



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Geowetenschappen
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Sustainable Business and Innovation

destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name university abroad	Sungkyunkwan University
start date	01 / 09 / 2022
end date	15 / 12 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process at the Sungkyunkwan University is quite extensive and takes a long time. In order to apply and be accepted by the university, the exchange committee require several official documents and information sheets from you. It also takes a long time for the university to process all the application requests, so it is advisable to start as soon as they contact you. You need the official letter of acceptance from the university in order to apply for your visa at the South Korean embassy. It may take a while before you receive the official letter of acceptance, so don't worry if you think that it takes too long. Both the instructions for applying to the university as the visa are very clear.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support that the Utrecht University offers for your exchange period is very helpful. Early in the process they'll provide you with clear instructions for the application process. Furthermore, if you have any questions before, during or after the exchange semester, they are happy to help you and answer very quick. They also keep track of the students who go abroad. I experienced this, unfortunately, because when I visited Seoul, a public disaster occurred during Halloween, which led to the death of 151 Korean inhabitants. The exchange department directly contacted me to inquire if everything was okay and if I needed counseling in any shape or form.

academic preparation

I did not prepare myself academically at all, other than following my master's program.

language preparation

In the entire semester I only met one student who prepared himself by taking a Korean language course. However, if you are planning to take a Korean language course, this is not necessary because the course will start at the absolute basis. I did not take a Korean language course, which I do regret looking back. It is relatively easy to learn the Korean alphabet, to learn to read and to learn how to write. Most of my fellow students, who did participate in a Korean language course, were able to read signs along the road and the menu in restaurants quite quickly. This obviously does add to your experience of living in Seoul.

finances

It is very advisable to start saving for your semester abroad early. South Korea is, compared to the rest of South East Asia, not the cheapest country, but certainly also not the most expensive. I'll cover two elements of expenses: housing and food. I joined a shared living community called Simplespaces. The organisation offers



several apartments, meant for exchange students. The monthly rent was approximately €500,-. If you want to live cheaper, you can apply for the dormitories at the university. They are cheaper, but they do handle a curview and don't offer private rooms. Furthermore, everyone in Korea eats all their meals at restaurants. You can eat very cheap, between 3,5 to 7 euros per full meal at numerous restaurants all over the city, or even more cheap at the cafeteria of the university.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The Sungkyunkwan University offers very limited international courses for master Business Administration students. In that sense, this university is not the most interesting option to pick. Make sure that you are present at the very opening of the course application period, because course tend to be full very quickly. So make sure that you have chosen your courses prior to the application period. If courses are full, there is no need to worry. You can always contact the professors of the courses directly by email and ask for a spot in their course.

academic quality of education activities

The courses are heavily focussed on attendance, participation and assignments. The courses that I took had no exam, but were graded on the criteria above and a final project.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I have no experience with the counselling facilities of the Sungkyunkwan University but I always experienced that they give very clear instructions on application processes, and information on all other matters.

transfer of credits

On the website of the Utrecht University, you can look up the credit conversion table. Furthermore, the Sungkyunkwan University will once more offer very clear instructions on how to acquire your transcript of records, which you need to send to the exchange office.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The Sungkyunkwan University hosts and organises several activities and parties throughout the semester, including a welcome programme. In the first week of the semester, some welcoming activities are organised on the campus, to meet your fellow exchange students and become familiar with the university. You will also be granted a study buddy, which is a local student, with whom which you will do some activities and who can help you with all your questions throughout the semester.

accommodation

As stated above, I applied for a shared living apartment from an organisation called Simplespaces. I shared an apartment with a French and a Spanish student throughout the semester. You can also apply for the university dormitories, which is a cheaper option. Another option would be to apply for a room in the student flat called Mangrove, which is also highly recommendable. Mangrove offers a lot of comfortability and is full of international students with whom you can spent the semester.

leisure & culture

Seoul is a huge city which you can endlessly explore. There are multiple districts with hundreds of restaurants, bars, temples or palaces. Furthermore, South Korea is an amazing country to get to know. So, make sure you make trips to other cities like Busan or Sokcho, or the island of Jeju. Furthermore, there are several beautiful hikes to make, both in Seoul as in other parts of Korea. Lastly, it is very advisable to visit the national museum of Korea in Seoul multiple times, to learn about the Korean wars and lastly the DMZ.



suggestions/tips

The advantage of joining an organisation like Simplespaces for housing, is that they organise monthly tours and weekend trips throughout Korea. It is an amazing way to meet other exchange students and familiarize yourself with South Korea. There are more organisations that offer these shared housing and activities.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Absolutely. South Korea is truly an amazing and interesting country. The culture shock is interesting, but not that chaotic since Seoul is a very developed city, which makes it easier to adapt.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I chose not to spend my time with Dutch students, but with international and local students, to really experience the most of different countries, cultures and people. But this is of course a very personal decision.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info available at the IO
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name university abroad	Sungkyunkwan
start date	29/ 08 / 2022
end date	10/ 12 / 2022

