



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	
Level:	X <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
Name degree programme:	Scheikunde

Destination city & country	Suwon, Zuid Korea
Name host institution	Sungkyunkwan University
Purpose of exchange	x <input type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	25/02/2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13/06/2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The first time I thought about going abroad for a semester was in my first year, so I had already begun looking for what opportunity's there were. The application process didn't take too much time, and the forms are not very hard to fill in. Just go for it if you want to, and don't be scared by the forms you need to fill in.

Counselling/support at Utrecht University:

With already a plan in mind I began the counselling, and they could answer all the questions I had. The support is okay.

Academic preparation:

Language preparation:

Since I chose for a University in Korea, I started learning Korean beforehand. I knew some basic sentences before going, and I would really recommend learning this before you go. If not, at least take some time to learn the alphabet. The alphabet is pretty simple, and knowing it will help you in case there are no signs in English.

Finances:

Didn't apply for a scholarship.

Study abroad period

Study programme (concerning content and organisational issues):



<p>Before the semester begins you have to sign up for courses online. I would recommend to be on time, because there are limited places for international students.</p> <p>I would also recommend to sign up for maybe more courses than you would like to follow, since for me and some others on the first day of class we were told that this course might after all not be in English, or that you could only follow the course if you had completed another course at Sungkyunkwan.</p> <p>But don't worry, during the first week of class you can still change your courses. You can just go to other classes you're interested in and ask the professor if you can join the course and let him sign the course application. At the end of the week you have to give the administration a course overview, and you'll be signed up for your new courses.</p>
<p>Academic quality of education:</p>
<p>Academic quality is okay. Please make sure before you start following a course that both the textbook and the classes will be fully in English. This is not always the case, even though online it says so.</p>
<p>Counselling/support at host institution:</p>
<p>There is an office for international students you can go to if you have questions and they will help you.</p>
<p>Transfer of credits:</p>
<p>Not done yet</p>
<p>Student life</p>
<p>Welcome/orientation programme:</p>
<p>I would definitely recommend going to the orientation day before the beginning of the semester. This orientation day is together with both the Seoul and Suwon campus. Not only is it a fun way to meet other internationals, you will also learn all of the important and fun stuff about Sungkyunkwan university</p>
<p>Accommodation:</p>
<p>I stayed at the dormitory on the Suwon campus, with the meal plan. I recommend, if you go for the dormitory, to also get the meal plan since there is no kitchen in the building. In this dormitory you get a place in a double room. This room has an own toilet and shower. On the floor is a microwave and hot water, but no other facilities to prepare your own meal. Your roommate will either be a Korean student or another international student. You can't assign this yourself and change is not possible. I would still recommend living in a dormitory if you want to experience how this is, and it is very convenient to be able to walk to class. Signing up for the dormitory was easy to do.</p> <p>If you don't sign up for the dormitory you could rent your own place around the campus. If you want to rent your own place I recommend to start searching as early as possible.</p>
<p>Leisure/culture:</p>
<p>The university has a lot of student clubs. On the Suwon campus some clubs were more open to international students than others. Just sign up for as many clubs as you can, and maybe some will be welcoming.</p> <p>Going out eating together is a very regular and common thing, and also the best way to meet new</p>



people and socialize. You should definitely try all the amazing kinds of food Korea has to offer. The culture is of course quite different, but if you have an open mind it will be a lot of fun!

Suggestions/tips:

No extra recommendations.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes I would recommend Sungkyunkwan University.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

No.

Can students contact you for additional info? If so, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Yes, via student mail is ok. Contact info available at IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	University of Utrecht
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
Name degree programme:	College of Pharmaceutical sciences

Destination city & country	Suwon, South Korea
Name host institution	Sungkyonkwan university
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15-08-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	25/01/2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Sign up via Utrecht, they will suggest you to SKKU if you get chosen, then wait for SKKU to confirm your acceptance

Counselling/support at Utrecht University:

Relatively minimal, no contact when you are abroad, during preparation you only contact them when you need papers from them

Academic preparation:

Nothing

Language preparation:

Courses are in English, with minimal Korean preparation required, do make yourself comfortable asking for directions when you first arrive in Korea.

Finances:

Think 600-1000 euro for tickets both ways, around 1600 USD for dormitory including one meal a day, add another 5-10 euros a day in terms of other meals and transport to and from campus. Make sure to get your public transport fee to replace your OV-card

Study abroad period

Study programme (concerning content and organisational issues):

