

**The University of Tokyo Study Abroad/Student Exchange Program Report Form
(for programs from a week to 3 months)**

Date: 9/15/2016

Faculty/Graduate School at UTokyo:	College of Arts and Sciences	Year at the time of Study Abroad	B3
Program Attended:	Yonsei International Summer School (YISS)	Host University:	Yonsei University
Occupation after graduation (intended):			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Research		
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Specialist (Medical • Judiciary • Accountant)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Civil Service		
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. NPO		
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Private sector (Type of industry:)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Entrepreneurship		
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Others ()		

Outline of the receiving institution overseas
Yonsei University is one of the top universities in South Korea. It is located at the center of Seoul, and is composed of both domestic and international students.
Reason why you decided to participate
I have been learning Korean since my freshman year, and I believed that the best way to master a language is to live at the country for a period of time. This program provides intensive Korean language classes as well as other classes in English, such as social psychology. I also wanted to have some different cultural experience at a different country.
Preparation for the program
(1) Application process (please give any advice on dealing with the application process)
I submitted information for internal screening, including a lot of paper work. However, since I was doing my half-a-year AIKOM exchange program in America, it was quite inconvenient for me submit the documents with signature on time. I think the application should be simplified if possible, submitted online.
(2) Visa application (type of visa, where to apply, processing time, any advice on visa application)
I applied for my Korean visa at the korean embassy. It took only a few days. I had to bring my certificate for admissions, photos, and application fees to the embassy. The inconvenience is that they only allow pick-up but not postal for passport return. Also, only foreigners have to pay for the visa application fees.
(3) Medical check-ups (health check-ups before departure, inoculations, etc.)
I got my medical check-up at the clinic on campus. I did not have extra vaccinations or check-ups except for the general annual check-up on campus. I submitted the results to the housing office. However, the result came really late: the check-up was in early June, the result came out after 2 weeks, which was one day before my departure. However, if I wanted to get an earlier result, I had to pay for it. I found that a little inconvenient.

(4) Insurance (information about insurance for travel/studying abroad purchased)
Regarding insurance, since this program is sponsored by school, we were obligated to be enrolled in the OSSMA and another compulsory insurance. It is always nice to do it beforehand, because it takes time for them to confirm the transduction. There would not be a big program as long as the applicant follows the instruction guideline.
(5) Procedures required by your Faculty/Graduate School (any information about course registration, credits, exams, submission of dissertations etc)
I had to submit the application to my faculty two weeks before the program started. I submitted my course plan, and made sure that I would not miss any exams or fail any mandatory classes during my stay.
(6) Language preparation (language level before the program, lessons etc.)
I took Korean classes every semester since first year. Having some basic knowledge about the language really helped to adjust to the local life as well as improving more.
(7) Items which should be taken with you from Japan and any other advice on things which should be done before leaving Japan.
Bring some food or miso soup packages, bring travel-size packages of shampoo and body wash that would help you survive the first few days before you adjust to the life. Get a credit card that would work in a foreign country.
Information on the academic/research program
(1) Outline of the program (Style of the lessons/preparation study/review study, thing which left an impression on you, etc.)
This summer program offers a wide range of courses in English. Most students would either take a korean class or do internship in korean. Besides the language part, students take courses in all fields, but no more than 3 classes in total. The program lasts for 6 weeks, and each class is conducted 4 days/week. Therefore, the intensiveness corresponds to the credits that actually amounts to the workload of a regular semester class. Other than classes, students make friends with others who come from all over the world, and they attend all different events on and off campus. It is a good balance of studying and culture experience.
(2) Advice on aspects of academic/research work
Since the courses are really intensive, students should be clear about their purpose of attending the program, whether it is for culture experience, working (internship) experience, language acquisition or general credits for general class and choose their courses wisely. Most classes are not too difficult, but consist of reports and examinations. For some classes, students are required to purchase textbooks. Some students rent textbooks online or brought them from their country.
(3) Problems experienced with language issues, advice concerning language, etc.
In Korea, not too many people speak fluent English. Therefore, if students really want to get the most out of the program, having some basic knowledge or experience in learning the language would be a plus. Since this is a new country, even if the student feels lonely, there is nothing to lose or be afraid of. It would be nice if the student try to speak the language without concerning about mistakes, and try his/her best to make local friends and to practice.

