



BERICHTSFORMULAR

Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2020/2021

BewerbungsID 5152

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 066/864 Studienrichtung Masterstudium Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft Ostasiens

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: Yonsei University - (Südkorea)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: SS 2021

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 02.03.2021 **Aufenthaltsende:** 26.06.2021

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 2.000,00
	Rückforderung: nein Rückgeforderter Betrag: € Rückforderungsgrund:
	Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe): Weitere Stipendien: Nein • Stipendium des Gastlandes: nein () • Bundesländerstipendium: nein • Studienbeihilfe: nein • Sonstiges Stipendium:
Summe weiterer Stipendien:	€ 0,00
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien:	€ 2.100,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 1.700,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Studierendenwohnheim
Reisekosten:	€ 1.000,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 1.500,00
Studienkosten:	€ 60,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 100,00
Visakosten:	€ 50,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 4.410,00

Bericht veröffentlichen: ☒



PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT

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Verfassen Sie bitte einen persönlichen Bericht über den Studienaufenthalt

Mindestumfang: Fließtext 1 Seite DinA4

Inhalt: Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft, etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.

BERICHT ÜBER DEN STUDIENAUFENTHALT

One of the biggest challenges of this exchange was the great uncertainty of whether we can even go study abroad during the exchange semester. We have received the final decision from the University of Vienna to let us go for this exchange merely 10 days before the date when we were supposed to arrive in Korea in order to start our 14 days quarantine there.

Quarantining also pulled significant time and financial resources, that otherwise could have been used for studying or experiencing life in Korea: besides renting the accommodation, we also had to order food delivery at least once a day. At the same time, 2 weeks quarantine wasn't that bad, it gave me some time to fight the jetlag, adapt to the new climate, language and university rules: I have downloaded and figured out all the local delivery and online shopping apps, local maps, as well as got to know the University course registration and study materials publication platforms. I also had time to finish my written assignments and semester papers for the WS2020 at the University of Vienna^^

Most of other difficulties we faced also had to do with the COVID situation in the country. Classes were overwhelmingly thought online, because of the 4-people rule it was not possible to meet more than 3 friends at a time and all the bars and cafes had to close at 10 pm – but there are minor issues compared to the full lockdowns in Europe. Many students, me included, during the whole semester couldn't get access to the Korean QR-code system that was used for the contact tracing, so we had to write our full contact data upon every entry to any building in the country, which was very inconvenient (it seems that iPhone users could easier set up the QR codes).

I was very satisfied with the courses offering and teaching at Yonsei University. We used Zoom for online meetings, and since everyone had to turn on the cameras and the connection quality was good, it felt almost like the real-time class experience. Courses I took, including the Intensive Korean and Chinese Domestic Politics seminar, were demanding, but also interesting and doable. Since the classes were online, sometimes it was possible to go explore Seoul or other parts of Korea during the day and take a class online from the coffee shops in the evening.



Korean language exams were very challenging, those taking Intensive language courses had to take 5-6 exams within a few days, for each aspect of the language: reading, listening, writing and grammar, speaking, telling a 3 min story, ect. I was, however, lucky to have professional and empathetic teachers, who spoke good English, explained the material well and managed to prepare us for the exams so that we all passed it in our group. For the two seminars that I was taking, both midterm and final exams constituted of short paper writing, and after writing 10,000 words term papers for each seminar at the EcoS program at my home university, I was very well prepared to writing academic papers in English and managed the tasks well, getting the best grades.

In Korea I stayed at the international student dormitory on campus. There are two dormitories for international students, and I stayed at the newer “SK Global House” and really loved it. It is quite new, has a free gym, located in the vicinity of numerous bus routes and in 15 min walk to the Main Library, Cafeteria and most study halls. Another great plus of staying at the dormitory is how easy it makes to find new friends at the new country. Since everyone living there is a foreign student, all are really open to meet new people, eat out and study together. Kitchen is on every floor, toilets in the room. I shared a room with another student from the UK who was studying moviemaking and we got along very well (a tip a harmonious life with a roommate: go out and get to know each other as soon as you move in together and keep going out once in a couple of weeks at least, to have a chance to talk and exchange ideas, maintain a friendly atmosphere). The only annoying thing were the dormitory rules limiting the communication between “boys” and “girls”: we lived on different floors and couldn’t always even visit each other’s floors, and it was completely prohibited to enter rooms of the people of other genders.

The Campus itself is very green (which is a rare luxury for Seoul, unfortunately), and is located very close to the city center. Everything a student can possibly need is on campus or in Sinchon and Hongdae districts just near the campus, including hundreds of eating out places, bars, pool and bowling halls, shops of all kinds and coffeeshops, bellowed by all students for studying. The library with thousands of work seats open every day all day long is just a heaven for studying! It’s very beautiful and functional inside, has a rooftop coffeeshop and a viewpoint, high-speed wifi and relaxation areas etc. Yonsei University online services offer access to immense number of articles and books in English, in fact, I was actively researching my Master thesis topic while studying in Korea and I can hardly ever remember occasions when I couldn’t find the sources I was searching for.

Studying abroad has opened so many opportunities for meeting new people from all around the world, and that was one of the best takeaways from the exchange. I have met such wonderful people with which I am sure that I will stay in touch for many years to come, and it is a real bonus from going to Korea for exchange. Another real bonus of the exchange was the possibility to experience real-life without a lockdown, eat out and spend time with friends, which has positively impacted my mental health after a year of lockdowns in Austria. I am extremely happy that in the end I could visit this beautiful country and study at one of Korea’s best universities – Yonsei University.