You choose your courses about two weeks before they start, don't worry if you can't get much via the kind of poor online sign-up programme, most courses have plenty of dropouts and you can go



to the courses that you think are interesting and you will be able to enrol most of the time. More information on this will be explained in Korea in English, along with visual instructions (at the welcome ceremony)
Academic quality of education:
The English of the courses is not always as good, but generally it is sufficient. Education is good, at sufficient level to get points at all levels in UU
Counselling/support at host institution:
Minimal, mostly online, good doctor's office, and English support is available, but you'll have to ask for it, don't wait for them to come to you
Transfer of credits:
Easy enough, expect 3 credits in Korea to amount to 5 ECTS here in the Netherlands, so do 6 courses (18 credits-30 ECTS) which is also the maximum you can do in SKKU per semester
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
Welcome parties, plenty of other new foreigners, easy to make contact with people from both Suwon and Seoul departments of SKKU, try to meet new people, it will make your stay very enjoyable
Accommodation:
Dormitory or you can hire on your own, dormitory is relatively cheap but two in one room, dormitory itself looks good though, I suggest you go to the self-hired places, as you can stay and leave whenever you feel like it, dormitory has curfew
Leisure/culture:
Plenty of culture in Korea, they have literally everything you can wish for, try going to K-BBQ and karaoke first, they are so much fun
Suggestions/tips:
Try to travel, especially when you go to Suwon, you might get tired of the place relatively quickly as it's not incredibly big (size of Amsterdam, but more for living quarters, less sightseeing possibilities), so try to see Seoul as often as possible and get on a plane to Jeju-do, Japan or take a train to Busan
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes, if you like Korean culture, the food is great, the people are nice, and you will have a good time here
Do you have any additional advice or comments?
Consider going to Seoul department if you are big on going out, you can try to commute between places but that will be relatively hard
Can students contact you for additional info? If so, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)
Sure, there is a lot more to know. Contact info available at IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	
First name:	
Student number:	
Faculty/college:	Humanities
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
Name degree programme:	Liberal Arts & Sciences

Destination city & country	Seoul, Republic of Korea
Name host institution	Sungkyunkwan University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	24-08-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	24-12-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

South-Korea was not my first destination of choice but I am nevertheless very glad I ended up in Korea. I picked Korea because of two reasons. I did not want to go abroad in Europe because I already visited most European destinations and I wanted to go far away. Secondly, in comparison to the United States, Australia or Canada, most countries in Asia are a lot cheaper. Therefore, Korea is a good destination for studying abroad if you want to travel further away but don't want to end up with massive student debts. The application process itself it pretty easy but it can take a lot of time. Especially because you have to prepare a lot of documents. Also, getting a visa for Korea takes approximately two weeks, so if you travel to Korea you should definitely not take the preparation part of studying abroad too lightly.



Counselling/support at Utrecht University: The counseling support from the university was very decent. Before going abroad the university provides you with most of the information you need to know and the steps you have to take. While abroad there is not much contact with the university but I am sure they will help you if something goes wrong. At the Sungkyunkwan university everything is also prepared very well. They send you an pretty clear application form which you have to fill in online. At last, at the Sungkyunkwan university they have a international student desk. The people who work there are really helpful and their English good. So if you run into any trouble while at the University concerning for instance courses or grades they will be glad to help you.

Academic preparation:

I did no particular academic preparation before going abroad apart from all the courses I already taken in Utrecht. I had sufficient knowledge to follow all the courses of my choice. When you go to Korea it might be useful to study the Korean alphabet beforehand. This might help you orientate better when traveling around. Also, it is always useful to study a bit about the culture and or history of Korea.

Language preparation:

You should be able to talk and write in English. For instance, some courses will ask you to write an essay in English. The University does not ask that you speak excellent English. However, especially in social situation with other international students it is very useful if your level of English is pretty decent. Nevertheless, shouldn't you worry to much because your level of english increases a lot in the first few weeks of travelling abroad.

Finances:

As I stated South Korea is not too expensive compared to destinations such as the United States or Canada. However, still prepare to spend a lot of money. The Utrecht University said that studying in South Korea cost around €4000, but I think spend around €7000 in total including my flight ticket. Costs like eating and going on trips can easily add up to much more than you might plan on spending. Also, it is doable to spend not too much money, but since you are travelling abroad this is a perfect opportunity to explore South-Korea and surrounding countries, while never going on trips and stuff might harm your experience, so it's smart to safe some extra money. Also, concerning finances I would recommend getting a credit card. The Dutch debit card almost never works (not even in most ATM's), while you can use your credit card to even pay in the smaller convenience stores.

Study abroad period

Study programme (concerning content and organisational issues):

Choosing the right courses can be a tricky process but you can make it really easy and fun for yourself. At the Sungkyunkwan university you have to sign up for courses online as a part of the application process. However, since you also have to sign up for a specific department you can only choose courses from that department. Luckily you can switch every course in the first two weeks at



the university. This process can be a bit difficult because you have to enter classes and ask the teacher for permission to follow the course. For me this worked pretty well and I ended up with v

Academic quality of education:

The academic quality was quite below university level in the Netherlands. This is due to two factors. First, the courses are very repetitive. You are expected to read text and the lectures are all about repeating the text and explaining it to the last detail. Secondly, the courses are pretty easy compared to courses in the Netherlands. I would not recommend taking courses on topics you're familiar with because you will bore yourself to death. You should rather see this as an opportunity to explore some new areas of knowledge. For instance, I mostly study history but in Korea I also took courses on Korean politics and economics. Also, I would not recommend taking too many courses designed for international students. Sungkyunkwan has around 8 international courses. Some are pretty good like Politics of Korea but most of them are really badly organised and boring. Also, it is more fun to take some courses with Korean students because at school it is good opportunity to get in contact with Korean students. At last, you should not be fooled that the level of education will provide you with a lot of free time. The workload for most of the courses is still pretty high. It is easy to get grades but prepare to put some effort into it.

