



4. Semester (28th February to 22th June)

Me

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Where

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Why I did it

I have always wanted to be in another country long enough to really start understanding the people, the culture and being able to call it home for a while – all these things you won't see or feel when you on summer vacation for a couple of weeks.

Since I always wanted to do this and never had, I choose to go to the place Denmark have the least similarities with, and that's how I ended up spending my 4. Semester in Ansan, South Korea.

My courses

I had four courses at Hanyang University; Architectural Design 1, Project Planning and Schedule, Building Construction and Structures and Advanced English

Professor Oh

Of these four courses Architectural Design 1 was with no doubt the hardest and demanded A LOT more time than the others, which I didn't expect but was okay with since I always have had thought about studying architecture. So this was my. Chance to try it but sure it made me miss some of the social things the other Exchange students were doing.

Even though I far from learned to be an Architect, I learned how an Architect is work and what processes an Architect is going through with each project, which I'm sure will benefit me in the future.

Professor Oh was teaching the course I was in and I would always recommend him to others due to his high demands and ambitions for every single student, while being an understanding and clam person who also will take the time to bring the course to exhibitions and other social activities.

The architecture courses are knows to be some of the hardest and most time demanding at the university, so you could definitely consider how much time you are willing to use before choosing this course.

Professor Arn

Project Planning and Schedule, and Building Construction and Structures were both courses with information that are directly useable in my study at KEA. I learned different planning and scheduling methods and got a deeper understanding in them then back home at KEA, also I learned more about foundation, window systems, brick bonds, etc.

Professor Arn is a fun and kind man who takes good care of his student (especially exchange students), but unfortunately his teaching methods is only based on reading out loud from his own PowerPoints and inviting guest lectures who only speaks Korean.

Andrew

The course Advanced English would in Denmark most likely just be called Basic English and my biggest reason for taking this course was that I thought I needed the credit. When this has been said

it's always good to practice your English and Andrew which is the Professor is super friendly and gives everyone the opportunity to get to know everybody in the course, which is nice considering I was there to learn about culture and meeting new people.

Social and cultural

The Hanyang University is much bigger than any institution I ever experienced and because of their size they are able to have many facilities such as basketball courts, football courts, tennis courts, golf court, gyms, and a lot of smaller clubs such as taekwondo, movies and other sports and social clubs. The biggest and best 'help' of them all is the Hanmille Group which provides everyone with their own Korean mentor to help you with practical things, show you around and just spend time with. Hanmille also organizes some big cultural trips for all the mentors and mentees (exchange students), which I all would recommend joining.

Regarding the living situation I would always recommend living at the dorms and NEVER in an Airbnb or something similar due the fact that, at the dorms all the exchange student are living together and it's a nice thing being able to eat some fried chicken as a night snack with the other exchange students, walking home from the cinema or drunk together – there will be a lot of small but good moments you will miss if you don't live at the dorms.

Outside the Hanyang University you will mainly find restaurants, PC bangs, karaoke or cafés to hang out. In the city center of Ansan there is some shopping, nightlife, etc.

But even though Seoul is much better for shopping, nightlife, etc. considering the time it takes to go to Seoul I would recommend enjoying the nightlife in Ansan as well. I have had a lot of fun nights at "No Name" in Ansan.



Traveling

I would properly recommend flying to South Korea about 2 weeks before the semester starts and properly stay in Seoul, so you get some adjusting time to get an idea of the energy, culture, how everything works, and just explore Seoul which you might not get the same opportunity to when the semester start.

Within the semester the exchange students arranged different smaller trips to Japan, China, and other bigger cities in South Korea, which I would recommend joining.

After the semester I personally had to come back to Denmark, but I think the better thing would have been to visit nearby countries or if there should be places in South Korea you would like to visit, either by yourself or with some of the other students.

Jeju Island should have amazing nature you can't see anywhere else in the world, but to get the best experience you should rent a car which you need an international driver license to do. Therefore I would strongly recommend getting this before going.

I stayed at hostels or Airbnb most of the time I was away from the dorms, but especially in Japan I enjoyed the experience of staying at a capsule hotel for a couple of nights.

Expectations

I have never been in Northeast Asia so I wasn't really sure what to expect, but I ended up learning a lot about the Korean history and culture which made me understand the Korean people and their actions better.

Also regarding the social life I didn't know what to expect since this was my first time as an exchange student and living outside Denmark, but I was happily impressed with especially the Hanmille community that gathers all the exchange students and the mentors so everyone get the chance to meet everyone on their hosted events and after being there for a while the exchange students and mentors starts hanging out and planning smaller events without the staff.

Regarding to University the level of professionalism and the way of teaching on my four courses was really different and I believe that it really depends on the topic and the professor of the course.

Examples of my work during the semester

Architectural Design 1
Section drawings and elevations

Sections & Elevations



