



ASIA EXCHANGE  
STUDY LIVE LEARN



# GUIDE

## STUDY ABROAD IN THE KOREAN LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND BUSINESS IMMERSION PROGRAM

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

ASIAEXCHANGE.ORG



“

Asia is probably  
the most dynamic  
continent in the  
world and  
economically it  
presents endless  
opportunities.

The center of  
gravity is moving  
towards the East.

ALEXANDER STUBB  
FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF FINLAND  
(BLUE WINGS MAGAZINE)



ASIA  
EXCHANGE  
— STUDY LIVE LEARN —



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# PREFACE

Dear student heading to South Korea,

the beginning of your studies in South Korea is approaching. I truly want to congratulate you on deciding to go on a study abroad semester in as exotic and dynamic a destination as Seoul, South Korea. Besides interesting studies, a semester abroad in the metropolis of Seoul offers life-long memories. After returning home you will see things from a new perspective and take the spirit of Korea with you into your future life as well.

The importance of Asia and South Korea in the world is constantly increasing. Having studied abroad there is something that will surely benefit you in many ways long into the future. Knowledge of Asia is truly an asset in the competitive work environment of the globalized world.

In this Guide we have gathered useful tips and information for a smooth start of your study abroad experience.

We hope to hear your feedback as well, both during and after the study abroad semester. Enjoy your time in Seoul, South Korea!

Yours sincerely,



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## PLEASE READ THIS GUIDE CAREFULLY!



The information in this Guide is subject to change without further notice (e.g., the visa matters).

Please check the latest information from official sources.

# KOREAN LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND BUSINESS IMMERSION PROGRAM

**Seoul** is an ideal destination for those looking to learn the Korean language, dive into Korean culture, and get valuable new insights into business and economics.

With its rich cultural heritage and bustling atmosphere, Seoul is considered one of the most dynamic cities in the world. The Korean Language, Culture, and Business Immersion Program make it easier than ever to learn a new language while fully immersing yourself in the city's culture.

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Participating in cultural activities, such as historical site visits, traditional market experiences, and cultural festival participation provides a deeper understanding of the country's heritage and customs.

Moreover, knowing the Korean language can lead to valuable business opportunities in South Korea, which has a thriving economy and is a key player in industries such as technology, finance, and automobiles.

Seoul is a great place to visit, and the Korean Language, Culture and Business Immersion Program is the best program choice you can make.

The Korean Language, Culture, and Business Immersion Program are the most affordable and best program for our students that want to study in Korea while keeping the highest possible flexibility to explore Seoul and its surroundings.

In addition to joining the Korean Language courses on campus, you have the unique chance to join Asia Exchange's eCampus during your semester.

The eCampus is a distance learning solution to give you the freedom of where you want to be while studying abroad. All courses taught at the eCampus can be joined independently of place and time, giving you the ultimate flexibility to combine your study abroad experience with a variety of academic courses.

## THIS PROGRAM IS FOR YOU WHEN YOU...

- Have recently finished high school or are a university student.
- Want to gain a better understanding of the Korean Language and Economics, with a unique life experience.
- Prefer the application process to be easy and all your questions answered quickly.
- Want to make new international friends and build a career-benefiting multicultural network in Seoul.
- Are happy to enjoy a welcoming atmosphere and excellent student support throughout the semester.
- If you are a high school or college graduate, your plans are still unclear, or you want to take a break from your daily routines, you may also apply for this program. Studying abroad during your gap year is the perfect way to give your life a new direction!





# SEOUL

Studying in Seoul offers the opportunity to immerse yourself in the Korean language and culture fully.

Seoul is a city with a rich cultural heritage, and studying there provides an opportunity to learn about the country's history and customs.

Seoul is a bustling, modern city with a vibrant atmosphere, offering a unique experience for students. From its street food to its nightlife, the city has something for everyone, providing a rich and diverse environment for learning.

South Korea is a leader in technology and innovation, and Seoul is at the forefront of this trend. Studying in the city provides an opportunity to see and experience the latest technological advancements first-hand.

South Korea has a thriving economy and is a significant player in technology, finance, and automobiles. Learning the Korean language in Seoul can provide valuable business opportunities and give you a competitive edge in these fields.

Improve your English, learn the basics of Bahasa Indonesia, and develop your intercultural communication skills.

Seoul is home to a large community of international students and professionals, providing a unique opportunity to make new friends, network, and build professional relationships.



### 3 ARRIVAL IN SEOUL



Once you arrive at the Incheon International Airport, go through the Immigration and Customs control. Present your passport and other documents (if required) to the immigration officers. After the inspection, go to the luggage pick up area to collect your luggage. There will be a pickup service available, which will take you to your dorm. Find out more from below.

If you are staying somewhere else than on-campus dormitories, or arrive before the dorms open, you are responsible for the arrival arrangements. If you'd like to, or need to find your own way from the airport to the campus we recommend you using a taxi since navigating the Seoul public transportation system with a lot of luggage can be straining.

### 3.1 ARRIVAL DURING THE PANDEMIC

Upon entering South Korea there is no longer a quarantine-upon-arrival requirement for vaccinated or non-vaccinated travelers to the Republic of Korea.