Counselling/support at host institution:

See above

Transfer of credits:

I took six courses at the Sungkyunkwan university. They were all transferred to 5 ECTS, so I ended up with 30 ECTS at the end of the semester which was pretty nice. Also, I got mostly A+ for the courses which were transferred to 9's. I got one A which was transferred to a 8.5.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme was very well organised. Every international student was assigned to a Korean buddy. Unfortunately my buddy couldn't make it. However, I just approached someone else and she offered to be my buddy for the semester and we ended up becoming very good friends over the semester. I would therefore advise just to get in contact with as much Korean persons as possible. They are very friendly and helpful.

Accommodation:

I stayed in the dormitory which was provided by the university. In the beginning, I was not looking forward to staying in the dormitory because you have to share your 1 bedroom with a roommate. But if you choose to go to Korea I would absolutely recommend staying in the dormitory. The dorms are clean and well organised but there are several other reasons why I would recommend the dorms over finding a place yourself. First, having a shared room is not as bad as it sounds. My roommate was actually a very nice guy and we became friends very quickly. Also, most of the times you're out anyways so you only see each other when you go to sleep. I got used to having a roommate pretty quick. Secondly, the dormitory is in a very nice location. Most people get dorms next to the university but ours was 1 metro stop away. The dormitory was located in a very nice neighbourhood. 4 months in South Korea was not enough to explore every restaurant or bar or



other cool place. If you want to find a room yourself. Most students who I know did ended up a lot further away from the university in a smaller and more expensive place. Lastly, the biggest reason why I would recommend the dormitory over renting a solo apartment is the social aspect of the dormitory. I found that people in the dormitory were all very nice and since almost everyone stays in the dormitory so if you want to make friends it is the quickest and best option. Most people who did not stay in the dormitory found it very hard to get as much in contact with everyone because they had to travel solo all the time. When you're in the dormitory this is much easier. For instance, when me and one of my friends wanted to do something cool you can literally meet outside the dorm in 5 minutes and 5 minutes later you find yourself in a bar or cinema or whatever, it is just much more social in the dormitory.

Leisure/culture:

In South Korea you will spend most of your time around international students. There is a lot to do in South Korea. In the capital city Seoul there are a lot of hotspots which you can explore in the weekends. Seoul is a pretty modern city and they spend a lot of money on culture. If you are interested in art or history this city will provide you with a lot of things to do. In the evenings you can go to a bar, do karaoke or go clubbing. Most of the clubs in Seoul are a lot bigger than the ones I have visited anywhere in the Netherlands! Also, I ate outside the door almost every night because it is really cheap. Also, South Korea itself is pretty cool. In the third week we visited Jeju Island, which is a volcanic island on the south of Korea. You can relax on the beach and climb the volcano. Koreans describe Jeju island as the Hawaii of Korea. When your done with Korea you can visit surrounding countries. Korea is located close to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China. Most return flight are around 80-100 euros so traveling is really doable.

Suggestions/tips:

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would definitely recommend South Korea and the Sungkyunkwan University as destination for going abroad. Going Abroad to South Korea was by far the best decisions I made during my bachelor. South-Korea is a modern organised asian country. However, it has a very different culture and history which is very interesting. For me four months was actually not even close to getting to know everything about South-Korea. Also, South Korea is a popular destination among other European students but also people from Asia. So you get the chance to meet lots of new people from all over the globe. Lastly, the University was very good. I did not run into any trouble choosing concerning courses etc. Sungkyunkwan is the oldest university in South Korea and it is still considered as prestigious among people living in Seoul. They have a very nice but modern campus. Every once in a while there are events or parties at the campus. So I can say that have enjoyed myself and I would absolutely recommend South Korea and the Sungkyunkwan university.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

I have two additional tips for people travelling to South-Korea. First, when you book your return flight you might want to consider spending some money on extra luggage. I bought a lot of stuff in



Korea and it cost me extra money to book for extra luggage at the airport. Second, you might want to bring winter clothes to Korea. The weather is really perfect (25 degrees) until mid-november when the temperature drops far below zero. I had to spend a lot of money on a thick winter coat, but you can also bring one from home.

Can students contact you for additional info? If so, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

If you have any questions you can contact me or if you want to see some pictures of South Korea look me up on instagram. Contact info available at IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Social sciences
Level:	bachelor master PhD other
Name degree programme:	Interdisciplinary social sciences

Destination city & country	South Korea, Seoul
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Sungkyunkwan University
Purpose of exchange	study/courses work placement field work other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	28/08/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	24/12/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

I don't remember this being too difficult for me. I really wanted to go to Seoul and this university seemed to be the best option. Fortunately I got in! Then you wait for your reply from Sungkyunkwan University, but they keep you up to date very well through e-mail. You get send a lot of documents which you need for example for applying for a visa. The paperwork was quite a hassle but it wasn't difficult, plus if you are excited about going I don't think you would mind putting in the work!