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>From what I remember, everything happened in a quite straightforward manner. I also remember it took some time until we were given every document needed for visa application. Additionally, I remember that, as soon as I had the documents, I made an appointment at the Korean embassy. This appointment was scheduled over a month, which was quite inconvenient. Additionally, to apply for a visa you have to hand in your passport, which they keep during the process.</p> <p>Moreover, signing up for courses can be a stressful process. The university namely has a few spots per course, and these courses are full quite fast, so I would recommend applying the moment the application for the courses goes open. Note that during this first application period you are only able to sign up for courses in your major and courses targeted towards international students.</p> <p>If you don't have your desired courses by then, you are still able to sign up for other courses (also outside of your major), but that does take some extra steps, such as, for example, asking the professor.</p> <p>Specifically, for my fellow (English) language and culture majors: I signed in for the major Media and Communication, instead of the English language major. The main reason for this was because there were more 'new to me' courses available in that major. If possible, I would recommend doing that, also because it enables an easier way to apply for courses that are new to you.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>I did not receive any counselling or support during the application process and I had also no need for any. However, I was pleasantly surprised when UU checked in with me after the Itaewon incident (crowd crush on 29 October 2022). It showed that they keep up to date with the recent events all over the world.</p>
academic preparation	<p>I did none, and also would not recommend anyone else to prepare academically. I noticed that the academic level of the UU is higher than the one at SKKU. So you would be able to partake in the courses with ease.</p>
language preparation	<p>Personally, I had studied Korean through various summer courses previously, so I was already able to communicate to a certain extent. For anyone going to Korea, I would definitely recommend learning Hangeul (the writing system) at least. It is quite easy to understand and I feel like it would help you a lot. Some basic phrases would not hurt knowing as well, especially to show respect to the culture you are visiting (showing respect is an important aspect of Korean culture). And as a side note, not every Korean knows English.</p>
finances	



I stayed at the dorm I-House, which was 1700 USD for 20th August to 10th December. Additionally, monthly I would spend about max 800 Euro. For both brunch (5~7k Won) and dinner (~10k won) I would eat at a restaurant and I would daily drink two iced lattes (3~6k Won each). Fruits and vegetables are quite expensive (4 apples for 5 Euro) so that's why eating out is better, and also preferable when experiencing the culture, since most Koreans do this too. Options vary a lot, so it depends on your lifestyle and preferences. The SKKU specifically also offers a 1k Won breakfast and around 5k Won dinner at the cafeteria (which unfortunately rarely has a vegetarian option).

As for banking, prior to my exchange I opened a bank account at Wise, which is ideal for paying in Won without having to pay a transfer fee every time you pay. Additionally, I opened a Korean bank account at the Woori bank when I was there. I mainly used this account to withdraw money, which I used to put on my Tmoney card (which is the public transport system). This specific card can also be used to pay at certain stores, so having one is a definite must. Opening a Korean bank account can be useful if you don't have a credit card, but it can be a hassle to open and register for (also because the employee might not know English).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There are a couple of courses you can take which are designed for international students. Then per major it differs quite a lot how many English language courses are offered. For the Media and Communication major I believe there might have been 4 or 5 courses you could take, but some overlapped in the time periods. The courses usually ranged from 1 to 3 credits, which generally corresponded to the time periods (a 1 credit course had 1 hour class per week, 3 credits meant 3 hours per week). As for Korean language courses, there are a total of 3 different types of classes, and all can be taken on different levels (beginner to advanced). The first is called basic Korean and has 3 credits, so 3 hours per week. The second is called Intensive Korean Program and has 6 credits, so 6 hours per week. The last one has 12 credits and provides classes on Monday to Thursday from 9:00-15:00 (when following this program you are not allowed to follow other courses).

Additionally, there are some apps you should download to stay in touch with academic information easily. The XLearning app for Blackboard type information and the Kinggo app for a personal QR code to scan for your attendance. But these things will be made clear during orientation.

academic quality of education activities

The following courses I took at SKKU: 1. Political and economic development of Korea (international course); 2. Contemporary Korean society and culture (international course), 3. Media and globalisation (major course), 4. Principles in statistics (major course), 5. Intensive Korean Intermediate (international course). International courses are designed for international students, so without any Korean students. Major courses are linked to your major, and do have Korean students.

Overall, the academic quality of the education was lower than I expected it to be. I knew that Korea has a cut-throat educational system, so that's why I suspected a higher level of educational courses. However, unfortunately, most education was based in a lecture type teaching style, and we rarely had the case to discuss with fellow classmates. There were no seminar sessions, as I was used to from UU. Additionally, the professors lacked in promoting critical and creative thinking in their students. To be quite honest, it sometimes frustrated me that we could not discuss the validity of the information we were given during the lectures.