You're not required to provide a pre-departure COVID-19 test or to have a PCR test on arrival to enter South Korea. It's recommended you register your personal information in the **Korean Q-code registration system** before you travel to South Korea at the Q-code website.

Source: <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/asia/south-korea-republic-korea>

Other Sources:

<https://www.fkcci.com/actualites/n/news/update-covid-19-entry-in-south-korea.html>

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-korea/entry-requirements>



### AIRPORT PICKUP

Airport pickup service at your expense is available for all international exchange students. **You can make an online reservation [here](#).** Be prepared to pay KRW 30 000 for the service.

We also recommend that students change the Korean won equivalent of at least USD 100, at the latest at the airport, to cover such expenses as the airport bus fare into the city, food, and miscellaneous expenses during their first few days in Korea.



### T-MONEY CARD:

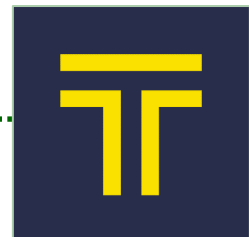
We recommend all students to buy a T-Money Card right from the get-go at Incheon Airport. This card can be used in all public transport and even taxis. It makes payment considerably easier and provides a KRW 100 discount for every payment. The card costs KRW 4000 (non-refundable) and can be charged with a preferred sum. The leftover sum can be refunded for a service fee of KRW 500

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### NAVER MAP:

One of the first things people usually notice in South Korea is that the trusty old Google Maps isn't quite working. Instead, you will want to use NAVER Map to navigate around.



### KAKAO T (TAXI):

The service of KakaoTalk transforms the conventional notion of taxi-hailing in that it enables users to contact taxi drivers and have them come pick you up at your current location with just a few clicks on your mobile phone, rather than to wait and catch cabs on the street.



## 4 VISAS

You will need a **D-4-1 language training visa** to study in this program. This visa type is available for anyone joining a language program. You do not need to be enrolled in a university to apply for this visa. Please get in touch with your local embassy for more details.

You can start your visa application process after receiving the official acceptance letter for the Korean Language, Culture, and Business Immersion Program. The letter will be sent to you at the latest one month before the start of the semester. [Read our General Visa instructions here.](#)

## 5 ACCOMMODATION

### 5.1 CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

Please notice that Asia Exchange cannot guarantee campus accommodation on behalf of the Korean Language Center but so far, all our students who have requested a room have been accepted.

#### Student Housing in the Korean Language, Culture and Business Immersion Program

You have the chance to stay in the Global E&S student accommodation. Generally, there are Mini Studios, Share Houses, Hotels, Residence available. Depending on your wishes, all prices are different. We recommend students stay at the guest house as there are convenient facilities for international students.

A rough orientation of the monthly accommodation costs, can be found below:

##### Room Types:

*Twin:* 1,300,000KRW

*Triple:* 1,500,000KRW

Please note that room prices can change any time.



## 5.2 OTHER ACCOMMODATION

It's also possible to find an apartment off campus but it's best to **organize this after you have arrived in the destination**. The biggest challenge is usually getting a lease that is shorter than 12 months. **Look for advertisement for English real estate services on notice boards around the campus.**

Airbnb is also an option in Seoul. There are month long contracts available and even though they are much more expensive than living at the dorms, this options suits well, for example, couples who wouldn't be allowed to stay in the same room at the dorms.

Gosiwons are dormitory style apartments rented in monthly basis which are used mostly by students or workers. In Gosiwon everyone has their own room with shared kitchen and bathrooms. The rooms are usually quite small and come with desk, bed, TV, and internet access and in the more expensive ones you might have air-conditioning. Gosiwons 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. [See more here.](#)

## 5.3 GENERAL INFORMATION AND TIPS ON LIVING IN SEOUL

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This information applies especially when looking for other than campus accommodation.

In Asian cultures, it is common to do business face-to-face. For example, taking care of accommodation arrangements in advance by email may be difficult if you decide to stay off campus. However, this is not something worth worrying about. You can easily confirm the housing, the details of the lease and the final price after arriving in Seoul.

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

It's also 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 the 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.

**While you're checking out your future accommodation,** or at the latest when signing, a little hassle is a normal part of finding your accommodation. This is mainly **due to cultural differences and different ways of doing business.** A good sense of humor, a little patience, and some effort to understand a different culture will help sort things out.



If you are moving to a new address, it is important to report the change of address within 14 days at a local immigration office or Gu-office. Take your important documents with you. If you decide to go to Gu-office, please take note that they might not speak

English, so it is better to have Korean friend accompany you there. Failure to report changes can result in a fine which usually starts from KRW 100,000 and might go up by the number of days you are late.

## 6 GETTING TO KNOW YOUR DESTINATION

We recommend you get to know Seoul and South Korea beforehand. On top of the material, we've sent you, please familiarize yourself with information online (e.g., wikitravel, articles about manners and etiquette) and get hold of a good guidebook (e.g., Lonely Planet or Rough Guide).