Counselling/support at home university:

There were a few meetings at the university but I got most of my information from the website, this was all pretty clear. If you had any questions you could just send an e-mail, so the support was good.

Academic preparation:



To get in to SKKU you need a minimum GPA of 4.0 (or 6.7/10), fortunately this wasn't a problem for me. Further I didn't do much academic preparation, apart from looking up some information on the courses.

Language preparation:

I did not learn the language beforehand apart from some basic words like hello and thank you (which you will use a lot!). If you want you can take up language courses at SKKU, I know a lot of my exchange friends did this. There is basic Korean class and more advanced courses, so if you are interested in learning the language I would say this is a good way. I wouldn't say it is necessary to learn the language because in the busier areas of the city everything is in both Korean and English. A lot of younger people speak English, most older people do not. There are some parts of the city where nothing is written in English and not many people speak English, so knowing at least the alphabet/ a few basic phrases would be quite handy (especially in taxi's).

Finances

I did some saving beforehand and I was lucky enough to have my parents help me pay the flight and some other things. I got around mainly on a student loan though, because you end up spending quite a lot more than you expect..You spend a lot of money on food, transport, leisure activities, clothes and other products. Me and a lot of other people on exchange also wanted to travel around during the holidays or after the exchange so that isn't cheap either. I feel like if you really want to live on a budget though you can, if you find the right places to eat you can eat for pretty cheap (4/5 euros for a full meal). It's just that there is so much to do and to see, delicious food and so many fun things like clothes and make-up that it's hard not to splurge.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):



As everyone (I'm guessing) is already saying signing up for courses at SKKU can be confusing and stressful. You get a student ID number and password to sign into GLS, which is not supported by mac so I had to sign in through an app on my phone. Beforehand you get a whole list of courses, which is great for orientation but really isn't that helpful when signing up, as courses change and sometimes are said to be taught in English but aren't. Korea has a system that the first to sign up for a course (I'm talking about the first seconds) have the biggest chance to get into that course. So I stayed up until 4 am in the Netherlands to sign up for 4/5 courses, which at the end I only ended up doing 1 of. Most of the actual signing up you do the first week or so when you are actually at the university. It seemed quite stressful but at the end it wasn't too bad as you get into most classes you sign up for, you just have to ask the teacher for permission. There's also a long period which you can drop out of classes, so if it doesn't seem like a good fit after a few weeks you can still drop out. The international office at SKKU was also super helpful, quick to respond but it's easier to just visit them in the international hall at the university.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

This differed quite a lot per course for me. Some courses were relatively easy for a couple of reasons: Most students in the class didn't speak english well, so your english will seem better and the level of the class will also be easier. I feel like they also grade international students less harshly (but i'm not sure about this). I also had 2 courses which were pretty difficult for me. Some professors had really strange teaching methods, which I heard from some other people as well. Overall the quality of education was good though and I feel like I learned a lot about the subjects and the Korean culture and society.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

It was overall good, especially the international office. You were always kept up to date via email or you could find info in the catalogus.

Transfer of credits:

Still has to happen.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

I arrived in Seoul the exact day the orientation day at the uni was, so I missed out on that. You get a package of papers with info and course sign up forms. You also get assigned a buddy, mine was really friendly and helpful but we only had contact the first month or so.

Accommodation:



I stayed in the I-house, which was super close to the university (a 5 minute walk, but only because you have to walk up a mountain to get to class). I think this was one of the best dorms because you only get one roommate. Before coming to Korea I was really doubting where to stay - an appartement or the dorms - but finally chose for the dorms for a couple of reasons. First because you can't just rent a room/apartment a few months before you go, I was told to look for rooms just a few weeks beforehand, since then a lot more would be available. This just seemed too risky. You also meet a lot more people in the dorms - and this was one of the biggest positives. The dorm room was pretty minimal and having a roommate isn't always great but I already knew this beforehand. I know the curfew (1 to 5 am) was a big downside for a lot of people when choosing for the dorms, but there was no curfew on friday night and saturday you would just stay out till 4/5am (plus the taxi ride back home) anyway.

Leisure/culture:

Seoul is really an amazing city when it comes to this. There is so much to do and to see that it is never boring. There is food literally everywhere. All shops are open till 10/11 pm and there's many night shops/restaurants as well. There is loud Korean music playing everywhere and there's always some people out on the street - the city really never sleeps. There is a very rich traditional culture but it's mixed with the super modern aspects like wifi everywhere and the newest technology. If you like nature and hiking there's lots of options as well.

