

Hanyang University, ERICA Campus Ansan

3rd semester of MMD studies: August – December

2016

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## **Introduction**

My name is (...), and I am a student of MMD at KEA, Copenhagen, Denmark. I studied abroad for one semester, more concretely, I spent one semester in South Korea. I studied at Hanyang University in Ansan, ERICA Campus. In this report, I will try, to sum up, the whole journey which I have taken part in because of my decision or better say passion. Honestly, I have always thought that traveling is amazing that you need to travel to gain particular life experience which you can not gain any other way. KEA does offer a chance to study abroad for the third semester, and it is great. I immediately turned my sight to Asia because I love the culture and their different approach to life.

## **Qualification, VISA, preparation**

You need to pass your exams and finish your classes successfully to take part in the program. You also need to write a motivational letter which includes reasons why you are that one lucky student who should study abroad. That being said I suppose that you qualified without problems. After that, you need to apply for VISA. It is a rather annoying process, especially when dealing with the South Korean embassy. The guys are strict, so you better be prepared. You should have all the documents, plane tickets, contracts and so on. Also, you need to have an address of a place where you will stay.

## **School, life, culture**

Finally, in South Korea, you need to be careful, open-minded and prepared. Culture is different. People speak Korean-only in 90% of cases. They have their alphabet, so you won't be able to read important things. Things are usually hard these few days from the beginning. After school starts, it is going to change completely. They have a great supportive program called Hanmille where you will get assigned to another student or mentor. You will eventually create a friendship for life, trust me. People are great there, honest, welcoming, polite.

Education-wise, you need to choose your courses appropriately. Respecting your original program is important. For me, it was MMD, so I selected these courses: Web Development, Business in Cultural Contents, International Communication, Brand Design. Professors were amazing, and so were the classmates. However, the students are not so fluent in English, so educators need to combine their lectures accordingly. Sometimes it is hard to gain all the knowledge then. My teachers were people from real companies with lot's of experience, and that is what I appreciate.

Most of the exchange students stayed in the dormitory. The Ansan is a rather small city in front of Seoul. Sometimes, it was hard. The campus is big and nice, but the city of Seoul was too far for me. It took around an hour and half of traveling by subway. Other than that, social life was amazing. Both, exchange students from all around the world and Koreans were equally amusing. We went to many different places and explored lots of their culture. Food? Do you want to know that? It was a terrible experience for me. I could not get used to it. It is so different, so spicy, so not for me. There was no kitchen or whatsoever so I always had to buy food and that was expensive. Who knows, maybe Korean food is just for you.

When speaking about financial part, it was rather expensive. Especially because of food. However, it is cheaper than let's say California or London. I would say that prices are similar to these in Denmark. Overall, I survived without any problems with the prepared budget.

### **Conclusion**

Korean culture can be hard to understand many times. It is the rather unique experience. I would like to give you some personal advice, but I have none. It is just as same as any other new country which you have visited before. The best way is to try it, live it and feel it. The third semester is fantastic chance to do so.

# Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

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**Deakin University contact name & e-mail:** Jennifer Mendes | [Jennifer.mendes@deakin.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.mendes@deakin.edu.au)