### A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND, AND TO NOT GET TOO DISTRESSED ABOUT:

- Relatively few people speak English, and it is hard to ask for directions on the street without speaking any Korean. **Get a map.**
- **Cultural differences** can sometimes lead to small misunderstanding when the use of a direct 'no' is avoided. Avoid awkward situations by **reformulating yes-or-no questions** e.g., by asking "How can I get to this place?" instead of "Is this the right way to this place?". The locals will feel obligated to answer positively. Pick up the small signals and social cues when someone replies with yes, as there might be a "no-can-do" hidden between the lines.
- **Do not** embarrass your Korean acquaintance in public! In Asian cultures, shame is public instead of private, and shameful situations can result in "losing one's face" which is avoided at all costs.
- Generally, touching is not encouraged, especially in the public. Don't proceed to pat your Korean acquaintance on the back or hug them unless you're sure they're fine with it.
- Instead of individual portions, **all dishes are usually meant to be shared.** By learning how to use chopsticks and taste everything on the table, you will both learn how to not scuff down your food and show your taste buds a good time.
- There might be **more security controls** than you are used to in your home country, this doesn't mean Seoul is especially dangerous but that it tackles crime with preventive measures.
- Don't take all the guides too seriously and go meet the local people without fearing of doing something wrong! Humbleness, respect, and sense of humor will bring you further than any guide on Earth.

# 7 MAKING YOUR WAY HOME FROM THE AIRPORT

There are several different ways to travel from Incheon International Airport to the Korean Language Center. The most popular ways include taking the Airport Railroad Express (AREX), and taxis.

## TAXI

The easiest way to get to your accommodation after a long flight is to take a taxi. Navigating through the public transportation system, especially the metro, is challenging when you have a lot of luggage and you're not yet familiar with the city. Most taxi drivers do not speak English or any other foreign languages, so be sure to have the name and address of your destination written in Korean to show your taxi driver. Avoid any unofficial looking taxis and make sure the meter is turned on only after you get in. Please note that taxi is also the most expensive option and the fare to Seoul can range from 50 000 to 60 000 won.

## THE AIRPORT RAILROAD EXPRESS (AREX)

AREX trains operate between Incheon International Airport and Seoul Station. There are two types of trains - an All Stops train (Metropolitan Subway) and an express/non-stop train. All Stops train takes about 56 minutes and express train 43 minutes. To take the AREX trains from Incheon International Airport, follow the yellow signs down to the Airport Transportation Center on the B1 level. Tickets can be purchased from the ticket

machines near the entrance to the AREX platform or from the service counters.

If you choose to take the All stops train, you can also use your T-money card. T-money cards can be purchased in all convenience stores at Incheon International Airport (GS 25, CU, 7-Eleven, Mini Stop, With Me, Buy The Way, Story Way) bearing the T-money logo. You can load about 20 000 won to cover the journey to Seoul Station and the first journeys in Seoul. For the card they charge about 3000 won. T money card can be reloaded at all subway stations and convenient stores.



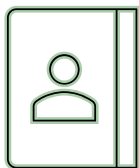
## 8 CONTACTS

To meet the growing needs of international students, the Language School Campus has established a team to provide programs which foster interactions between other international students who wants to study Korean Language Program, to facilitate international students' integration to Korean Language experience, and to sponsor programs and activities centered around the internationally diverse faculty and students which lead to enhanced multicultural awareness among all.

The Language School Campus provides students with a variety of services and administrative support:

- Operates an Information Desk, providing immediate answers to international students' questions regarding immigration tasks, class registration procedures, and daily life in Korea.
- Provides academic advice and counseling to international students on a range of issues related to living in Korea.

Your primary contact at The Language School Campus is:



SHIN SUNG (MR.)

Manager, Korean Language, Culture and, Business Program

salt\_ss@globalenskr.com

+ 82 10 2888 5465

Useful Websites: <http://www.globalenskr.com/>

## 9 STUDIES

### 9.1 GENERAL INFORMATION ON STUDYING IN KOREA

Especially in Asian cultures, young people are expected to show respect towards older people. Lecturers are very high-profile people in South Korea and the students are expected to respect them.

You might be used to challenging your professors on lectures, but you should be careful with this in a new culture. **Present your ideas and opinions but please do this with respect.**



Try to avoid being even a little late for your lectures and **don't call your lecturers by their first names**, they will usually tell you how they should be addressed. **Korean teaching methods are probably different from what you are used to.**

Be active and participate in the classroom!

Besides actively taking part in the lectures and performing well in exams, different workshops and group assignments will affect your grades.

Asia Exchange students come from many different academic backgrounds so the content of certain courses may be more familiar to some students than to others.

Respect the lecturers and try to understand and tolerate differences. Going to school or any language centers will help you form daily routines which make it easier to dig deeper in the local culture and the Korean way of life. **Take part in workshops and study visits. Try to get to know local students**, not just other international students. Be an example to other students.



