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GUIDE

# YOUR DESTINATION

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STUDY DESTINATION

# SOUTH KOREA

Studying in Korea can be a rewarding experience. Here are some key things to know before you hop on that plane:

## 1. KOREAN LANGUAGE

**Learn Basic Korean:** While many universities offer courses in English, basic Korean will be essential for everyday life, especially outside major cities.

## 2. CULTURAL ETIQUETTE

**Respect for Elders:** Korean culture places a strong emphasis on respect for elders. This includes using polite language and gestures.

**Bowing:** Bowing is a common greeting, especially in formal situations.

**Shoes Off Indoors:** It's customary to remove shoes when entering homes and some restaurants.



### 3. UNIVERSITY LIFE

**Teamwork:** Group projects are common, and Koreans tend to have a collaborative study style.

**Hierarchical Structure:** There's a noticeable respect for seniority in universities. Seniors (sunbaes) often mentor juniors (hoobaes).

**Campus Clubs:** Joining a student club can help you make friends and get involved in activities.

### 4. COST OF LIVING

**Living Expenses:** Major cities like Seoul can be expensive, especially for housing. Since HUFS offer a dormitory for students, you may want to check that out.

**Affordable Food:** Eating out is often affordable. Convenience stores and local restaurants provide inexpensive options.

### 5. TRANSPORTATION

**Public Transportation:** Korea has an efficient public transportation system (subways, buses). Get a T-money card for easy access.

**Apps:** Use apps like KakaoMap and Naver Map for navigating, as Google Maps doesn't work well in Korea.

### 6. HEALTHCARE

**Health Insurance:** International students are required to have health insurance. Make sure you register for the National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) or a private alternative (if staying for one semester only).

**Pharmacies:** Pharmacies are common, but be aware that some medications may require a prescription.

### 7. PART-TIME JOBS (IF ALLOWED)

**Working in Korea:** International students can work part-time under specific visa conditions (usually up to 20 hours per week). Check with immigration for guidelines.

## 8. SOCIALIZING

**KakaoTalk:** This messaging app is widely used for communication. Having it installed is essential.

**Drinking Culture:** Drinking is common in Korea, especially during social gatherings. However, it's fine to decline politely if you don't drink.

## 9. FESTIVALS & EVENTS

**Experience Local Culture:** Korea has numerous festivals, from the Cherry Blossom Festival in spring to the Lantern Festival in fall. Participating in these can be a great way to immerse yourself in Korean culture.

## 2. HOST UNIVERSITY – HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES (HUFS)





**Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS)** is a prestigious institution in Korea, known for its focus on foreign languages, international studies, and global relations. Here's what you can prepare for:

## 1. Academics

- **Strong Focus on Language and International Studies:** HUFS is renowned for its diverse language programs. Expect a rigorous curriculum, especially if you're enrolled in language or international relations courses.
- **English Courses:** While many courses are taught in Korean, there are a significant number of courses available in English, particularly in international studies.
- **Korean Language Skills:** Even if your courses are in English, it's helpful to have basic Korean proficiency for daily interactions, group work, and making friends on campus.

## 2. Campus Life

- **Seoul & Global Campus:** HUFS has two campuses: one in Seoul (main campus) and another in Yongin (Global Campus). Make sure you choose the right campus for you.
- **Dormitories:** If you're living in a dorm, it's important to know that certain dorms have strict curfew rules.
- **Student Clubs:** HUFS has numerous student clubs, from language exchange to cultural clubs. Joining a club can help you immerse yourself in the university's social life and meet both Korean and international students.

## 3. Study Resources

- **Library & Study Spaces:** HUFS has excellent study facilities. The libraries are well-stocked, and you'll find many study lounges on campus. Make use of the resources like language labs and international centers.
- **International Office:** The Office of International Affairs at HUFS offers support to international students. Familiarize yourself with their services for visa support, academic counseling, and housing assistance.

## 4. Cultural Adjustment

- **International Community:** HUFS has a large population of international students, which creates a multicultural environment. Be ready to meet people from all over

- **Korean Etiquette:** Understanding Korean customs, such as how to greet professors and elders, is important. Showing respect through polite speech and gestures will go a long way.

## **5. Transportation**

- **Accessibility:** HUFS Seoul Campus is well-connected to the subway system (near Line 1 and Line 7). You can easily commute within Seoul, but if you're at the Global Campus, transportation may require more planning.

## **6. Extracurricular Activities**

- **Global Events:** HUFS often hosts events like international festivals, speech contests, and cultural exchange programs. These are great opportunities to engage with the broader university community.
- **Korean Buddy Program:** You can join a buddy program that pairs international students with local students, helping with cultural adjustment and making friends.

## **7. Technology**

- **Online Platforms:** HUFS uses a digital portal system for course registration, grades, and announcements. Make sure you are familiar with the e-class system and other online resources the university offers.
- **Wi-Fi and Tech Resources:** The campus has strong Wi-Fi, and many academic tools can be accessed online. Having a reliable laptop or tablet will be essential for your studies.

## **8. Visa & Documentation**

- **Alien Registration Card (ARC):** You will need to get an ARC within 90 days of arrival, as it's necessary for many things like opening a bank account and signing up for phone service. HUFS's international office can help guide you through the process.

## **9. Mental and Physical Health**

- **Counseling Services:** HUFS provides student counseling services, including for international students. If you feel overwhelmed, it's okay to reach out for support.
- **Sports Facilities:** HUFS offers sports facilities, which you can use for staying active and healthy during your studies.



# YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences  
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

*Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student*