As for evaluations, there are mid-term type tests and final type tests. I also had to write some reports. As for the papers, I felt that the professors were very lenient in their marking, and for a paper which I had expected a 6 in UU terms, received the full points.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I had no need for counselling or support of SKKU, but I know from other people who had had contact, that they were quite quick to respond.

There is also a buddy type system: per 4/5 international students we were assigned one Korean buddy. Experiences depended and personally I almost did nothing with my buddy group. My friend's buddy group, however, partook in more activities.

transfer of credits

For my study every 1 SKKU credit was 2 ECTS.

I had to send the SKKU an email twice to tell them that they had to directly send the email with my transcript to the UU, so that was a little bit of a hassle. Then after the UU had received my transcript I had to notify the board of examiners, so that they could check it as well. All in all, it went okay, but not as smooth as I had hoped.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programmes were okay, just as something you would expect to receive. We had one day during which we received a tour of the Seoul campus and we had the possibility to eat dinner with the whole group.

accommodation

During my period here I stayed at a dormitory (specifically I-House), which for my period of stay was USD 1700. I shared a small room with one other person. When staying at the dorm, people usually get assigned by their country, so I stayed with another girl from the Netherlands. The dorm room included one bed per person, a desk, a closet, a shower and washbasin and a separate toilet. I-House specifically also had a kitchen on the first floor and it also had various fridges in the kitchen and on the third floor, where my room was located. There were also washing machines and dryers for clothes; which could be operated through a laundry card system (1k W for one wash and 1k W for one drying program).

leisure & culture

The location of this university (specifically the social sciences part) is ideal, because it is right in the middle of a diverse and bustling metropolitan city. During my stay I was able to explore Seoul's beautiful heritage cites, parks and mountains. The city is quite known for its nightlife and clubs, so if that is something you like, you would enjoy Seoul. Additionally if you are an avid hiker, Seoul has also some mountains you can climb. Furthermore, K-pop is a huge part of Korea's economy and you will not only see advertisements of idols, and their merchandise everywhere but also hear their music when walking through the shopping streets. Adding to this are the Noraebang (lit. song room) in which you can enjoy Korean styled karaoke. Lastly cafés are a big part of Korea's culture. Students specifically go there to study. During exam period, the cafés are sometimes even open 24/7.

Overall, as one of the biggest metropolitan cities of the world, your leisure options are endless.

suggestions/tips

To make the most of your stay I would definitely recommend trying to make contact with Korean people. Overall I have noticed that they tend to be quite reserved. Despite this, this exchange made it invaluable for me due to the friendships I made.

CONCLUSIONS



would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would recommend this university and destination to anyone who is interested in South Korean culture and Asian culture in general. This specific destination is ideal for people who love to explore and are searching for opportunities to cultivate oneself. In comparison to other destinations (and experiences I have heard from people who went to different destinations), Seoul is an ideal place especially also because the public transport is immaculate. You can get anywhere in no-time and you are able to do almost anything imaginable.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Wherever you go, make it something you will never forget!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Science and Innovation Management

destination city & country	Seoul, South-Korea
name university abroad	Sungkyunkwan University
start date	29 / 12 / 2022
end date	9 / 12 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

In my experiences the application process was very complicated. You get a lot of e-mail so you have to keep things sorted out. This is not related to UU but start on time with visa application and credit card application because in both cases it took me over a month before everything was sorted out.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support were very good in my opinion. Contact with the UU's International Office is quick and easy. Contact with the exchange coordinator was also nice. Both were very helpful.

academic preparation

You don't really need academic preparation. I felt like the level of Sungkyunkwan was slightly lower compared to UU. Be prepared for the lectures because they last three hours sometimes. My courses all had more lectures and almost no working groups. The professors in South Korea are way more respected compared to the Netherlands and the interaction is more formal.

language preparation

Before I came to Korea I learned Hangul (the Korean letters) and some words, which is not that much work. This is not really necessary but might be convenient in some situations. Be aware that there are a lot of Koreans who cannot speak English. Make sure to download Google Translate and Papago (a Korean translation app), they saved me quite some times.

finances

You need a bank statement showing that you have a \$2800 available, in reality you will need a lot more if you want to make trips in Korea and enjoy Seoul. I would recommend you to have about €1000 a month available at least, and more if you want to make trips to other cities or the DMZ for example.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Be aware of the course registration, this opens around 3 a.m. Dutch time and they have a full=full policy. Most courses are filled in an instant, so you have to be there when the registration opens. The majority of courses they offer are not for exchange students even if the course description is also in English, so watch out for those. The course availability for exchange students was a bit limited in my opinion.