### OUR FORMER STUDENT GIVES YOU THESE TIPS FOR BOTH IN- AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM:

“

*"Don't resist anything while you are abroad or think that your culture's way of doing things is better than the Asian way. As Bob Dylan so eloquently sang, 'Don't criticize what you can't understand.'"*

*"Study hard, learn as much as you can both culturally and academically, but always remember to make time for putting that cultural knowledge to use. Study, travel, grow and live in the moment. Nothing could be more important than all of these."*

*"Embrace those things that are uncomfortable, those things that don't make sense, those things that are frustrating. Those are the things that will teach you the most."*

## 9.2 COURSES AND CLASS SCHEDULES

The Korean Language, Culture, and Business Immersion Program consist of two major study elements.

### 1. STUDY THE KOREAN LANGUAGE IN THE HEART OF SEOUL.

During your ten-week-long visit to Seoul, you will join beginner-level Korean Language courses specially designed and developed for Asia Exchange students.

To complete this course, you will attend 80 hours of classroom lectures. Courses are taught for ten weeks, four days per week and 2 hours per day.

The program is supplemented by the textbook of the Seoul National University, the best university in Korea and currently ranked 29th best university in the world (QS Ranking)  
The curriculum of the Korean Language Course

### 2. ATTEND 1 – 6 ECAMPUS COURSES DURING YOUR SEMESTER IN SEOUL.

In addition to the Korean Language Course, you can join up to 6 eCampus courses. All courses are taught in English and are worth 5 ECTS. Furthermore, the distance learning lectures are conducted independently of time and location by professors and business experts worldwide.

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#### Economics

- Economic Development and Growth Challenges ([Syllabus](#))
- International Trade, Finance and monetary Systems ([Syllabus](#))
- Operations Management in the 21st century ([Syllabus](#))
- Human Capital Management ([Syllabus](#))
- Supply Chain Management and digitalization ([Syllabus](#))

#### Marketing

- Advertising and Creativity in Consumer Societies ([Syllabus](#))
- Branding Strategies and Reputation Building ([Syllabus](#))
- Digital Marketing ([Syllabus](#))
- Public Relations ([Syllabus](#))
- Visual Storytelling ([Syllabus](#))

#### Politics

- International Political Economics ([Syllabus](#))
- Public Affairs and Non-market Strategies ([Syllabus](#))
- Global Governance and International Organizations ([Syllabus](#))
- Public Opinion and Political Communications ([Syllabus](#))
- Climate Change and Environmental Politics ([Syllabus](#))

## Social Sciences

- Building Powerful Relationships ([Syllabus](#))
- Aid Development Social Entrepreneurship ([Syllabus](#))
- Consumer behavior and Decision Making ([Syllabus](#))
- Consumer Societies ([Syllabus](#))
- Human Rights ([Syllabus](#))

## HOW DO THE LECTURES WORK?

The distance learning courses at the eCampus are hosted via Claned, an innovative distant learning platform from Finland, a country with the #1 education worldwide. You will have access to your individualized course boards in a highly engaging setup. It is the perfect tool for studying remotely as the eCampus enables social learning with interactive study material. In addition, you will receive progress reports and study behavior analytics.

After completing your eCampus courses, you will receive an academic transcript issued by Undiknas University. Additionally, you will receive a participation certificate for each completed distance learning course.

## 9.3 ATTENDANCE

As in most universities all over the world, you are **required to attend classes in Korea**. If you know that you will be absent from a class, **you should let your lecturer know**. We recommend you to always attend classes.



If you miss more than three classes, you can be **issued a failing grade** by the professor. You will have enough time for other activities after the classes.

## 9.4 OTHER STUDENTS AND INTERNATIONALIZATION



We are working on making the study programs as international as possible together with the host Language School Campus. All nationalities are welcome to apply for a study abroad semester through Asia Exchange.

The international students who have been there for longer than you have good knowledge of daily life and studying on campus, and we recommend being in contact with them in Seoul.

It's mainly down to you how much you will interact with different nationalities. AE encourages you to **get to know students from different countries as well as local students** who will help you get more insights in the local culture and customs.



## 9.5 INFORMATION ON TUITION FEES IN LANGUAGE KOREAN CAMPUS

We are working on making the study programs as international as possible together with the host Language School Campus. All nationalities are welcome to apply for a study abroad semester through Asia Exchange.

### KOREAN LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND BUSINESS IMMERSION PROGRAM TUITION FEE

Tuition fee: 1,990€/ semester

Application fee: 75 EUR.

See [what's included in the fees](#).

Many of our students apply for national student funding such as **PROMOS**, **BAföG**, or **CSN**.

Are you from outside of Europe? [Find out more about the fees](#).

### BENEFITS WHEN APPLYING VIA ASIA EXCHANGE

Confirmation as quickly as in one day.

- Asia Exchange Guide with lots of information about studies, visas, accommodation, and other tips
- Orientation days and organized activities/events.

No English proficiency test required.

# 10 MONEY

As a guideline, you will need enough budget to pay for accommodation, food, transport, books, clothing, health services, entertainment, etc. but this can vary according to individual circumstances. A room in a shared house/accommodation, not including food, can cost between KRW 350,000 and KRW 450,000 per month.

