

Exchange Report 2019

Hanyang University - South Korea



1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I took my semester abroad At Hanyang University ERICA Campus in Ansan, South Korea. From the end of august to the end of December 2019.

2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?

Entrepreneurship and Design, for my 3rd semester, at my home university in Copenhagen.

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

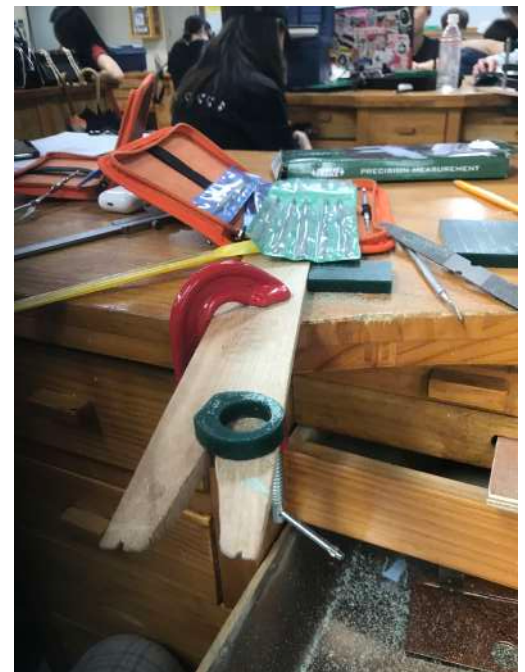
Furniture design: The aim in this class was to understand furniture design and its history and how furniture react and uses space. Here we had to design our own furniture (i for example ended up designing a couch) We spend most of the time designing and finetuning our furniture design with the help of the teacher and it ending out in a final presentation of each of our product.

International Economics: This course was about understanding basic Theoretical Models in International Economics: like Comparative advantage and international trade. Furthermore understanding Political Economy of Globalisation:

Commercial Jewellery: This class is all about making jewellery out of wax castings. This was my favourite course because it was really hands on and the teacher was amazingly sweet and helpfull! The only issue is you need your own carving tools, but luckily I could borrow some from our teacher, so it worked out in the end.

Storytelling and content design:

At the end of this course, you were learned to identify contents UX design. We had to create a platform that solved a problem in Korea. So I made an app using XD that helping tourist getting around and so finding restaurant.



Internation communication.

This course focuses understanding of global issues, disciplines, competitions and the necessary knowledge in advertising and making strategic decisions based on an international perspective.

Academic Experience

1. How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?

I had a lot of trouble getting the right classes and the process is really confusing and problematic. I would recommend making a time table before hand and plotting in every class and checking that none of your classes overlap. Because that was my biggest issue getting the right classes. I received a lot of help from the design office, who helped me applying for the right classes.

2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

Commercial Furniture was probably the most rewarding class and overall best experience, because I really got to get in touch with my creative side. Usually classes are a lot of studying and little of putting your knowledge into practice. But this class was the opposite. We got to learn from doing. Also the class atmosphere was really nice, everyone helped each other out and the teacher was really helpful and understanding. I have always been into jewellery design but I never had the skills to create jewellery, now I have which for me is really rewarding.

3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

International economics - Because I had so much trouble getting the right classes in the beginning of my semester I didn't get all the classes I really wanted to. After there was no space left in the classes I wanted to attend I had to attend International economics as a last result. This class was therefore not relevant to my studies and future work, furthermore the teacher was really bad at speaking English, which made me struggle to understand the teaching.

4. What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?

I would highly recommend jewellery design if you are interested in jewellery, because then that will definitely be a great experience and open up for your creative side. What I would steer away from is the International economics class for the reasons described above.

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

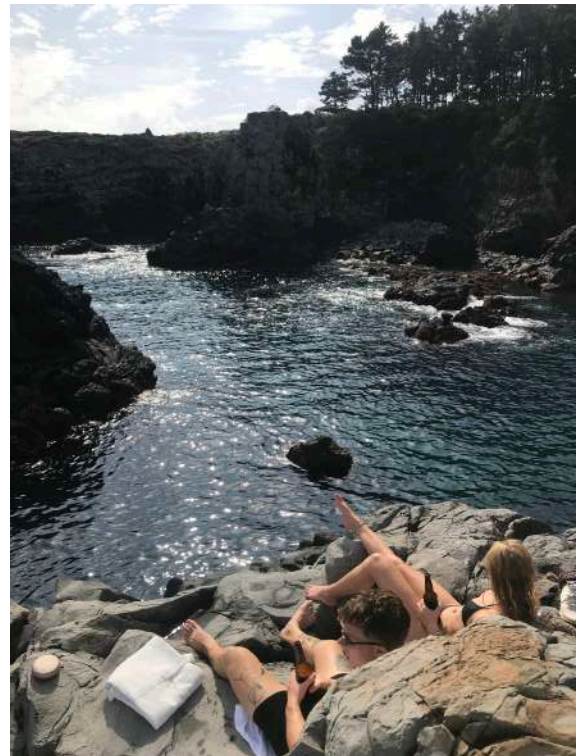
I didn't experience any major challenges with the culture difference, for me the biggest challenge was communication and trying to fit in and be part of the local Koreans. You come really far with some basic Korean words and google translate on your phone. I realised that most Koreans are very shy to speak English because they are afraid their pronunciation is wrong, but actually most younger Koreans understand perfect English. So I would recommend just speak to people and slowly they will open up and become less afraid of speaking English themselves.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