Aspects of life	
(1) Accommodation (Type (home-stay, room-sharing etc.), cost, atmosphere/appearance of accommodation, how you found it, etc.)	I stayed at the dorm with a roommate. The cost was around 70,000 yen for 6 weeks, and I think it is the cheapest among all on-campus options. Since the campus is at city center, the dorm is relatively convenient to go to anywhere in the city center. The room is really comfortable, but for the cheapest option, kitchen and shower room is shared among all students on the same floor.
(2) Living environment (such as climate, environment around the institution, transport facilities, food, managing your money (overseas money transfer, credit cards))	Summer in Seoul is pretty hot, but most indoor places are air-conditioned. The living environment is really nice and has anything that you need. However, the dorm is a 10-min walk from the school gate and the gate is another 10-minute walk from the station. Sometimes it takes a lot of energy and time to walk around these places. There is a bank on campus, so it is easy to transfer money or exchange currency.
(3) Aspects of risk and safety management (safety of local region, condition of medical facilities, any action taken in maintaining your mental and physical health, etc.)	Seoul and Tokyo are similar in a way. The local region around campus is safe, and there is a hospital affiliated with the university on campus, so there is not much to worry about. However, maybe bringing some general medicine and painkillers would help if you have a sudden headache and do not know what to say to people at the pharmacies.
(4) Details of expenses (breakdown of costs, such as airfare, program fees, cost of required books, rent, food, travel cost, money spent on entertainment)	I think the living cost in Seoul is lower than that in Tokyo. The airfare for roundtrip to Seoul cost around 30,000 yen. The program fees were covered by the university. The rent was around 70,000 yen. Food was a little cheaper than that in Japan. Textbooks were expensive, around 5000-6000 yen/ book. I spent some money travelling around, although I did not go too far, so it cost around 20,000 yen.
(5) Financial aid (if you were receiving financial aid/scholarships, please give the name of the source of the aid, amount, and how you found it, etc.)	I received scholarship from the alumni, it was shown on the program list. I received 280,000 yen in total for the program.
(6) Activities other than academic/research work (sports, cultural, volunteer/internship, weekend activities, etc.)	I met with a lot of my friends who live in Korea as well as new friends. I spent a lot of time with Korean students rather than American students. Although it was a short period of time, I went out to concerts, to traditional villages, restaurants and amusement parks with my friends during weekends and weekday nights.
Environment of the receiving institution	
(1) Support facilities for students taking part in the program (such as language, academic, living support mechanism and counseling services)	There are a lot of staff members, including local student staff for the program. Communicating with them in English is sufficient. However, it might be a bit hard when you try to set up a bank account or to make a short-term phone contract by yourself. There is 24-hour security for the dorms so everything is pretty safe and sound.

(2) Facilities (libraries, sports facilities, cafeteria, IT equipment and facilities, etc.)
Since Yonsei University is a private school, the facilities are great. The library opens 24 hours and there are a lot of cafeterias, cafes, restaurants on campus. Cafeteria provides healthy and cheap food while cafes such as starbucks usually have student discount when you pay with your student card. Wifi is available almost anywhere on campus, and even off campus. The school really has a nice study environment.
Looking back over the program
(1) The significance of the program and how you have developed by taking part in it, any other impression from having studied abroad
I improved my korean throughout the program and also enjoyed a very new cultural experience. Learning about the country's characteristic and its history in its territory is definitely eye-opening and exciting. Interacting with people from different background also provided me a nice opportunity to broaden my vision.
(2) Your plans having studied abroad
I will continuing learning Korean, and hopefully I can do a longer study abroad program in Korea during my masters program or work in different Asian countries in the future.
(3) Any messages or advice for future participants
Any experience abroad comes with the cost, such as sacrificing credits, classes and relaxing time in your comfortable zone. However, in the end, the different experience that you gain throughout the program, when you look back, would have a large impact on you in the future.
Miscellaneous
(1) Websites or publications which were useful while preparing for or during your time overseas
(Not specifically)
(2) Please submit any photographs which may be used on the University of Tokyo websites or publications.