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LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Dong-A University does have on-campus accommodation for international students, and they are required to stay in the dorms for the entire semester.

When you arrive at your dormitory you have to check-in. You may visit the Administration office of Hanlim Dormitory where you will have to provide your student ID and passport. To check in to a dormitory on campus, all students must have proof of a negative tuberculosis test that they can provide during check-in.

Aside from the on-campus accommodation, students are free to look for their own accommodation independently. However, you must submit a doctor's note to Dong-A University. Some students stay at hostels/hotels for the first week to get to know the other students/potential roommates during the orientation events. If this is your preferred approach, we recommend booking the accommodation for your first days via [Agoda](#). However, we still recommend looking into your long-term accommodation well in advance before your flight. Remember, other students will also be looking for places to stay!



Other good options for accommodation are Airbnb or a Goshiwon. Goshiwons are dormitory style apartments rented monthly which are used mostly by students or workers. In Goshiwon everyone has their own room with shared kitchen and bathrooms. The rooms are usually quite small and come with a desk, bed, TV and internet access and in the more expensive ones you might have air conditioning. Goshiwons for rent can be found walking near university areas or by internet, but the sites are mostly in Korean. The rooms go from around KRW 350 000 to KRW 450 000 in a month. There is no mandatory contract, so students can live there for a month and leave if they wish.

RENTAL AGREEMENT

Remember to make a written agreement about the amount of rent and what it includes.

It's a good idea to check the apartment before moving in and write a list of possible faults. This list can then be added to your lease as an appendix. Remember to check the safety of the area and the comfort of the neighborhood in general. Don't forget that it's easiest to sign the lease during office hours, although some exceptions have been made. You can contact private property owners or real estate agents beforehand by email, but it may take a while to receive an answer, and the prices will most likely be higher than when doing business face-to-face. If it's possible to sign the lease monthly, it is worth looking into. Please consider that if you sign a lease for the full length of your stay but wish to change accommodation earlier for some reason, it will be difficult to get your security deposit back.

Remember to find out what the policy is for incomplete months (for example, if you want to move out before the end of a month). There may be daily or weekly rates, or you may be able to make special arrangements with your landlord. However, sometimes paying for a full month can be cheaper than paying for two weeks daily.

The apartments and rooms may be differently equipped even at the same location. Not all the locations offer basic household amenities, e.g. cutlery and cookware. You can ask for them at reception, but in most cases, you must buy them at your own expense. However, the prices for such products are very affordable in Seoul. Electricity, water and Internet might need to be paid for separately monthly. Extensive use of air conditioner increases your electricity bill so pay attention to its use from the very beginning. Using AC moderately can substantially reduce your electricity bill. For ecological and economic reasons, AC should be turned off when the apartment is empty and possibly also during the nights. To avoid catching a cold, don't turn the air conditioning on too high, 25 – 28 degrees Celsius is a suitable temperature at night.

General Information and Tips for Living in Busan

Living in Busan offers a great blend of modern city life and coastal beauty. The weather is moderate, with hot, humid summers and mild winters. Spring and autumn are ideal for outdoor activities. Compared to Seoul, Busan's cost of living is more affordable. Rent can range from 400,000 KRW to 800,000 KRW, and local meals typically cost between 6,000 KRW and 12,000 KRW. Public transportation is efficient, with subways and buses easily accessible using a T-money card.

Neighborhoods like Seomyeon offer bustling city life with lots of shopping and nightlife, while coastal areas like Haeundae and Gwangalli are known for their beaches and expat-friendly communities. Busan is famous for its seafood, with dishes like **sannakji** (live octopus) and **eomuk** (fish cake). Street food is also a common and delicious way to eat on a budget.

Culturally, be mindful of Korean etiquette. Politeness, bowing, and formal language are important. Make sure to remove your shoes when entering homes and follow the strict recycling rules. While many locals don't speak much English, younger Koreans, especially in tourist areas, can usually understand basic English.

Healthcare in Busan is high-quality, and long-term residents should consider enrolling in the National Health Insurance system. Pharmacies are easy to find, and for serious issues, hospitals are well-equipped, often with English-speaking staff.

Busan is a very safe city, even at night. For emergencies, dial 119 for medical or fire services and 112 for the police. Most places accept credit and debit cards, though it's good to carry some cash for smaller vendors. Setting up a local bank account can be helpful for longer stays, with Shinhan and KEB Hana being foreigner-friendly options.

Some must-visit attractions include **Haeundae Beach**, **Gamcheon Culture Village**, and Jagalchi **Fish Market**. Whether you enjoy city life or natural scenery, Busan has a laid-back atmosphere that makes it a great place to live or visit.



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