Suggestions/tips:

There are a few things that really help you get around Seoul easier. For example the Subway app, it's in English and you can easily see all the metro lines and how to get to places. You can get a transportation card pretty much anywhere. You can pay everywhere with your credit card but double check you don't have to pay fees to your bank every time you pay somewhere. You need to get an alien registration card in Korea so take care of that on time otherwise you can not leave the country and come back. There's also this app Kakaotalk that everyone uses, also for school projects and stuff. Get warm clothes for the winter cause the winters aren't anything like here!

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Definitely! Education wise SKKU is one of the top of the country. The location is also great, right in the cultural centre. The exchange was a one in a life time experience. Seoul is an amazing city with lots of things to do and experience.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:



Have an open mind because some things are very different from western culture. Korean people tend to be quite shy towards foreigners (except when going out) so if you want to meet them you should probably initiate. Koreans are very polite and friendly though so don't worry. Other than that just go on exchange and enjoy it!

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	University College Roosevelt
Level:	bachelor master PhD other
Name degree programme:	Liberal Arts & Sciences (Social Sciences)

Destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Sungkyunkwan University
Purpose of exchange	study/courses work placement field work other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	25/2/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	29/7/2017 (after traveling)

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

It's a lot of paperwork and it's a long process, but most of it went pretty smoothly. Sometimes as UCR student the communication with Utrecht was a bit off, as I couldn't be at the information event, and there was some confusion regarding papers the host university sent that I needed for my visa. Overall though, it's understandable that there's a lot of paperwork involved and usually it's easy to ask for help or get it figured out. Just be prepared.

Counselling/support at home university:

It was okay, sometimes it was difficult to reach people, especially since the UCR international officer is very busy, but overall it was good and my e-mails to Utrecht IO were always answered.

Academic preparation:

Not really necessary? If you're UCR, just make sure you meet the conditions of having completed certain courses

and a sufficient GPA.

Language preparation:

If you're going to South Korea, it's definitely helpful if you know how to read hangul before you go. It's very easy to learn and it would make you feel a lot less lost when you arrive. I studied a bit of Korean and learned how to read hangul before I went, and I'm very glad I did. It's worth the few hours.

Finances:

Prepare to spend a lot more than you're used to; at least this was my experience. There's a lot to explore, there's many new people to meet and hangout with, and it's going to cost money. Korea is actually pretty cheap if you look at transport, food and general stuff; but you'll probably use it a lot more than you would at home. You might also want to travel to places outside Seoul, and that adds up as well. I worked a semester before I went and put my DUO on max, which helped me out.

I guess it can be cheap if you want to, but if you want to get the most of your experience prepare to have some money at hand.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Went pretty okay. Before I went, I read about people crying during previous course sign-ups due to how chaotic it was, so I was prepared for the worst. However, you can register for courses offline pretty easily. Just be sure to keep up with the e-mails and notice at the website. I do know some people who had difficulties with their home university or with some 'international' courses not being English; so perhaps I was an exception. Sungkyunkwan did hire more people than in previous years though, so they have gotten better at dealing with the increasing amount of exchange students.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The courses were mostly easier than I'm used to at UCR, a lot less reading. I still feel like I learned a lot though, just in different ways.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The guy at the international office is very nice; my roommate actually became friends with him and a few others who stayed for a longer time knew him well too. He was always ready to help and quick to answer e-mails, also when I was still at home. The rest of the staff was helpful as well; e-mails were quickly answered and the office is easy to reach and there's usually someone there.

Transfer of credits:

hasn't happened yet; I am a bit annoyed that my learning agreement got partially disapproved because of a misunderstanding, and this never got solved. I sent multiple e-mails explaining the misunderstanding but never

got something back.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The buddy programme works pretty well. I saw my Korean buddy three times but I did meet someone in the buddy group who I hung out with a lot throughout the semester. Hi-club also organizes several activities and parties for international students which are really fun.

Accommodation:

I stayed in the dorms, I-house. It was pretty comfortable and not very expensive, considering it's in such a big city and so close to campus. You share your room with someone else, but I think that can be a good experience.

Leisure/culture:

There's a lot to explore in Seoul and South Korea! I can really recommend joining a club or trying to find some organisation or activity outside university. That way you'll learn more about the culture and people and you'll also have a lot of fun! Also, Korean food is very unique and delicious, so be sure to try out some new things.

Suggestions/tips:

Don't worry too much about the practicalities, most of it becomes obvious while you're there (like sim card, bank account, etc.). It can be helpful to check out some blogs before you go (just google around) and be sure to regularly check your e-mail and notices on the website.

And when you're there: just have fun, there's no 'right' way to travel.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I personally really liked studying here, but I think every exchange experience is probably amazing in its own way. South Korea is a really interesting and unique country, with very nice and friendly people. Seoul is an exciting city with a lot of history, and the nightlife is awesome. Sungkyunkwan is regarded as a 'good' university and is well known, so that's also a plus. The campus is nice and they offer a variety of courses.