academic quality of education activities



The academic quality really depends on the professor of the course. They use more lectures and less working groups. Overall, the quality was decent, but I felt like the academic level in the Netherlands is higher.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The buddy program started after the first day of university which was a bit late but other than that the counselling and support was good.
transfer of credits
Has not happened yet but it does not go automatically so probably some work again.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The orientation day was okay. Started off with a speech of the vice-president and a campus tour, afterwards there was the possibility to have dinner with the other exchange students. They have an international students club which organises events for foreign students, which is a nice opportunity to meet people.
accommodation
I did not sleep in the university dorms, and I am happy I did not because I have heard bad stories about it. There is a curfew and they have some really strict rules. External visitors in the dormitory are for example forbidden. I would go for a student house or goshiwon (kind of a Korean guesthouse). I would search for one in the city centre and close to your university. The whole city is very good connected with public transport, there are especially a lot of subways.
leisure & culture
There is so much to do here. Seoul is so big, I was never bored. There are a lot of student clubs in university ranging from sports to reading or acting. I joined the football club and it was a nice way to get in touch with Korean students. There is also a gym but the registration process is really vague. The public gyms in Seoul are quite expensive. Apart from the university there is a lot to do in Seoul, there are so many different things to do, the historical and cultural sights are really interesting. The city was really inspiring to me, you could just get out of a random subway stop and spend the whole day around there. The nightlife also is insane, there are so many different clubs and bars, all with different styles. You can literally party until the sun rises every night in Seoul if you want to (not recommended but quite fun, spoken with experience 😊).
suggestions/tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To start with, take the subway from the airport. It way cheaper compared to a taxi (like €3 vs €50 approximately). It takes longer but it is one line straight to the city centre. You have to go down a few floors in the arrival hall on the airport to get to the subway. There is also the possibility to buy a public transport card which you can use the whole semester.- Take a SIM from Chingu Mobile, they are way cheaper compared to other providers. I registered with a group of six people (you do not have to know them) which will give you even extra discount. There is one store close to SKKU, you can just go there and ask for a SIM, they will have it ready within an hour. There are two subscriptions, make sure to take the cheapest one, it works excellent.- I said it before but do not go to the university dorms, there are way better options!- Download the app Kakao T, it is the cheapest way to get a taxi.- Use every opportunity you have to explore the city/country. If people ask you to join them to do something go! You will not always get a second opportunity and the semester will be over in a blink!- Try soju, it is a drink you can get in every convenient store. Just trust me with this one.

CONCLUSIONS



would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

This city is amazing. I have lived a whole semester in Seoul and I still feel like I have not seen the whole city. There is so much to do and to see. It is inspirational to see how a country can be so advanced but so different compared to the western world.

University-wise I have to say I was a little bit disappointed. If you are looking for the best education possible, you are better off just staying in Utrecht. Although, it was still pretty decent and it was interesting to see their different ways of teaching.

Altogether I am really happy I went to Seoul, I have made friends all over the world and I feel like I became a lot more independent. If I had to do it all over again I would 100% choose to go to Seoul again. I can only recommend you to pick Sungkyunkwan University as your exchange.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Regardless of the location, go on an exchange! It is a unique opportunity and you will make memories that will stay with you for the rest of your life. Make sure you choose a location with lots of things to do around (like Seoul) and pick a residence where you can meet other students.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name university abroad	Sungkyunkwan University
start date	21 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Pretty easy since this was my first choice of school. It just took a long while before we got all the needed information.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Fast responses when needed and clear instructions on what to do.
academic preparation	I did not know what to expect and I was very underprepared as the professors at SKKU are not always clear about when they use the book or not. Triple or quadruple check online before the first class!
language preparation	I already spoke Korean which made the transition here really easy. If you are not taking Korean classes here, learn Hangul and some basic phrases. However, I would definitely recommend taking Korean classes as you can use what you've learned almost instantly.
finances	Since my friend and I do not live in the dorms, our money situation was a little different. We both saved a lot though. Prepare to spend around 1200 to 1500 euros a month. (includes rent that, if you stay in the dorms, you pay upfront)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>Make sure to be awake and have good stable internet when the class signup opens. The spots will be full in the morning and you will have to make due with the left overs. The university and professors do not make exceptions. You can try emailing, but the professors will most likely ignore you. Be on time with the sign up! I cannot stress this enough.</p> <p>Attendance is super important, please check with the teacher and read through the syllabus! Also download the Learning X app and the Kingo app on your phone. The learning x app will give you notifications whenever a professor has sent an update about the schedule, exams or anything. It's really important to stay up to date there or you'll miss a midterm like I did!</p>
academic quality of education activities	



The content is not hard. The teachers do not really go into depth the way they do at UU. It just takes more time to memorize everything. Key is to reiterate what you learnt in class beat for beat. They're not looking for your understanding, rather they want to see what you've retained.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