## 10.1 CASH, WITHDRAWING MONEY, AND CREDIT CARDS

Paying by credit card is usually **only possible in bigger shops and department stores**, so you should always have cash in hand as well. There is a bank that operates foreign exchanges on campus, but you should also exchange some money at home before leaving for Korea to be able to cover the first expenses. Also, the payment method in South Korea is very easy. You can pay by card everywhere.

## 10.2 BARGAINING



Although bargaining in Korea is **not as prevalent as it used to be and perhaps less common nowadays than in South-East Asia**, for example, the habit is not completely gone. Bargaining might not be effective when the price is already low (e.g., 10,000 KRW for a t-shirt), but it's definitely worth going for a lower price when purchasing multiple items or something more expensive.

**Don't take bargaining too seriously.** You will get the best price with a sense of humor and a few words of Korean, as well as by knowing the prices (for example, in thousands: 1000 – 100,000).

We recommend you start communicating in Korean as soon as possible. Already a few words show respect towards the locals and their culture. People will give you better service and lower prices for sure. Bargaining can be a pleasant experience for you and for the seller.

# 11 PHONE CALLS AND CELL PHONE SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you want to use a cell phone in Korea, you should plan on spending at least KRW 50,000 for that. You can also buy a local sim card with internet package in the airport upon arrival or any convenient stores.

## KAKAOTALK

is useful messaging app for your phone in Korea. Approximately 93% of Koreans use it and instead of asking for your phone number, most of your new Korean friends will ask for your Kakaotalk Id. You can use it to send messages, make group chats, and have video calls.



## INTERNET

If you already own a laptop, you will probably find it convenient to bring it, but if not, you can use one of the computer labs on campus.

There are many available on campus and of course, they are free, and all are equipped with high-speed broadband service.



## 1.11 EMERGENCY NUMBERS



Fire, Emergency and Ambulance  
Police

Medical Emergency (aimed at foreigners in Seoul)  
Tourism and Translation Service

Coast Guard

International Emergency Rescue

Tel: 119

Tel: 112

Tel: 1339

Tel: 1330

Tel: 122

Tel: 02 790 7561

# 12 INSURANCE

Every international student is required to make sure that their insurance policies are in order before going abroad. Make sure your insurance is valid during the entire semester! This will most likely save you money.

Most travel insurances are only **valid up to three months at a time** so you should **consult your insurance company about longer stays abroad**. Normally, you pay a little extra for prolonging the insurance.

Most of the time, you will pay the treatment yourself and charge it from your insurance company afterwards. Also **check the cancellation policy from the airline** you're flying with in case of falling ill. Once again, check AE website for more information.

Asia Exchange recommends two travel insurance providers: STAY Travel Insurance of HanseMerkur and Worldnomads.

**HanseMerkur** is one of the biggest insurance companies in Germany. Their products are not limited to Germans, however, but can be booked by everyone everywhere at an equal

price. Their insurances are suitable for all types of shorter and longer stays abroad, whether studying, interning, working, or traveling. All kinds of extreme sports are covered as well. The insurance is flexible and can be always extended from abroad in case you decide to stay longer. The health insurance of HanseMerkur is the most affordable insurance of its kind and only available via Asia Exchange. Find all terms and conditions as well as fees and benefits on **our website**. There you will also find information on other products such as flight cancellation and luggage insurances.

**Worldnomads** is a qualified global travel insurance provider, with coverage for extreme sports and other adventurous activities. You can get an insurance from Worldnomads even if you are already travelling. Click **here** to learn more.



## 12.1 INSURANCE

Exchange students are responsible for the cost of treatment during their stay here in Korea should any medical emergencies arise. You must, therefore, **have medical insurance coverage as a requirement**, and verify that the insurance policy you carry **covers hospitalization and medical care occurring during international travel and sojourns, as well as repatriation to your home country in case of a serious medical emergency.**

We were notified that all incoming visiting/exchange and visiting students staying in Korea need to acquire National Health Insurance when in Korea due to altered government policies. As this is normally an expensive option, the Language Center Campus recommends you check whether **your insurance provider in your home country has insurance plans equivalent**

**to the National Health Insurance in Korea** to substitute the NHI for insurance from your home country.

**If you are going to be staying in Korea for one to six months**, you can apply for an exemption to NHIC insurance if you have private insurance purchased to cover your exchange period PRIOR to entering Korea.

If you are going to be staying in Korea for 6-12 months, you will need to subscribe to Korea's National Health Insurance.

Please be advised that even if you submit an application for exemption to the NHIC, it may not be approved! You should budget money for having to pay the NHIC premium as a part of your exchange costs just in case.

## 12.2 VACCINATIONS

Make sure that your **vaccinations are up to date before leaving your home country.** In addition to the basic **vaccinations (MMR and diphtheria-tetanus)**, travelers are often advised to **get vaccinated against Hepatitis A and B.** Other vaccinations are optional and depend on the final destination, the length of the stay and other possible travel destinations.

Vaccination matters always depend on the individual, so remember **to consult your physician about the essential ones and ask also about other health issues** that might be on your mind. It may be hard to find straightforward instructions on vaccination issues. Inform your doctor on your upcoming travels and if you plan to spend extensive amount of time in the countryside because it might have an effect on which vaccinations are needed.

