



**한양대학교**  
HANYANG UNIVERSITY

**Host University:** Hanyang University Erica Campus

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**Period of stay:** 20/02/2018 - 22/06/2018

## **Why study abroad - A semester in South Korea.**

In the spring semester of 2018 i took a semester abroad at Hanyang University - Erica Campus in South Korea.

From the moment i heard we had the opportunity to study abroad i knew i had to do it. Before going, my experience with travel was minimal. Only the occasional vacations around Europe. I knew i had to challenge myself and try something completely out of my comfort zone. That's why i ended up in South Korea. To get as far away from Denmark and my day to day life.

The next 6 pages will be about that experience, the good and the bad, what i learned and some basic tips and tricks about what to do and see in Korea.

## **Before going.**

### **Choosing subjects**

Korea is a very competitive country. I felt this already before going.

Unlike in Denmark where most of your path through university is laid out from the beginning, you have to chose your own subjects in Korea. Patch your own schedule together. This process is controlled by "first come, first served". The way it works is that sometime before the semester starts you get a login to a website where you can choose your subjects. Because of the competitive nature of the system, courses fills VERY fast. Some within minutes after opening. This means you have to be ready when it opens. Because of the time difference between Korea and Denmark i almost missed this window and only managed to secure two subjects the first time around. You will probably experience something similar (Most exchange students did) but fear not! You'll get more chances. Something might open up because people are dropping subjects or moving them around. The university might also create new courses in the "high" demand fields. If you still don't have a full schedule when you arrive, it's common practice to show up for classes and ask the professor if they can find the room for you. I had to do this a lot the first week.

It worked out and in the end i ended up with four courses that was somewhat relevant to the learning agreement and one that was completely different.

### **Which subjects to choose as a Computer science student**

As a Computer science student the amount of english courses to choose from was minimal. Don't expect to do much programming as most of those subjects will be in Korean. I had trouble getting enough within the study agreement. So i ended up taking Survival Korea as my final course. Where you learn basic Korean, how to read the alphabet, how to order food etc.

My other four courses where as follows:

- Digital Logic Design
- Information Retrieval
- Web design
- Computer Architecture

### **Getting a place to live**

Getting a place to stay at Erica campus is fairly straightforward. The process is similar to that of choosing subjects (first come, first served). Although much less stressful. They have dormitories at campus, and they are big. The one i lived in had around 20 floors.

The dormitory is very affordable. I think i paid somewhere between 6000 and 7000 danish kroner for the full semester. The low price comes with a catch though. The dormitory has everything you would expect, except for one thing, a kitchen! To make up for this they have two restaurants, one café, a cafeteria and a 7/11 on the ground floor of the dorm. If you're muslim you'll have access to a kitchen near the dormitory.

Living there you will also have to say goodbye to your privacy. You will get a roommate!



The dormitorie i stayed at

### **Meeting people**

One of the great things about Hanyang University is their mentor program called Hamille. Once you arrive you will get paired with a Korean student who will help you in your day to day life around campus. A lot of things can be a bit confusing in the beginning so getting help from a native makes everything easier.

Hamille also arrange a lot of activities with exchange students and Koreans. This ranges from small things like going out for dinner or going to the movies too bigger events like going on field trips, amusement parks, museums etc.

Another good way to meet people, especially if you want to meet Koreans, is to join one of the many clubs they have on campus. These ranges from sports clubs like football, baseball, tennis

etc. To general activities like book clubs, art clubs and photo club. They even have a club that takes care of all the cats on campus.

I joined two clubs. The Taekwondo club and the Hip Hop club (Feels so good).

### **How to get around**

Finding your way around in Seoul can look difficult at first. But when you learn their system it is really easy. They have a huge metro system that goes everywhere in Seoul. At campus they have free shuttle busses that goes from campus to the station and city center. A few weeks in you'll get your student card. This will be your primary way of paying for transportation equivalent to "Rejsekort".

### **What to do in the city**

Remember that you will be living outside of Seoul, if you choose Hanyang University. Hanyang University is in Ansan, which is around an hour away from central Seoul. In Ansan there's mostly restaurants, cinemas, malls and small bars, so it's mostly a regular city. If you want to see a different kind of city, you should go to Seoul. In Seoul there's a lot of opportunities for entertainment and it goes around the clock. For partying, I would recommend Hongdae, Itaewon and Gangnam. I would like to highlight Hongdae, since there's a lot of parks and avenues filled with street artists/musicians and people enjoying themselves.

For a more relaxed and cultural experience in Seoul, I would recommend the national museum, which is free, and the royal national palace - Gyeongbokgung .



Gyeongbokgung

If you're the adventurous type, I would suggest going hiking in the mountains surrounding Seoul. I hiked at Bukhansan and it was definitely one of the most breathtaking experiences I had while abroad.

### **Jeju island**

So there's this special island, called Jeju island or some would call it the Hawaii of Korea! I was there for five days and the nature is mindblowing. There's beaches, there's a volcano and the tallest mountain in Korea resides here - It's called Halasan. If you're going to Jeju, be aware that public transportation is bad there, so me and my travel mates rented a car, which I would definitely recommend.



Jeju island

### **Looking back**

Looking back, going abroad was an amazing experience and I am happy for going and I would highly recommend going abroad. It's all about the experience and you don't necessarily have to go to South Korea, as you can see world from anywhere.

I was surprised by the amount of history, that lies behind the surface of Korea.

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