Just think about what you want, and if you think you'll like something different, South Korea is a great choice.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

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exchange@qdesk.uu.nl (information) / verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl (report)

www.uu.nl/students/exchange



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Humanities
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor x master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	RMA Media and Performance Studies

Destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Sungkyunkwan University
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/09/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	16/12/2016

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

This went all quite well for me. Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) was my first option for studying abroad, and I got it. After getting the approval of Utrecht University, you do have to wait a while for a response from SKKU. My experience with Koreans is that they love paperwork, so you have to wait a while before you get a physique package send to the international office at the Uithof. It is for this reason that you have to wait with applying for a visa, since you need a letter of approval from SKKU to get it. This wasn't last-minute work for me, but I would advise anyone to apply for a visa as soon as possible after you have received your package.

Counselling/support at home university:

All the information that you can find on the website of Utrecht University is basically all you need. I didn't need any extra help from the international office. I do know that they respond quite fast to your emails, and that they are almost always reachable by phone.

Academic preparation:

I didn't need to prepare myself for the courses that I was going to take. Of course, it is important that you already have some sort of understanding of the courses that you are planning on taking at SKKU, but you don't really need to actively prepare yourself.

Language preparation:

If you are interested in new languages, then I would definitely recommend you to already learn some basics of the Korean language before your arrival. I didn't prepare myself at all, but taught myself in 1 or 2 hours how to read hangul (Korean) in Seoul. It is very different from any Western language, so I just started to read everything out loud, like a six-year-old who just learned how to read. In the end, I wasn't able to communicate any Korean with my fellow Koreans, except for 'hi', 'bye', and 'thank you'. Not a lot of Koreans speak English, so if you master the language it would definitely help you a lot, although I did survive without any of those skills #longlivesignlanguage.

Finances:

Okay, well, I did prepare myself with some savings of 5000 euros. And I have to say, Korea is an expensive country. People don't cook themselves, because it is more expensive to shop in a



supermarket than going out for dinner. I thus ate every evening in separate restaurants and paid between 5-10 euros for a meal; just to give you an impression on how much you are probably going to spend on food. 5000 was enough, especially since I also went on a vacation trip to Seoroksan National Park for one weekend, and also a week to Jeju island. Other spendings will probably be on public transport, entrance fees, etc.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Before I came to Korea, I didn't know that it was quite uncommon that a master student would go abroad: I was one of the only international students (of the 300) who was a graduate. SKKU tells you with the help of the AMAZING GLS-system that a lot of courses will be taught in English. Nothing could be less true. I sat in around three classes in which the professor just started to speak Korean and refused to speak English, and I was not the only one who experienced this. In the end, the international students had made a list of around 50 courses that were promised to be taught in English but were not. We handed this list to SKKU, who said that they would work on this for the next Fall semester...

Eventually, I found three courses that I could take in English, but to let SKKU know of this final decision of courses, you need to print (paperwork <3) a screenshot of your courses in GLS (<3). It all seems quite stupid, but after the first month everything appears to have been settled and you don't need to contact the international office at SKKU anymore.

BTW: there is only one man, Mr. Song, working for the international office who has to do everything for ALL the international students. You will get a lot of emails from this man, and he will send a lot of information last-minute or too late. Before freaking out about this, please respect this man and his job because he is doing the best he can. All love for Mr. Song <3

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Since you will be coming from a Dutch university, you have a very high level of education. I didn't know this before I went to Korea, but, apparently, the Dutch education has much higher standards than lots of other countries, especially Korea. As a graduate student, I was quite shocked by the level of knowledge of my fellow students in the three classes that I have taken. I was the only one with some theoretical knowledge of concepts and also the only one who questioned things that were written in prescribed articles and books. Koreans don't really speak in class, and when they do, their argument isn't theoretically founded in any way. The professors do, however, have a well-established theoretical background, but since they are not used to active student participation, they are often shocked by someone who would like to open up a discussion.

I didn't have to take any exams for my courses, but I did write three papers in the end. These papers were written in the same way that I write them at Utrecht University, and are, apparently, from a very high level to Korean standards; all my papers are graded with an A+.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

As I already said, Mr. Song will be there for all your problems, but since everyone has problems regarding their courses in the first month, Mr. Song might not give you a straight away answer or a quick response to your question. You do get a buddy on your first day, and I know that some people really bonded with their buddy and helped them to get to know SKKU, Seoul, or even other parts of Korea. But for some reason, I lost contact with my buddy after the first week. Hahaha.

Transfer of credits:

This still needs to happen since I just came back. What is important is that you let the Exam Committee of your program here at Utrecht University know what courses you are going to take at SKKU after you have made your final list there. That way, you are already sure that your program sees these courses as valid courses in your program.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The welcome was just one day and was more an introduction on how to handle the GLS system (<3) and how to subscribe for courses. You get to know your buddy, and you go out partying with other students.



Accommodation:

I slept in C-house dormitory: a house with 70 male students sharing one kitchen. You have a roommate, so that means that you share your room and bathroom with someone else. The rooms were provided with a bed, desk, and closet for each person and a washing machine. SKKU has a curfew in their dormitory; that means that you can't enter or leave the building between 01.00 and 05.00. So, if you're going out, it's going to be a long night out, or a short one.