## 13 SEOUL IN BRIEF

Seoul is one of Asia's most modern and developed cities. It's the flagship city of an Asian Tiger, i.e., a miracle in economic development. It's sparkly, clean, and beautiful, divided by the gorgeous Han River and enveloped by mountains. In contrast to the downtown high rises, there are multiple UNESCO world heritage areas with ancient temples, palaces, and courtyards for you to explore.

Even though Seoul is a vast capital city, it embraces its new residents quickly and warmly. Getting around is fast and easy when you get used to the metro map and identifying the stations. Koreans are very polite and friendly and even though making closer acquaintances takes a while, once you have it, the generosity and loyalty bestowed upon a new friend is everlasting.

Seoul offers excellent shopping opportunities from luxurious shopping malls and department houses to underground shopping markets with hundreds of stalls filled with quality finds for next to nothing (when you bargain a bit).

Another favorite past time in Seoul, or the favorite past time, is eating. There are innumerable eating opportunities, and you will find your own Korean favorites quickly. The best things about eating in Korea: it's cheap, healthy, and delicious!

Even though Seoul is a huge bustling metropolis, the nature is also close by. Countless mountains surround Seoul and with metro and train many hiking possibilities are just an hour or two away.

What makes Seoul unique as well, is the history of the Korean peninsula. With the border to North Korea only a drive away, the past has never been put to rest in Korea. The country is very safe in general, as is Seoul, but the contrast between the capitalist south, with all that it has become in half a century, to the communist north, is ever startling.



## 14 TRANSPORTATION IN SEOUL

Getting used to how big Seoul is takes a while so **buying an up-to-date map and doing some homework before jumping on any vehicle is advisable**. Seoul has an **excellent public transportation system, and it is cheap**; so are the taxis for shorter distances. Rush hour is also something you need to calculate in when estimating your travel time. **The rush hour lasts from about 7.30-9.00 in the morning and from about 4.45 to 6.30 in the evening**. The metro is always very crowded, regardless of the hour.



T-money card: Bus, subway, taxi and train fares can be paid using this rechargeable touch-and-go card. It gives you a 100 won discount per trip and it can also be used to transfer between the subway and a bus. The card can be purchased for about 3000 won from any convenient store bearing the T-money logo (GS 25, CU, 7-Eleven, Mini Stop, With Me, Buy The Way, Story Way) and ticket vending and card reload devices inside subway stations. You will probably need a minimum of about 50,000 Won per month for transportation costs, depending on how often you leave the campus.

There are variety of apps to help you navigate the public transportation in Seoul. One easy and simple app is the Google's own **Google maps app** which will tell you which bus or metro line to take to reach your destination. Another good one is **Subway Korea by Malang Studio** which will give you more comprehensive information about the subway but can also be bit more complex to use. Pick your favorite!

## 15 TRAVELLING



Seoul and the Incheon International airport is an excellent location for exploring Asia at large. We recommend you plan **longer trips to take place either before or at the end of the semester**, though, to not miss any classes.

Furthermore, South Korea has excellent vacation spots from luxurious islands resorts to mountains and ski lodges, so travelling within South Korea will keep you plenty busy during the semester.

As a student it is easy to get cheap flight tickets in Asia. Asia Exchange recommends **STA Travel**, an agency offering flights tailored to our study abroad programs and with special benefits for our students. It is also easy to change your flight dates in case you decide to stay longer and travel after your semester abroad. Many former AE students have booked their flights via STA Travel and were very happy with their flexibility. Get a flight offer free of charge by filling out this **contact form** or get more

## 16 NETWORKING AND INFORMATION

### USEFUL WEBSITES:

- Seoul Global Center
- Hi, Seoul, Soul of Asia
- Official travel Guide to Seoul
- Living in Seoul
- Korea Net, Gateway to Korea
- Korea Sparkling, Korea Tourism Organization
- Korea for Expats
- Korea's leading English magazine



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If you haven't yet liked our page or become friends with us, do it now, catch the latest news and network with other students! Please also join the Facebook group of your own program and semester. You can look for a roommate or share information on flights if you wish to. The group is international, so please be considerate of other group members and use English to post.





# 17 TIPS FROM ASIA EXCHANGE STUDENTS

*Niklas studied at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in South Korea as an exchange student in 2015. This is his letter to his past self.*

First, I want to congratulate you for making the choice of going to study abroad. I know you never really doubted that step, quite the contrary, you were really eager about doing this. Yet, retrospectively, it turned out even more thrilling than you probably expect right now – and you expect a lot, don't you?

So before you start your exchange, let me give you a little insight on what you are about to experience in Korea, your chosen destination. I don't want to spoil the adventure by telling you everything in detail before you get to discover it yourself, but I think a little glimpse would be beneficial..

