

Return Report

Sharings:

Please write an essay on your experiences of study abroad:

(At least 1,000 words)

Please include the following items

- Introduction of the school
- What courses you have taken? The course you benefit most.
- What benefits you have got from study
- Impression and suggestions

For my exchange semester I had the opportunity to study at Yonsei University in South-Korea. Yonsei University is a private research university in Seoul, South Korea and globally renowned as one of the three most prestigious institutions in the country. It is particularly respected in the studies of medicine and business administration. Currently Yonsei University occupies the second spot in South-Korea.

The courses I selected for my exchange were Entrepreneurial Management, Organizational Behavior, and International Management since they connect with my current study direction which is business administrations. The class I enjoyed and benefitted most from is Organizational Behavior. As I want to open a business later in life, I believe this course provided me with fundamental knowledge on how to manage the employees in the workplace and on how I am expected to adapt to the environment of my business. This is such important information because without the right team, motivation and drive the company would most likely struggle to grow big as the organizational performance relies on team performance. The professor was very educational and managed to answer and rationally explain the reasoning behind the answer as well.

Another class that I thought to be beneficial is International Management. I started this course with some fundamental knowledge already and therefore felt like I did not take away as much as the Organizational Behavior class. Nonetheless, I did learn new theories and knowledge which can be extremely helpful when running a business. Lastly, I initially expected to learn the most from Entrepreneurial Management. However, this course disappointed me a bit because a lot of the material used were outdated. An aspect of the course that I did find useful was that we had to write our own business plan based on a business idea we had to come up with ourselves. To start a firm, it

is crucial to conduct your own research and formulate a business plan. Thus, I learned a lot from this and find it helpful for the future.

Since Yonsei is a globally renowned University, students from all over the world attend the exchange programs. Thus, not only the knowledge taught at Yonsei is beneficial but also the connections you can make during your semester there. I met a lot of people from different backgrounds who each provided me with new insights and knowledge which can be advantageous when working in a global setting. Also, the Korean culture itself was very interesting to learn more about by conversing with the local people, learn about the history, and taste the local food. Another benefit I have taken from my exchange semester is independency. Most of the times I had to figure things out myself, and surprisingly enough Korea does not offer so many services in English. As I could not speak the local language this led to some funny yet awkward moments. But every situation taught me something new and bit by bit it got easier and easier to get things done. This shows that although it can be quite frustrating if you remain determined and open-minded you can go past that and learn a lot of fundamental skills during your time abroad.

Overall, my overall impression regarding the exchange semester was pretty good, although it had ups and downs, I gained friends that will last for a lifetime, made new memories, developed myself, experienced new things, and created everlasting memories. If you are interested to study in South-Korea there are a few suggestions I would like to give:

- Start learning the language before you go. This will greatly benefit you, and the local people will appreciate it a lot.
- Do some research on what is polite and what is considered to be rude in the Korean culture. Find out what topics you have to avoid mentioning, and how society is constructed and works.
- Make a list which includes everything you want to see and try to divide it as soon as you know your schedule.
- Read a short summary regarding the history of South-Korea as it will enable you to understand some cultural traits.
- Always remain open-minded and flexible when going to another country. Sometimes you have to give up or tone down some of your cultural traits because it can be considered to be rude or disrespectful in other countries.
- lastly, try to make a local friend before you arrive. This will benefit you as you will already have an insider who can give you some tips on how to survive.