



## SOUTH KOREA

Hanyang Univerisy – ERICA campus

*This report contains some of my experiences and thoughts I got in my period as a student on Hanyang University.*

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## Introduction

I chose to study abroad in my fourth semester of my bachelor in Architectural Technology and Construction Management. The reason why I chose fourth semester was because I felt it would be a good “break” in my study, in that way I could study 3 semesters on my home university, one abroad and then again 3 back home.

There were a few reasons why I chose to study in South Korea. At first, I wanted to study outside Europe and that meant that I had 3 opportunities – Toronto, Melbourne and Seoul. I have been in Australia before and wanted to try some new, so I crossed that one. Then I was looking at Toronto and it seems interesting, but the study period was overlapping with my exam period here in Denmark, so that one seemed impossible. After this research was it clear, the choice was South Korea.

In the start I didn't know anything about South Korea, so I researched a lot about the country, and it seemed really cool. There was a lot of sport facilities on campus, the classes I could choose looked interesting and apparently, they love to party in South Korea, so that was perfect.

A thing I was surprised over was the weather. I hoped and thought that it would be warm and sunny, but to be fair, it was a lot like the weather in Denmark besides that Korea was a bit colder in the winter and warmer in the summer.

My expectations of my stay were to learn some more about architecture and be better at drawing. Besides that, did I hope to get lot of good friends around the hole world and get some awesome memories.

## Summary of the subjects I chose

In Denmark you must get 30 ETCS point to complete a semester and that is equal to 15 Korean points. I only had 14 Korean points but got compensation from KEA. Not all classes there say it will be taught in English is actually in English. I chose one class, sustainable architecture, but when I entered the class the first time, the professor said that the class will be taught in Korean, so I had to skip that one. So, you can not be sure that every class there say it will be taught in English will be in English.

### Building construction and structures

I chose this class because it seemed like the one there was most like the subjects we have in Denmark. My professor was called Ahn and he taught us in a way where he was talking out from a PowerPoint the whole class without any interruptions from the students. That was a little boring, but I learned a lot from all the assignments we had to do from class to class. We were 3 international students in the class and the rest was Korean and not all of them was really good at English so sometimes the professor just switched to Korean, that was pretty normal in all our classes. Sometimes when there came a lecture from outside that had to make a presentation the guy only spoke Korean. Then our professor said that we just could leave the class and then he would post a resume in English afterward, unfortunately that never happened.

Every class was divided in topics so one of the classes could be about concrete and another could be how to make the foundation in different ways and what you should be aware of before you start building a construction.

The middle term and the exam were both multiple choice so that was pretty straight forward.

I didn't use so much time on this class besides before a test.

## Planning and scheduling

In this class we had the same professor, Ahn. The class was taught in the same way as Building construction and structures beside that we here had to make a lot of small assignment during the class. He taught us some different ways to plan and schedule a building project, most of them I already had some knowledge of from back home. The nice thing here was that a few of them he really went in dept with, so you got a really good knowledge in some of them.

On KEA we usually use MS-Project to schedule our work and that was also the professor's idea, but the university didn't want to spend money on it, so we just skipped that one.

The middle term and exam were also multiple choice but also with some assignment in.

This class I didn't use that much time on as well besides before the tests and exams.

## Architectural design

This class was taught by a professor called Ohh and this was without question the class I spent the most time on. I think I used the same amount of time as an entire semester on KEA and it was only counting for 6 points.

The project we were working on in this class was about choosing a social group, that could be everything, like parkour, football etc. I chose upcycling and recycling. Before choosing the social group, we had to make some research about the given area where the house should be. So, you had to analyse the area and think about what type of social group you think would work and had the best possibilities and surroundings in the given area.

When you had chosen your social group, it was time for all the drawings. In the first half of the semester you had to make some drawings that showed what time of space your social group need, so you got a better idea of what space your future house should have. This was a difficult part for me, because it was a completely new way of thinking and then you also must use computer software, I never worked with such as: Illustrator, Photoshop, SketchUp and more.