I'm going to start with the most important topic when it comes to an exchange semester: fun: Bot the regular and exchange students at HUFS know how to have a good time and the top-notch campus, as well as the incredible city of Seoul, offer plenty of opportunities to live it up. Day trips to amusement parks and nights out to vibrant hotspots of this party city. Super tasty dinners in one of the countless eateries near the campus or strolling through some of the cozy and artsy neighborhoods of Seoul. Karaoke sessions until sunrise with your new international fiends. Chicken and beer at Han River with some live Korean Indie music. Uni festivals with world famous K-pop stars. You name it. There are so many ways to have a good time, the only thing you might be lacking is sleep.

And yeah, of course, there's also this other facet of and exchange: education. Let's not focus too much on stereotypes but Koreans are definitely more diligent than Europeans. Uni for them is more challenging, more competitive and eventually also more exhausting. But, being honest, as an exchange student you are only going to experience this passively. You will see students sleep in the library, yet you'll never have to do that yourself. Courses you can attend as an international are top quality and include a decent but fair workload. What's very exciting is that those classes are usually filled with many nationalities, which gives the opportunity for discussions and exchanges with a variety of perspectives that can hardly be found anywhere else. If you participate and open up, the classes at HUFS are super enriching both academically and personally.

As an exchange student, the time in Korea flies. The only thing that you'll never have anything to do with is boredom. You'll have enriching classes, days filled with stories as well as one of a kind Korean food and unforgettable nights, no matter if you spend them on campus or in the nightlife areas.

Before I let you experience all those excitements Korea offers you, I want to give you a piece of advice: if you want to travel, do it before or after the exchange. The weekends in Korea are just too precious to miss out on and one semester can be fairly short. In the summer, I definitely recommend you to visit Busan and Jeju. Other than that, you shouldn't miss out hopping over to Japan and giving Tokyo and Kyoto a visit.

Two last things, I want you to keep in mind: Firstly, don't only stay in the exchange student bubble. It's easier to just stay with other internationals but Koreans are such wonderful people that you will regret it big time if you haven't made real Korean friends. Secondly, be proactive towards Koreans. Most tend to be a bit shy when it comes to the first steps, but they open up their hearts in an incredible manner once you have shown honest and sincere interest.

For now, that should be enough. I wish you a great time and I am very envious you get to start your exchange now. Stay Safe!

*Niklas*



## TIPS FROM ASIA EXCHANGE STUDENTS

*"Be open-minded towards the teaching methods in the university. Understand that you're not in your home country and the teaching is obviously not the same. Appreciate the work that the teachers are doing for the students. Give them feedback, they are looking for it. Try to take part in every action in the school and outside of it."*

*"Don't bring too much stuff from your home country; you will be shopping!"*

*"Take the most out of Seoul! Explore and get to know people, you are going to have an amazing time! Oh, and keep a journal!"*

*"Read AE's web site and info, it helps a lot! And as soon as you learn some Korean, try to use it when speaking to locals."*

*"Be open minded everywhere and you will get friends for life! :D Try different things like restaurants and places."*

*"Enjoy and have fun! Live your life up to 100%!!! Your exchange is one of the best times in your life, so try to see, do and experience as much as possible. Talk with the locals, and party with your new friends."*

*"Go abroad with an open mind because it's a fact that you will be confronted with things that differ from what you've used to. Try to learn from these new experiences and do not focus on just the negative things. That way you'll get a lot more out of your time in lovely Asia. "*





# 18 CONCLUSION

Even though Seoul is well-known for its shopping, partying and good food, this study abroad experience is not a pure holiday. All kinds of hassle and little misfortunes are part of the experience of being an exchange student. You must also remember the requirements set by the school. You will have a lot of time for other activities after the lectures and during long.

Living in Korea and in Asia is generally different from Western lifestyles. Please do understand this.

Remember: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do" and your attitude will help you through the biggest culture shock.

Difficulties in organizing the littlest things might feel stressful from time to time. More than likely, though, what you'll remember is the amazing overall experience of the exchange semester that some people say to be the best time of their life. We are grateful to be able to make it possible for you.

Enjoyable exchange experiences,

**Your Asia Exchange Team**



# ANNEX 1: ASIA EXCHANGE – STUDY ABROAD COMPANY

Asia Exchange (AE) offers opportunities for participating in academic study abroad semesters at internationally accredited Asian universities. AE's focus is in supporting student mobility, increasing general knowledge on Asia and alleviating the administrative work for home and host universities as well as the students.

## STUDY ABROAD IN ASIA

The bilateral agreements and other networks between partner universities in different countries are the backbone of student mobility. And yet, services that complement this exchange are needed all over the world.

Asia Exchange offers students the opportunity to study abroad in carefully

selected Asian universities. Our mission is to encourage students to go global through a channel that best suits their individual needs.

## EMPHASIS ON ASIA AND INTERNATIONALIZATION

The growing importance of Asia in our global world is a fact. Study abroad semesters in regions that are only going to grow in importance in the future are investments both in the students' and their respective home countries' futures. Asian universities are putting more and more emphasis in study programs taught in English to both enrich their curricula and better accommodate the international students and integrate them with their own students.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

DEAR STUDENT CONSIDERING ASIA,

Besides interesting studies and beautiful environment, a semester abroad in Asia offers life-long memories. After returning to your own country you will see things differently and take the spirit of Asia with you further to your life. Asia's importance in the world is constantly increasing. The overall experience of the study abroad semester will definitely be beneficial for you also in the future. Knowledge on Asia is a priceless asset in the competitive work environment of the globalized world.