Leisure/culture:

There is a lot to see and explore in Korea! Buy a Lonely Planet and explore the different parts of the enormous city of Seoul. After a while, you may want to go out of the busy city life. Therefore, I went to a Buddhist monastery for a week, which was an amazing experience! The same goes for hiking in nature at Seoroksan National Park, and the exploration I did on Jeju island. Since the education at SKKU is not going to be very challenging, please do take your time to explore the country, especially everything that the nature of Korea has to offer ☺

Suggestions/tips:

Bring deodorant with you; Koreans don't do deodorant. The same goes for bread. I changed my breakfast from bread to rice in the morning, which was much cheaper and something different for a change. Explore the country and don't try to see everything from a Western perspective, but go along with a different way of life.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes. If you, just like me, seek to get a culture shock which will give you a new perspective on everything you think you know, go to Korea. Studying abroad in a country which is very different from your own will make you rethink unconscious Western behaviours and attitudes, which is something amazing.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Just go with the flow and don't try to plan everything beforehand ☺

Contact details Student Services / International Office

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UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Faculty of Humanities
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	History

Destination city & country	Seoul, Korea
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Sung Kyungkwan University
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	24 august 2014
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15 January 2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application went quite well. It was a long track without a lot of insurance, but it all went well and I understand that it is a very hard process to organize. For me it went all ok, but heard from some co-students that they had some issue's and that they didn't had a good understanding of the state of the application process.

Counselling/support at home university:

It could be better. Especially the communication about the reports we had to send in could've been better. There was a lot indistinctness about some documents being ok, also the admission form came very late, which had consequences for my visa-application.

Academic preparation:

Was horrible to be honest. I think that the Utrecht University really had to give more information about how to select courses and how they can fit in your study plan. Everything had to be sources out in Korea itself and I had to make some fundamental study choices which had an impact on my study track.

Language preparation:

Was ok. Korean is a hard language and there was enough information about the language course.

Finances:

Really bad. I heard from co-students from other Dutch universities that they've got some scholarship funding which were included in their application. There was no information about other financial sources. I think that the development of a financial aid plan would really improve the services of the international office of the UU.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):



In advance of the semester we've had a course guide including 3000 courses and most of them taught in Korean or Chinese. The best option is to choose between the ten international program courses, which are focussed on non-Koreans who don't know anything about the country. It were interesting courses but nog very challenging. Besides that I don't know how to make them fit in my study program.
Academic quality of education/placement activities:
International courses were easy and not very challenging. But the activities organised from out of the university club were fun!
Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
There was one man responsible for the incoming students, what came down on a overstressed man during entry and departure. Everybody had to do his changes on courses with a lot of signs and application forms. It was a strange period without a lot of insurance, but after all, it went quite well.
Transfer of credits:
No clue, still no clue. I think that this form is the key of the convert of my grades.
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
The welcome was good. It gave a good view on what to do the next semester, but the study programme orientation was bad. There was a club, called 'Hi Club' who organised all kind of events to make it comfortable for the incoming students during the year.
Accommodation:
Really good! Besides the curfew and sharing the room was the housing a key of the success of my exchange. I lived in C-House, 10 minutes by public transport from the campus. This was no problem, afterwards you receive a transportation fee. In C-House, I lived with 70 other exchange students and we formed a great community to explore the city and make friends. I would really recommend people to join the housing program!
Leisure/culture:
What a strange culture! The Koreans know two faces; one really friendly and open, one really traditional and introvert. It's hard for them to combine that, due that older people are really focussing on the younger in public. Besides that is the Korean War an open wound of the Korean culture. Really special experience, you can only experience when you're longer in Korea. Seoul itself is massive. I really needed the full semester to explore the city. It has so many people and towns that you can enjoy yourself endlessly, whatever kind of person you are.
Suggestions/tips:
Go there with an open mind and explore it yourself. Take your time to explore the massive city and the bipolar Korean culture. On the school part: orientate really good on what kind of courses you want to follow. If you arrange this well in advance, you have a lot less trouble in the beginning.
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes definitely! Different than Japan and different than China. It's a culture on itself and not really common. I enjoyed almost everything there and would do it again immediately.



Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

The system, also on the university, is very bureaucratic. Get used to that and don't be too Dutch (being annoyed if you have to wait for 10 minutes) because then you maybe get a hard time. You've plenty of time over there so don't get bothered by that.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	Human Geography & Planning

destination city & country	Seoul, South-Korea
name host institution and/or company/organization	Sungkyunkwan University
purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	11 / 07 / 2014
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	25 / 12 / 2014

preparation

exchange/placement application process

The application process was so much paper work that I initially was discouraged. Even though it is worth the effort, I wish it would be easier and faster and better communicated.

counselling/support at home university

The support from Utrecht University was okay; The support from SKKU was not.

academic preparation

Academic preparation, apart from obtaining enough ECTS, was not required

language preparation

Was not required

finances

I worked hard at my parttime job, but I would not have been able to finance this without monthly support from DUO.