Then I went to the middle term where you must print all your drawings and pin them on a big wall. For this presentation there was 2 professors and two classes that you had to present in front of. When your presentation was over you got some critic from the professors and they told you in which way you should continue your project and gave you some good ideas for your final design of your house.

In the start of the second half of the semester you had to make a lot of different models there showed a possible design of the house. When you had around 10, you had a talk with the professor and you discussed the positive and negative things about every design. When you had chosen your design, it was time for improving. I think I had to change my "final design" 5 times before it was good. And you had to make a model of every single design plus a 3D drawing, so it took a lot of time. When you had your final design, it was time to make all the drawings. This was more palpably for me, because it was more similar to what you do on KEA. I drew all of my drawings in Revit or SketchUp, but the professor could not help me in these programs because they use another one call Rhino. I didn't want to use this one because it would take a lot of time to get familiar with, but also because I wanted to improve my Revit skills.

The final exam was quite the same as the middle term, besides there was some more professors.

The class was taught in a way where you had a conversation with the professor from time to time. For this conversion should you have some new drawings and models, and then would the professor give it some

critic. I have never tried where he says, “this drawing is perfect”, there was always some improving you had to do.

This class was pure architecture and was super different to what we get taught on KEA. (Annex 1)



### Advanced English grammar

This class was taught by a professor called Andrew, from Australia. He was a really dedicated professor and you got a feeling that he was prepared for every class.

Students from Denmark are usually pretty good at English compared to Korean students, but I chose the class because I have always struggled with English grammar.

The class was taught in a way where the professor starts the class with a question for everybody in the class. After that do you get together with a partner and you have to discuss some topics the professor has put on the smartboard. The professor walks around from group to group and join the conversation.

The middle term and exam in this class is both a written and an oral test.

I didn't use so much time in this class because we didn't get any homework, but I really enjoyed being there.



## My social life and the life on the dormitory

The social life was really good, and you get a lot of new good friends from all around the world. I would advise everybody that is going on exchange to live at the dormitory of the university if possible. If you choose that, you will live in a small room with a roomie where you both have a small desk, a bed and a wardrobe. You live on the same floor as all the other exchange students, so it feels like being on boarding school, so cool!

Hanyang University ERICA Campus has a group of local students called Hamnille there provides a lot of different events for the exchange students. This did that I got close to the exchange students but also got a lot of good friend from Korea. It's a really good idea to get some Korean friends because they can help you with all the practical stuff as where It's good to eat or how to get the Alien-card as is necessary when you stay in Korea for a longer period.

I would recommend planning some trips with some of the other guys you meet. It could be to Busan, south on the island, where it's possible to go to the beach and it's a nice city. You could also travel outside the country, etc. Tokyo where the fly tickets are not that expensive. Overall when going to South Korea it's a good way to explore some of the nearby countries.



## Practical experience

So, there is two possibilities when you buy your fly tickets, you can either buy a round ticket or a single way. If you don't have any plans right after the semester, I would recommend that you took a single way ticket because there are a lot of the other exchange students, there stays in the "area" to travel around.

When you land in the airport in Korea, most likely it's going to be Incheon, you can either order some pickup service there drive you directly to the university or you can take the bus just outside the airport there drive you to Ansan bus station where you have to take a new bus there drive you to the campus. I didn't order the pickup service, but the other opportunity was easy as well.

Economic I would say you could survive on your SU, but I would recommend saving some money up, if you want to travel or just have the possibility to go to the cinema and other stuff. It is possibly to cook on the dormitory, but we didn't do it a single time, it's much easier just to eat out. There is a lot of restaurant outside the campus and also some inside. One of my favourites was on the dormitory, so it was easy just to go there. A meal on the campus will be around 18-30 DKK and 25-100 DKK on the restaurants outside campus.

## Conclusion

Overall, I'm really happy that I did go on exchange and I wouldn't have been without it. I learnt a lot about architectural design and got some experience in some other programs. I would think twice next time if I would do architecture again because it took so much time as I could have used social instead.

The best part of my stay was definitely the social life where I got a lot of new friends from all over the world. Also, the campus made it possible to have a lot of fun with all the great facilities.

Annex

Annex 1