Enjoy your time at home and live in the moment when you are abroad!

Sincerely,



Co-Founder and CEO at Asia Exchange



STUDY ABROAD PROVIDER





"All the greatest experiences in my life are linked to Asia. That's why I also encourage other people to grab onto their life-changing opportunities. Seek your passions, follow your dreams, and believe in yourself. Be active, work hard and remember to enjoy the everyday things in life. Put in use what you learn, and everything is possible!"

HARRI SUOMINEN  
President and CEO at Asia Exchange

## OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT IN ASIA

Asia is an inviting environment for experiencing different cultures and gives students the chance to learn about the world's fastest growing economies. Studying in Asia is likely to be an enlightening experience, the world outside the lecture halls also playing its part in building an understanding of different cultures. Asia offers a multitude of employment opportunities. Having studied or interned there can give one an edge when entering the workforce, whether it is in Asia or somewhere else.

The tuition fees in Asia are reasonable. Even still, the home universities play a key role in supporting every student interested in going abroad and helping the student find a host university that suits their individual needs. Students gaining experience of destinations which will continue to have a culturally, politically and economically significant role in the future is mutually beneficial for all parties.

## THE CHALLENGES IN STUDENT MOBILITY

Despite the increased internationalisation of students, not everyone is able to find a suitable study abroad destination through their own university.

And sometimes they are simply left outside the placement quotas. Still interested in studying abroad, these 'free mover' students usually must go through a difficult, expensive, and time-consuming process to ensure a potential host university can accommodate them for a semester, as well as provide them

with courses and credits that can be transferred to their home universities. The students also must find out about travelling, insurances, vaccinations, scholarships, visas etc. on their own.

Asia Exchange's purpose is to fill in the information gap and act as a bridge between the students and the foreign host universities. The AE staff advises on academic and practical matters, thus reducing the administrative workload for all parties involved. By 2016, over 3000 students from more than 200 universities from all over the world will already have participated in study abroad semesters with the help of Asia Exchange.

## THE CONCEPT OF ASIA EXCHANGE

Asia Exchange was founded in 2007 in Finland. It is a dynamic study abroad organization that stresses the importance of encouraging students to become more international and gain experiences and knowledge of the industry and culture in Asia's growing economies.

The courses at the host universities are held in English by lecturers who often have an international background and the studies often include workshops and visits to local businesses. Asia Exchange also invites charity organizations, businesspeople, and ambassadors to come meet with the exchange students. The most distinguished students are awarded AE scholarships after the exchange.

On top of offering study abroad semesters, AE also offers the possibility to apply for studying a whole degree in Asia.



"Study abroad semesters have enabled so many unbelievably things in my career and personal life. Everyone should study abroad at least once. The only thing that I regret is that I didn't go on a study abroad semester for a third time. Asia is the number one destination of this century."

TUOMAS KAUPPINEN  
Vice-President and Chairman at Asia Exchange

## FOR WHOM IS ASIA EXCHANGE INTENDED?

Asia Exchange is ideal for students interested in Asia, but who are not able to find suitable study abroad options via their own universities or are left outside the placement quotas. While most of the participants are students of business, technology, social sciences, law, arts or tourism, students from other fields of study also take part and are given the opportunity to take interesting minor study courses in an international environment.

Studying abroad in Asia combines academics, exotic and warm environment, affordable price level, metropolises, world's fastest growing economies, friendly people and diverse cultures. In Asia students can get hold of opportunities that can translate into Life Changing Experiences.

## THE SERVICES OF ASIA EXCHANGE

The students receive a study abroad placement as well as AE's services and information on the host universities and cities. AE gives advice on all practical arrangements and takes care of the mailing of applications, acceptance letters, transcript credits and the invoicing of tuition fees.

"We've heard great things about Asia Exchange, particularly about the programs in Indonesia and Thailand."

ANDY WILCOX  
Business Associate, The Harvard Advocate  
Harvard University

However, Asia Exchange is not a travel agency; students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements, all a part of the study abroad experience. Asia Exchange focuses on tackling the logistic, information and quality gaps sometimes associated with free mover exchange semesters.

## CREDIT TRANSFERS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The decisions about scholarships and transferring credits are made by the home universities. AE encourages students to plan their studies carefully and to include the course syllabi, available on the AE website, in their study plans to help their home universities make decisions about transferring credits. The services offered by AE, as well as its role as a representative for Asian universities, most often decrease the administrative duties of the home universities.

## CHARITY

Charity work is also an important part of Asia Exchange. Charity projects help deepen exchange students' understanding of their chosen destination. AE donates a part of the tuition fees to organisations that support education and children in our host university countries. In Indonesia and Thailand, Asia Exchange works with orphanages that the exchange students can also visit.

To find out more about Asia Exchange, please visit us at [www.asiaexchange.org](http://www.asiaexchange.org)