

Auslands-Studienaufenthalt an der Korea National University of Arts
Stadt / Land: Seoul / Südkorea
besuchte Studienrichtung an der Gastuniversität: Multimedia
Aufenthaltssemester / -jahr: WS 2017
Studienrichtung an der KUNI: Zeitbasierte und interaktive Medien

Meine Erfahrungen

The semester at Korea National University of Arts in Seoul was one of the best times I had in my studies so far. I learned a lot and I could grow not only as a person but also as an artist.

I was very much looking forward to going on an exchange semester in Korea, because I already had some friends there. I also already studied Korean beforehand, and for anyone going to Korea, you HAVE TO learn Korean (at least how to read and write as well as basic conversation). One of the problems many foreigners face in Korea, is the language barrier. Many Koreans hesitate to speak to foreigners because they are afraid of speaking English and making mistakes. However if you put in some effort and approach the people with a smile on your face, they will talk to you and make sure to help you with whatever you need.

I was really lucky with my apartment, as I could live in one of the best areas for students in Seoul, which is really close to Korea National University of Arts. This area is called „Anam“ and there is also Korea University. You can see quite a lot of exchange students there and the housing and food is cheaper compared to the „touristy areas“ and quiet living areas. Housing is quite expensive if you don't want to live on campus, but it is affordable. I had my own kitchen, washing machine, bathroom, bed and desk and I paid roughly 350€ / month (500,000 won) . For Seoul, that is a normal price.

The first week at University was a little difficult, because the system for exchange students in Korea is still very new and not well thought through. The other exchange students were really nice and so we could inform about the classes together and help each other. After finally signing up for all classes, the semester went absolutely wonderful. I had no problems following any classes and the professors were really nice. I could take classes in my own department but was also able to learn about Korean History and Creative Printmaking in the Fine Arts department.

The University itself is quite stunning and amazing. The University has its own Cinema, Theatre hall and many more facilities, as well as a huge library and cafeteria. They serve warm food twice a day, with each meal costing roughly 1,50€! The Department of Multimedia is really great and the professors are kind and helping. The students were a little shy at first , but after talking to them, they were so kind and interested. We could have a great time together and even had dinner together sometimes.

Studying however isn't easy. The expectations are high and you have to do well and show your skills. That is the typical Korean mentality and very different from the mentality in Linz. However I worked really hard and could finish many Projects of which I am really proud. On my homepage, I

put together some pictures and Information about my stay in Korea, as well as my Projects:

<http://www.rhubinaa.com/korea/>.

Apart from life at University, I was able to travel and see quite a lot around Korea. I visited different cities and different parts of Seoul. The culture is amazing and there are so many museums to see. The Korea National Museum is so big, you can't ever see everything in that museum. There is also a lot of modern media art and underground artists hidden in the side streets. The food in Korea is probably one of the reasons why I love this country so much. If you are NOT VEGETARIAN and if you LOVE SPICEY FOOD, then you should go there! Koreans love to eat spicey meats and seafood stews. There is also quite a lot of western and Japanese cuisine to be found in Seoul, you just have to look for it.

Transportation can get quite expensive in Korea, as there is no student ticket for anyone. You have a card that you can load up with money and then pay for every ride you take. It is probably one of the things that I didn't like about Korea, because after one semester i spent ~300€ on transportation – and that is normal there!

But if you are willing to take a risk and try Korea, I recommend everyone to do it. Most importantly, inform yourself before going there, learn the culture, language and be understanding towards Koreans.

The experience in Korea was truly great and I can't describe everything in just a few words. I am very thankful to the professors and students of Korea National University of Arts for making this Semester so great.



Some students of Multimedia Class and me at the last day of my exchange.

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