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

To get myself a somewhat interesting and useful study programme I had to wait until the start of my semester at SKKU. For the most of the courses you attend have to be chosen in the first week. This was so much drama that I saw people cry because of the stress.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The academic quality was lower than that of Utrecht University; at least in my opinion. This was because of the way of grading: It is relatively easy to get a full score in Korea.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

SKKU's international office helped me with anything which was related to school, but also related to my student life.

transfer of credits

You usually have 1, 2 or 3 credit courses at SKKU. Every credit is worth two ECTS. I have passed five 3 credit courses, which allows me to earn thirty ECTS for this term.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

There was a buddy programme which was supposed to connect me with a Korean student. Somehow I have never seen my Korean buddy again after the orientation day.



accommodation
The accommodation had a nice location and in general everything was okay. We had to wait at least one month until we got a vacuum cleaner, though.
leisure/culture
I joined two student clubs: women's soccer team Yeorak, Ggun street dance club. I truly enjoyed playing soccer and dancing together with other Korean students. We sometimes ate together and they showed me a lot of their culture.
suggestions/tips
Try to make Korean friends: join a student club, it makes contact with Koreans way easier.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I recommend this destination to students who want to discover a culture so much different than theirs; I recommend this destination to students who are willing to challenge cultural and language barriers.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
As a Western person you should be somewhat openminded and respectful in order to blend in the Korean culture. I think Korea has a lot of positive surprises on offer. You should pay respect to Korean culture in order to get the chances to experience these surprises.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Law
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor
name degree programme	North Korean & rule of law, Plato's philosophy, Korean society and Culture
destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name host institution and/or company/organization	Utrecht University
purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	24 / 02 / 2014
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	28 / 07 / 2014

preparation

exchange/placement application process

If was a little late with my application. There were some remaining spots left. One of them was an exchange place in Seoul South Korea. The Sungkyunkwan University accepted my request. From there on the application process was easy to go through. Everything that needed to be done was in the instructions that the International office sent to me by mail. If I had any questions I contacted the international office and they always helped me. If you try to deal with everything before the deadline, then there should be no problem with the application.

counselling/support at home university

The support from my home university was great! They mailed me all the instructions which I had to complete. If I had any questions it was no problem. I could easily go to their office for extra information.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation. The international office told me that the level of courses in Seoul were less intense compared to the level of courses at Utrecht University.

language preparation

I could not speak any Korean, but this was no problem at all. All the courses were given in English. My English was proper, so I did not do any language preparation. I wanted to follow an English language course at Utrecht University but they turned that course down.

finances

I saved some money myself and I borrowed some money from my parents.

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

I could follow any course I wanted to, because i already got all my points for my bachelor. So I choose three different courses.

academic quality of education/placement activities

As I said the level of the courses at Sungkyunkwan university are less hard compared to the courses at Utrecht University. Nevertheless, they were very interesting. I followed 2 undergraduate courses and one graduate course. I learned a lot in those courses

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

In the beginning it was a bit hard to sign up for courses. The people working at international office at



Sungkyunkwan university helped me a lot. So if you have problems signing up for courses just go to the international office of the university.
transfer of credits
As I am writing this report the transfer of credits still has to been done. So I cannot tell that much about it yet.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
The welcome was awesome, we were divided in groups and got a tour around the campus. Good way to learn new people. After that we had dinner and some drinks. In the same week we had different welcoming parties around Seoul. Everybody got a Korean 'buddy' who introduced you to the life in Seoul. If you had problems, questions or you just want to hang out you always could call your buddy.
accommodation
I slept in a dormitory 'International house'. It was a little hard in the beginning to sleep with another person in the same room. You get used to it and it is a good way to learn new people as well. The dormitory was nice. It was clean, the kitchen provided different facilities and there was a lounge the hang out. My room was clean, we had a nice bathroom and the beds were quite comfortable.
leisure/culture
For me it was the first time in Asia. So it was interesting to discover a new culture. We did so many trips to palaces, castles, spa's, villages and mountains. Hanging out with Korean people gives you a good image of how people 'think' and 'behave'. I can say that I experienced the night life of Seoul a lot of times. We have seen so many clubs and had some much fun during these nights.
suggestions/tips
Enjoy every day of your exchange, do not hesitate about going on exchange. I am sure that you will have an amazing time and you will make friends for live. I had the best time of my life. To give an example, I am flying in august to Sweden to meet my Swedish friends.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
For sure! Seoul is such a great city, it is a world city that is so safe. It is amazing to experience the Asian culture in Soeul. The university was very good and the courses were interesting. The professors are very happy to see foreign people attending their courses. Life on the campus was awesome! People from Korea are so friendly and it is interesting to learn about their history. I have had such a good time, with so many people. And last but not least, the parties were great!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just GO abroad. Do not hesitate. It is so awesome. Had the best time of my life!

Contact details:

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