classes. In case you exceeded that amount, you would have to show evidence of reasonable absence and if this is not possible, one would fail the course according to university policy. The grading also often depends on your attendance amongst other criteria as well such as turning in assignments. How they grade you overall is mostly by measurable criteria, which differs a lot from how we do it back home in Denmark.

Other than that, I had a hard time most of the days in school due to my inconsistent schedule. Those were the days when I had to show up at 9am and leave 5pm due to a lot of gap hours in between classes. Same thing applies for many other exchange students because of their competitive system when applying for courses where many students end up with a compromise and not the initial courses wanted.

**Getting ready to go to Seoul, South Korea**

Getting ready for Seoul was very stressful due to the final confirmation letter from Hanyang University arriving late. Because of this, I was not sure most of the time that I would get accepted. But for future exchange students, I would recommend them sorting out practicalities already after the first confirmation letter from ITU, since it is almost guaranteed that they will receive the final confirmation letter from Hanyang later. Getting ready beforehand will surely prevent one from going through the stress that follows in having a limited time to sort out the practicalities.

About the things that has to be done before departure are applying and getting the student visa, getting the necessary vaccines, acquiring a health insurance, finding accommodation and buying the flight ticket.

During my stay I stated at a residence called URSSeoul recommended by Hanyang University on their Facebook page, which I would highly recommend future exchange students going to Seoul. The place is fairly new and has all the equipment and facilities needed including a great top floor with a private fitness center and great view overlooking Seoul. It is also located at Seoul’s main train station, which is great for getting around and exploring Seoul. As for other possible accommodations such as dorms, I heard that they are a bit tidy and some I have even heard to have curfew.

Worth to finally mention and something that future exchange students at Hanyang should be aware of is the course registration process. The Korean course registration system is very competitive meaning first come, first serve. Because of this I did not get all the courses that I initially wanted and applied for in the first round of pre-approval. In correspondence with ITU while being abroad I then had to reapply for other courses to be pre-approved. So my suggestion is to apply for as many courses as possible to be pre-approved. This will make the course registration process a lot easier and less stressful.