The school had some mentor programs which is a lot of help if you choose it, but otherwise you are pretty much left on your own. But don't worry, everyone knows you are a foreigner and people are very friendly to help out, if you have trouble.

2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?

One of the best experiences was going to Jeju island. Jeju is a small island at the south end of Korea. Me and my friend went there for 4 days. We didn't expect much and the weather forecast said that it would rain and be thunder for the whole 4 days we were there. But since we already had booked it, there was no turning back. But as we arrived the clouds moved away and it was actually sunny and amazing weather. So we ended up cliff diving and chilling on the beach most of our time there, which was the best get away we could have dreamed of. So don't always believe the weather apps because sometimes they are completely wrong.



3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?

If you are staying at the dorm (which I would recommend because it's cheap and close to the school) then I would highly recommend finding a roommate beforehand and also find some cozy lamps or lights because the rooms are not very cozy otherwise. Me and my friend bought some lamps and blankets and our room ended up being really cozy and chill to be in.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

It was very long and difficult. Both applying for the university, the visa and the courses or simply the dorm room. It'll take its time, so have all your documents properly in order so it's easy for you to find everything.

a. What did KEA help you with?

Kea helped me get in contact with my contact person at Hanyang, but also Hanne my coordinator was really helpful with any questions I had, so I didn't feel left out at any point.

2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?

I didn't know that the metro system close at 12 o'clock in Korea, so I had to take a taxi from the airport to the school which costed around 60.000 KRW (400 kr), so try to time your arrival time to before 12pm if possible. The metro system and bus system is really effective. I would recommend downloading kakao map and combining that with google maps for public transport was the best solution for getting around.



3. Where did you live?

I lived at the dormitory where I shared a room with my friend from Denmark. This was not difficult to apply for but you had to be on time when applying because they quickly get filled. I would recommend finding a roommate before you apply, because you will be living in a very small room with someone else for 4 months, so you should make sure you know the person beforehand otherwise you can run into trouble. But if you are great at making friends and so on, just apply and hopefully you get a sweet roommate.

4. What kind of expenses did you have in general?

My biggest expense was food, grocery shopping is very expensive and there is no functional kitchen at the dorm. You can apply for a kitchen, but for the Danish kitchen standard I would call it a Tea kitchen. I ate almost all my meals in school cafeteria and at the dorm. You can find some great cheap eats in Ansan as well but they are a bit harder to find. Luckily there is a Subway sandwich place really close to the school, which has saved me a lot of times if other shops were closed.

Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?

I spent a bit more, because I thought I could cook my own food, but ended up having to buy all my meals. So keep in mind to have some extra money for food expenses then you will be fine.

Other tips:

-if you are into working out then use the big gym in the welfare building and close to the toilets there is a water machine and right next to it is an ice cube machine. I first found out pretty late, but having ice cold water when training is the best.

-I would recommend applying for the Alien Registration card as soon as possible, because then you can get your student card and use it as a credit card. Most shops don't take European cards, you therefore have to use cash, which can be a hassle and expensive due to bank fees and so on.

Dorm tips:

- Just behind the dorm there is a great hiking forest, which is really great if you want a break from the city or just want to go for a beautiful walk in the forest.

-Make sure to rent a fridge and buy some nice breakfast! That was really a life saver, if you don't want noodles and soup for breakfast.



Saturday, 7 December 2019

-Behind the dorm there is a forest which has some really nice hiking routes with great views, if you want a little forest walk and a get away. (Go behind the dorm and find your way into the forest, then there is a small hole in the fence with leads you directly to the hiking routes).

-Buy the tuna kimbap in the cafeteria next to Grazie cafe and ask for soya sauce, it makes the kimball much better.

-When applying for the dorm take a room on level 10, 15 or 18 because they have washing machines on those floors which makes life just a little more easy. Also I would choose a higher floor for a better view.