If I had any questions concerning campus life (like the spring festival and if there were tickets) I could easily ask my buddy and get an answer pretty quickly. Other things like missing the signup for classes were a little harder and require you to have a Korean cellphone number. You have to call the school, or go to the international office in person. (Covid had made that a little difficult)

transfer of credits

Hopefully easy, have not heard anything about it yet. They did send an email about how to get your transcript of records.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was an attempt made. Since there were still heavy restrictions in place in February of 2022, we were not able to go to the welcome programme in person, only 50 people could. We instead had to attend the welcome programme online. It really did not do much as far as orientation goes. You got put into a buddy group with one Korean student and four to five other foreigners. You had to figure out with them when to meet to get a campus tour. My buddy group never met, but the campus is pretty okay to navigate. My friend and I went a day before the classes started to explore campus already, I recommend doing that to familiarize yourself a little with the campus.

accommodation

My friend and I rented an apartment so we have no idea of the life in the dorms. What I have heard from friends is that it can be very hit or miss. If you go out a lot during the first week, it's easy to make friends since everyone is looking for friends. Later on it will be harder.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do! From Korean culture like the war museum or the museum of Hangul to Hangang to HYBE Insight and JYPE Café. There are loads of cafes with interesting concepts as well as art exhibitions. Lotte World and Everland are also really fun to visit, though I recommend going during the week as it gets busy during weekends. Biking, hiking, even kayaking is possible. Truly, Seoul is your oyster.

suggestions/tips

Go to a lot of touristy places but also discover places that are a little more hidden. Go to Suwon if you can for the spring festival! (Or come to Seoul if you're in Suwon). Save up for trips within Korea like Busan and Jeju or Gwangju. If things are better by the time you come, look at going to Thailand, Hong Kong or Tokyo too.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! Definitely go! The university offers some fun activities for exchange students and Seoul as well as Korea as a whole has loads to offer. Making friends might be hard at first but talk to others during the first week and expand your horizons.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make your appointment for your ARC as soon as you get your visa from the embassy. It is going to take a while and you need it for a lot of things. (Bank account, phone number etc.)



For school:

Make sure to stay on top of attendance, if not for you, for your grades. Apparently you get reported to the ministry of Education if you miss more than x amount of classes. Also checking I-Campus is key to stay up to date! Books used can usually be found in the bookstore at school in the Business Building (for the Seoul Campus). Most of all, have fun though.



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faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name university abroad	Sungkyunkwan University
start date	21 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! Definitely go! The university offers some fun activities for exchange students and Seoul as well as Korea as a whole has loads to offer. Making friends might be hard at first but talk to others during the first week and expand your horizons.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make your appointment for your ARC as soon as you get your visa from the embassy. It is going to take a while and you need it for a lot of things. (Bank account, phone number etc.)



For school:

Make sure to stay on top of attendance, if not for you, for your grades. Apparently you get reported to the ministry of Education if you miss more than x amount of classes. Also checking I-Campus is key to stay up to date! Books used can usually be found in the bookstore at school in the Business Building (for the Seoul Campus). Most of all, have fun though.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name university abroad	Sungkyunkwan University
start date	20 / 2 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	1 / 6 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was more than a year, almost a year and a half, before the actual exchange itself. When I found out in January of 2020 that I would be one of the lucky ones to go to South Korea, it would be more than a year before I could leave (February 2021). This waiting time was excruciating, especially due to the Covid times I looked forward to going so much. The application itself was rather straight forward, we wrote motivation letters but we learned that UU would not consider them due to there being a lottery system for the spots in Korea.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Preparatory meetings organized by UU were fun, it was exciting to hear from students who had attended in previous years. It allowed me to gain a clearer mental and visual picture of what the exchange was going to be like. The contact persons at UU were also quick to respond when we needed help.

academic preparation

I am not entirely sure what to write for this, my degree program at UU was similar to the major I was under at Sungkyunkwan. Thus, I did not prepare anything significant in terms of academics to attend the school.

language preparation

Since I have been interested in Korea for a long time, I had begun studying the language even before applying to study in Korea. I find Korean to be a beautiful language and regardless of my time there as a student I wanted to learn the language. I knew how to read, which I think is a must before coming here, and a few basics to get around.

finances

The one lucky part about knowing that I had been accepted to study at Sungkyunkwan so early on is that I had a long time to prepare financially. I worked a lot the summer before going to save and kept working throughout the winter so I would be able to come without worrying about finances.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The classes I took at Sungkyunkwan University were each very different from one another. One class was taught by an older professor with very strict class rules, and traditional structures. During his lectures he talked and talked, and for our exam we had to memorize every small detail about what he had said. Whereas another class I took had a younger professor with new ideas. Our grade was an accumulation of



weekly questions, an advertising simulation, presentations, and reports. His class helped us gain experience in the subject in fun and informative ways. Further, I was put into a Korean language class for beginners, where I learned things I already knew.

