

Experience report of the stay at the partner university

Max. 2-3 pages in German or English. Use complete sentences (no keywords).

Mobility Program	ERASMUS+
Partner University	Chung Ang Universität (Seoul)
Studyprogramme visited	Bachelor
Semester	3 Semester, Wintersemester
Name and e-mail optional	

<p>Overall impression Description of the stay abroad in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>A life within life, where one is thrown into an unfamiliar environment and realizes after a few months that a new life has been built. It was one of the most intense experiences of my life, during which I had the opportunity to meet amazing people and become acquainted with a culture previously unknown to me. I became aware of how significant cultural differences can be, but it depends on us whether we are open to others and their worldviews.</p>
<p>Immigration / arrival entry formalities, visa</p>	<p>For the semester abroad in Korea, you need a visa. With a German passport, there were no problems obtaining it. It is best to apply for it as early as possible so that you don't stress about it. I recommend applying for a Multiple Entry Visa because it allows you more freedom to travel. Normally, you are not allowed to leave Korea if you receive a student visa until you obtain the Alien Registration Card (ARC). This card permits you to exit and re-enter the country without losing your visa. However, with the trick of the Multiple Entry Visa, you can leave the country even before receiving the card. Unfortunately, not every country offers the option to apply for this visa. Otherwise, I recommend checking in Europe how to expedite this process because it can take up to two months to receive the ARC.</p>
<p>Room searching/stay Helpful contact information</p>	<p>Most exchange students live in the dormitories located on the campus grounds. Often, this is the most affordable option, as you only pay 1,300,000 KRW for the entire semester. However, you have to accept certain conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You share a room with another person. • Gender-segregated with no access to the opposite gender. • Curfew from 1 am to 6 am. • No alcohol consumption or storage in the dorms. • No visitors allowed. • Regular room inspections. <p>Violation of any of these rules results in penalty points, and if you accumulate 20 points, you will be expelled. However, I've heard that they are not too strict about the curfew for exchange students. Personally, I decided against living on campus because, on the one hand, the above-mentioned points deterred me, and on the other hand, I didn't want to spend all my time on campus. Additionally, my cousin is in Seoul at the same time, so we chose to share an apartment in Itaewon. It takes me 30 to 40 minutes to get to campus from here. Itaewon is a vibrant neighborhood where you can find good and affordable restaurants/bistros, as well as plenty of green spaces.</p>
<p>Public transport Train, bus, accessibility of the university</p>	<p>To use public transportation, you need a Tmoney card, which you can purchase at any kiosk. This card must be loaded with credit and can be used throughout Korea. You pay for</p>

	<p>each journey, checking in and out with the card when boarding and disembarking. Starting from early 2024, a monthly pass is set to be introduced, costing 60,000 Won.</p>
<p>Preparation for the studies Course registration procedure, language certificate and transcript of records</p>	<p>One doesn't require language certificates to enroll at the university. Only proof of academic performance is necessary, and as far as I'm aware, grades are not taken into consideration. Documents for the Learning Agreement are provided; however, the website did not consistently function during my attempts, making it challenging to identify the correct courses. Following this, one discusses with their academic advisor whether the courses will be recognized. If approved, you can then try to register for the courses. A detailed description is sent via email by Chung Ang University before the start of the semester. I successfully enrolled in all the desired courses. Additionally, there is an opportunity to switch courses at the beginning of the semester.</p>
<p>Information about the university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>Chung Ang University is located in Seoul, South Korea. It is a private university with approximately 30,000 students and 982 faculties. The campus is quite large and situated on a hill, resulting in many stairs. On the campus, you can find several cafeterias, shops, cafes, restaurants, a gym, and dormitories.</p>
<p>Language course visited at the university Course content, benefits</p>	<p>All my courses were in English. Most professors speak English quite well. However, it's important to note that they often have an accent.</p>
<p>Studies at the university Course content, credits, exams</p>	<p>The courses follow a conversion rate of 2:1, meaning that 1 ECTS at Chung Ang University is equivalent to 2 ECTS at the University of Liechtenstein. Therefore, it is advisable to select courses at Chung Ang with a 3 ECTS equivalence at our university to maintain a manageable workload. I completed 36 ECTS, and it proved to be quite feasible. While the midterms and finals posed challenges due to the six courses, I successfully navigated through all of them. As previously mentioned, all courses include midterms and finals. Typically, the exams cover material taught up to that point, encompassing only half of the semester's content. Many exams featured multiple-choice questions or true/false statements, particularly in knowledge-based subjects, whereas mathematical courses required problem-solving tasks.</p>
<p>Support at the university Student counseling, International Office, Buddy, student contacts</p>	<p>Due to the large size of the university, the support system is well-developed. The International Office is always available for any questions and responds promptly. Additionally, at the beginning, exchange students are assigned to buddy groups, consisting of approximately 10-20 students. The GLAM Buddies initially guide students through the university and are also available for any kind of questions. Moreover, GLAM organizes a Buddy Program, where everyone can participate and receive a personal buddy. Often, individuals participating in the program are looking to improve their English or make international friends. If you're interested, it's recommended to sign up quickly, as there is considerable interest.</p>
<p>Budgeting Cost of living, study materials, money transfers</p>	<p>Living in Korea is more affordable than in Switzerland or Liechtenstein. The largest monthly expense is undoubtedly rent. If you opt for the dormitories, it costs only 1,300,000 KRW for the entire semester (as of 2024). Next is food. It's not worth cooking because dining out is often cheaper than buying all the groceries. Groceries, especially fruits, can be quite expensive. A watermelon can cost up to 17 CHF. The same applies to other fruits. Eating in the university cafeteria is cost-effective, with a dish costing between 3 and 4 CHF. Of course, expenses also depend on the activities you engage in. In general, I would say you should budget between 700 CHF and an unlimited amount for food, transportation, excursions, and personal expenses. Rent is not included in this estimate.</p>

<p>Life / Leisure Places to meet, sports, culture</p>	<p>Seoul is a city of 10 million people. You'll never get bored there, as there is always something to do or see. The university offers various clubs that you can join, such as photography, table tennis, martial arts, and more. You can go hiking in Seoul or be at the sea in just 2 hours. The surrounding areas of Seoul are also naturally beautiful. During weekends or free time, you can explore the country (Busan, Gwangju, Suncheon, Jeonju, etc.) or even visit other Asian countries while you are there. Flights are often not expensive, and this opportunity should be taken advantage of.</p>	
<p>Comparison of universities What is better / worse at the partner university than at the University of Liechtenstein</p>	<p>Comparing the two universities is challenging as they couldn't be more different. Chung Ang University is significantly larger, with 35 times as many students as the University of Liechtenstein. Experiencing both has been enriching for me. Determining what's better or worse depends largely on individual preferences. At a larger university, one tends to be more anonymous, essentially just a number. Moving from course to course means interacting with different people, and it's sometimes only at the end of the semester that you realize you've shared multiple classes with the same person. Additionally, navigating larger campuses often involves considerable walking and careful time management to transition from one class to another. One positive aspect that stood out for me is the vibrant student life. The university actively organizes numerous events, such as concerts, for the students.</p>	
<p>Photos Impressions of life, studying, environment</p>		
<p>Photos Use of photos allowed for promotional purposes?</p>	<p>Ja <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Nein <input type="checkbox"/></p>

