



BERICHTSFORMULAR

Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2019/2020

BewerbungsID 2592

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 033/671 Studienrichtung Bachelorstudium Koreanologie

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: Dongguk University - (Südkorea)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2019/2020

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 03.09.2019 **Aufenthaltsende:** 28.02.2020

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 2.100,00
	Rückforderung: nein Rückgeforderter Betrag: € Rückforderungsgrund:
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Ja <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipendium des Gastlandes: nein () • Bundesländerstipendium: nein • Studienbeihilfe: ja • <i>Sonstiges Stipendium:</i>
Summe weiterer Stipendien:	€ 2.781,00
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien:	€ 4.881,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 2.580,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Privatunterkunft
Reisekosten:	€ 1.200,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 3.000,00
Studienkosten:	€ 400,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 336,00
Visakosten:	€ 250,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 9.000,00

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

My trip to Korea was honestly one of the best experiences of my life. I am leaving this country with mostly good memories, and I hope to be able to come here again and stay longer this time.

First, I would like to talk about the school I went to during my exchange semester. Dongguk University is a Buddhist University (one of the only ones in the world) and I found it really interesting to meet monks and Buddhist students there. I actually had the chance to attend a class about esoteric Buddhism and it helped me discover this 'religion' that was so foreign to me but so obvious to most of the people here.

Besides from that, I attended a course about Korean society, and it was really interesting to see the impact of Confucianism on this country, even so many years later. The teacher was very understanding of foreign students and he would always ask about our opinion on the topic. At the end of each class, he kept the Korean students to answer all the questions they had regarding the course, if they did not understand since the class was held in English.

Thanks to the diversity of the courses offered at Dongguk, I also had the chance to attend a class called "understanding crime information" from the Police Department of the university which has a very great reputation. Through this class, I learned more about the way crime is being dealt with in Korea, and it is not something I thought I would be able to learn about when I first arrived.

Finally, I attended Korean Language class (4 hours a day, 5 times a week) and the university allowed us to only pay 10% of the program, which is very generous of them since the program itself is about 1300€ for 3 months. The way of teaching of their teachers is truly one of the best I have ever witnessed, and I saw myself improve drastically since I started language classes here. Overall, the university welcomed me like one of their own student and I always felt like I belonged there. All of my questions were answered very quickly, and the exams were very coherent with what the teachers prepared us for them.

I have to admit that when I first arrived in Korea, I wanted to befriend a lot of Korean people in order to learn Korean better and be immersed in the culture. However, I discovered through this exchange semester that the Korean mindset and culture still a little bit conservative, and it is harder than I thought to bond with them. Building a relationship with foreign students was actually easier since we were all experiencing the same things in this country so far and different from ours. I found that we could rely on each other and they were of great help. Korean people also helped me a lot, I did make friends here and I hope that we will keep a good relationship in



the future as well, but I personally found it harder to approach them mostly because of the language barrier.

Lastly, I will talk about my accommodation in Korea. Since I had never been in Asia before, I had no idea how to find a flat, who to trust and where to stay. I heard a lot about goshiwons and hasukjibs, but I could not decide on one before coming here. That is why I registered on a website called Borderlesshouse, which helped me a lot when I came here. They provided me with a shared room and answered all of my questions regarding Korea. My only problem was that I was sharing the flat with too many people and the rent was extremely high. Therefore, after a few months, I moved to another shared house in which another exchange student from the University of Vienna was already living. She found the flat on a website called thecomestay and it was cleaner, cheaper and closer to my school. The housekeeper was also very nice and helped me a lot throughout my stay.

I actually intended on staying longer in Korea in order to continue the language program at Dongguk University since their language center is one of the best, but my plans have been cancelled because of the Corona virus. It is a pity that I have to return to Europe so quickly.

This experience not only helped me grow as a person, but also taught me a lot about other cultures. Indeed, besides from discovering the Korean culture, I also discovered cultures from all over the world through other exchange students.

I recommend Dongguk University to anyone that wants to discover more about the Korean culture and Buddhism, and I would like to sincerely thank the Non-EU program from allowing me to experience this exchange in South Korea.