academic quality of education activities

As stated in the previous part, the content and organization of classes truly varied per subject. Because my original degree program is at Utrecht University, I cannot help but compare the two schools. From my experience, the quality of education is infinitely better at Utrecht University. UU's class structure is consistent, class content more relevant, and I personally way prefer UU's methods of examination.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I do not have many experiences using counselling or support, the only experience I had was trying to reach the school about issues regarding class sign up. The day after sign up opened, there were no humanities classes left for me to sign up for. All of them were full. When I contacted the school, they said they could not help me. I had a minimum credit requirement from UU so it was a very stressful situation. Towards the end of the sign up week, I had found a spot that opened for a class, but in this situation SKKU's support was not helpful at all.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits system at UU was a bit confusing at first, because I did not know how to find my transcripts. When I did figure out how I could have SKKU e-mail those transcripts to UU, the system did not work. I had to e-mail SKKU to have them send it manually, which they did. In this case their support was helpful! It took quite long for UU to process everything, but once it's done it's done.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Due to Covid, the welcome day had a limit of very few students who would be allowed to come to the first meeting. The rest of the students were forced to watch online. It was too bad, but unfortunately it could not be helped. All in all, the orientation was a bit of a let-down. The "buddy group" tour around campus was fun.

accommodation

I chose not to stay on campus, in other words I did not want to live in the dorms. In my opinion, the dorms were not cheap (private rooms can be found for the same price). The dormitories had rules regarding not entering between 1am and 5am, making it difficult to go out. Thus, I opted to rent an apartment with my friend in Seoul. We did not live nearby the university, so our commute was a bit annoying. Regardless, we had our own space and we felt independent during our studies, which was an important thing for us.

leisure & culture

Korean culture is totally different from Europe or Western cultures in general. If you do not do your research about Korea before coming, it could be possible to experience culture shock. I think it is fascinating, the language is beautiful, the food delicious and Korea offers both incredible nature and fast-paced city life. Seoul comes alive at night, and there is so much to experience. I indulged in Korean literature, took a trip to the beach on the east coast and visited more cafes than I have in my lifetime. South Korea is so worth it, as a student, a tourist, or a more permanent resident. So many possibilities!

suggestions/tips

As an incoming student in Seoul, I would recommend seriously considering renting an apartment instead of the dorms. My friends who stayed in the dorms were generally not a fan of their experiences living there. I stayed nearby Itaewon, which is very central Seoul, this means that any popular place is not more than 30 minutes away. Further, do not just hang around in Hongdae. It is a fun place for foreigners, but there is so much more to Seoul!



CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

As an incoming student at Sungkyunkwan my first recommendation is to sign up for classes right away when the link opens. If you do not do this, classes will be full, and you might experience difficulties. Also, do not miss the spring festival! The artists were so good, and it is really fun! Oh! And do not miss classes often, Koreans are very strict about it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just realize that this is a totally different country and university. Do not go with the expectation that things will be the same as you are used to, or that they will bend to your needs. Traditions, values, and expectations in and from Koreans are different because the culture is different. Try your best to learn and adapt, if you are flexible, you will enjoy your time so much more!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Science
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Science and Business Management

destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name university abroad	Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU)
start date	01 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 12 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Everything went smoothly here (all the steps are well explained on the UU websites, read them carefully). Keep in mind the deadlines of each step! In my case, my coordinator's approval was essential, for which I prepared my study plan first-things-first and discussed it with my coordinator to get his approval. This helps you also think about how you will embed your exchange in your overall studies, including timing and course choices. From there, I followed all the steps in the exchange application process as guided by UU and SKKU.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I had great email contact with Clim Gorissen from UU study abroad, she was responsible for exchanges to Asia at that time. I always got helpful responses within reasonable time. But keep in mind that for specific SKKU questions you preferably contact the SKKU incoming coordinator (put the UU exchange coordinator in CC). They will both help you kindly.
academic preparation	No academic preparation needed in my case. I took political science and Korean language classes at SKKU, designed for exchange students and/or bachelors level.
language preparation	If you are considering South Korea for your exchange, you are probably at least familiar with Hangeul, the Korean script. You will easily survive with English in Seoul, but it is way more fun to learn some Korean too, so I highly recommend it. Prep yourself with some basic Korean words like 'hello' and 'thank you' and you will be talking to locals in no time, plus they actually really appreciate your effort which makes you feel even more welcome in their country!
finances	Dormitory costs were around ~1450,-€ for one semester (shared room, I-House (random allocation)). If you prefer any other housing than dormitory, you can find it with a similar budget as well, sometimes less, when you look for it (but of course takes you more time in the search process). Living costs really depend on your lifestyle. I would say it is overall less expensive than the Netherlands. I recommend studying in coffee shops (makes at least one coffee a day) for the experience as well as eating out (~5-7€ per meal). Eating out can be cheaper than cooking by yourself if you eat Korean food. Transport within Seoul typically costs a bit more than 1€ per way (both subway and bus), buy a rechargeable T-Money card or get a monthly subscription.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Very much self-picked courses according to my interest. I chose the Intensive Korean Language Course (6 credits, I recommend it for serious language learners!) and two additional political science courses, one particularly for exchange students and one regular international relations class which had 50/50 international and local students (good to get in touch with local students). Due to the pandemic, before midterm my courses were online (great system!), and after midterm, luckily, they were hybrid and on campus. All well-organized!
academic quality of education activities	
	It differed between the courses that I took. The highest quality had my international relations class which was very well structured, there I learnt the most. Importantly, all my professors encouraged critical thinking in class and spoke English fluently.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Amazing! Our exchange coordinator at SKKU worked 24/7 for us (in my eyes too much), answering all the questions (mostly on KakaoTalk, the Korean WhatsApp-equivalent, but I also had good contact via email). They were very helpful. One tip: most of information you can easily get from your own research, the study guide that SKKU provides you with, as well as using the search function in chatrooms with fellow exchange students as most questions were already asked and answered! Be smart and check that first before you contact the official coordinators.
transfer of credits	
	Not applicable in my case. Be careful to choose courses according to your study level and major if you want to get the credits for them! And check on time with the Board of Examiners at UU.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	Due to the pandemic, it was online in my case. We had an introduction by HiClub, a local student society which helps exchange students settle in. Additionally, we could meet fellow exchange students in organized Zoom break out rooms.
accommodation	
	In my case: dormitory. It was a very cool experience to share a room (I was lucky with my roommate). It is certainly one lifestyle, but I had no curfew as a graduate student, for instance (if this concerns you: for undergrad students the curfew was from 1-5am). I was in I-House, couldn't have been closer to Seoul campus, great area to live in!! The dorm was always clean, had a kitchen and cutlery that you can use (only in I-House), wash machines that costed less than 1€ per laundry. Felt always safe (there is a security guard at the entrance), and the housing office was helpful.
leisure & culture	
	It's Seoul!!! Explore everything, go to different areas, Hongdae and Itaewon (for hanging out), Gangnam and more, take the bus for the cheapest way to go on sight-seeing tours (buses are in my eyes anyways the most efficient transport system in Korea, both intra- and intercity; way more efficient than in any other country I have been to). Eat Korean BBQ, street food, shop local fashion, study at cafes (it's very common in Korea and the cafes are so nice!!) and the SKKU library, go out and randomly connect with locals (they are typically very open and eager to talk with internationals). Korea is such a safe country, even as a woman in the middle of the night alone anywhere in Seoul, I always felt safe (there are CCTV cameras everywhere). But try to see more than Seoul, travel the country and make the most of our stay, while of course focusing on your studies too!
suggestions/tips	



Respect the culture!! For instance, no or very quiet talking on the train or bus (doesn't matter if you're drunk or hyped). Also respect covid19-rules, they are there for a reason and you are a guest in their country, so, on one hand live a full exchange experience but on the other not by compromising the rules, whether you like it or not. I already mentioned the buses for getting around. Be open to the culture and people, if you listen to them, you will learn the most.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Most definitely! Greatly organized university, courses had a good level, it was a very valuable academic experience to be a student at SKKU in South Korea.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do it! If you are thinking about going abroad for an exchange, do it. You will forever keep these memories. And South Korea is such a vibrant, interesting, fun, welcoming, beautiful country to experience, with great people, culture, and language. It is so worth it! Enjoy and good luck on your journey 😊



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Utrecht University; social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study program	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name university abroad	Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU)
start date	21 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was definitely not without stress. A lot of paperwork is required for all the application steps and the deadlines of the guest university were several times very short. Also some of the necessary documents for visa application got sent to us very late, making it difficult to arrange the visa in time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Because of my physical disability there were a lot of extra things I needed to arrange before I would be able to go on exchange, so I had frequent contact with UU International Office about this and it went very well.
academic preparation	For my courses I didn't need additional academic preparation
language preparation	Before going to Korea, I had already been studying Korean a little bit for a while and I also participated in SKKU's short Wise program where you'd get Korean classes every day for a week.
finances	Living expenses in Korea are pretty affordable, and the dorm's housing was cheaper than my rent near the UU campus. I think it mostly depends on what kind of things you want to do for entertainment, as traveling, shopping, and cultural activities can add a lot to the totals of your exchange

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I chose Sociology for my major at SKKU, but they only offered 3 English-taught courses during the Spring Semester for this major. This was not a problem for me, as I also took a Korea-related course (Understanding Asian Culture) and a language course (Intermediate Korean), but if you really need credits that are related to your major then this can be too limited
academic quality of education activities	From some of the teachers there was a lot of student participation and critical thinking expected but some also mostly just talked to the class. The quality was also different per teacher.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	



One thing I learned during this exchange is that you really need to contact them frequently to get things arranged. They can be pretty rigid and won't really think outside of the box to come up with solutions to help you out. But I suggest to not give up and contact as many different people within the related offices as possible to look for a solution! It is also best to call and visit the offices rather than to email them.

transfer of credits

The process of my credit transfer isn't finished yet, but I took 12 SKKU credits worth of courses which should be 24 UU credits

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation was a lot of fun. On the main square they had all these booths during the first week where you'd get some free goodies or you could play games to win goodies and you could sign up for student clubs

accommodation

I lived in the dorm during the exchange. The university has quite many dorm buildings and some of them are a good 25 minutes from the campus buildings by foot whereas others are very nearby. As for disabled students, they have a few accessible rooms in G-House and E-House (furthest away from campus). The facilities in these dorms differ per building so make sure to check out the information about their dorms on the SKKU site.

leisure & culture

The Seoul campus is in an area with many cultural activities nearby, such as several palaces, museums, and hanok villages. The public transport towards other areas of the city is efficient, and there are so many things to do for leisure as well

suggestions/tips

My main tip is just to really make sure that you do the things you wanna do before it's too late, because time goes so fast. Mid-June it will start to rain many days almost all day, so many sightseeing activities won't be enjoyable anymore.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would 100% recommend it. I enjoyed my time so much and lived so many new experiences. I really love the vibe of the city, it has so many beautiful things to see and the eating and drinking culture are very fun to me. I am going to miss it way too much.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The campus is on a steep hill. As for disability support, the university offers transport in the form of a wheelchair vehicle that can pick you up from & bring you back to the dorm, as well as drive between the campus buildings. There are some accessible dorm rooms and they helped me rent extra accommodations so that I could live there



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Economie
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Economics and Business Economics

destination city & country	Seoul, South Korea
name university abroad	SungKyunKwan University
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>Pretty slow and vague to be honest. I had to wait a long time before I could even apply for housing, and if I wouldn't get selected, there would almost be no time for alternatives. The process could be more efficient and transparent in my opinion. Being able to let the coordinator know my choice of courses was impossible, since it was almost certain I wouldn't be able to get these courses due the limited spots offered per class and even more limited amount of English taught courses.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>There was no counselling needed really, although the communication could have been more clear in my opinion what to expect and when to expect what.</p>
academic preparation	<p>I took a course called "Beginner Korean" on the intense level, which required 6 hours a week of in class time. It was tough, since every person in class already knew how to read, write and talk a bit. I would only advice to study the Korean language as academic preparation if you are interested In taking a course like this, since it is not possible to academically be pe prepared for other courses.</p>
language preparation	<p>Like being said already, it is pretty important to know the language slightly before arriving in Korea, but not needed per se. I would argue it is useful, since most communication is in Korean in daily life, but with apps you will manage to overcome the language barriers.</p>
finances	<p>South Korea is pretty cheap. Housing can be on the expensive side, but it is certainly affordable. Eating out is way cheaper than cooking and buying ingredients in supermarkets. Transportation is reasonable and very convenient and neat.</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>I took the courses 'Beginner Korean (6 credits), AI and management (3 credits), Business analytics and applications (3 credits), and Marketing data analytics (3 credits).</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>The academic quality was decent, but I didn't really like the teaching style that much. Critical thinking and engagement between professor and student are what I missed and what I value at Utrecht University. I didn't like the memorization aspect either, since I learned how to apply instead how to memorize fast. It can be a</p>



draining process, long hours, and no real challenge that goes hand in hand with memorization out of lecture slides without grasping deeper complexities.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was a counselling system at place, the international office. This helped me understand how to work with the system of enrolling in courses better, but I didn't need a lot of counselling apart from that.

transfer of credits

I didn't get my credits transferred yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation programme was well organised. There was a big

accommodation

I stayed in a dormitory, which cost me 1700 USD for about 4 months. There are other cheaper options, but I didn't want to isolate myself from the student life too much. You could also choose to live in an apartment, but it is hard to find something what desirable conditions and the deposit you have to pay is really out of the normal.

leisure & culture

Seoul is a city that has everything. The culture is very unique, and many of my friends went out to do karaoke at night, go to kpop concerts and attend exchange parties. Besides this, there is a beautiful palace where you can wear traditional Korean clothing and a must-do with friends!

suggestions/tips

Don't stay inside, explore the city, there is so much to see!!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would recommend this destination for sure, since Seoul is an amazing city. There is a lot going on and no boring day. The food is super tasty and eating out is cheap. I am

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be discouraged by the complications of applying, in the end it is all worth it and a once in a lifetime experience and opportunity.