

Auslands-Studienaufenthalt an der

Universität: K-ARTS

Stadt/Land: SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

besuchte Studienrichtung an der Gastuniversität: MULTIMEDIA

Aufenthaltssemester / -jahr: WS 2016

Studienrichtung an der KUNI: Zeitbasierte und Interaktive Medien

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### Meine Erfahrungen

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#### THE APPLICATION PROCESS

If you want to apply for a semester abroad you shouldn't hesitate too long! For an application at KARTS, you need, besides your portfolio, proof of your study results, medical records, 2 recommendation letters from your professors, and a study plan. Please consider that Fall term is 2nd semester and Spring term is 1st semester. You get your confirmation letter about 1 month later after you submitted your documents.

#### VISA

You need a VISA if you want to study in Korea. After you get your confirmation letter and all required documents for VISA application you pay in your home country ~45€ fees. But you can also apply in Korea for your student Visa (~100€). Please consider that you are NOT ALLOWED to leave Korea with a student visa, unless your „Alien“ registration is completed and you get your „Alien“ (Foreigner) card, (or you apply for a Visa which allows you multiple entries to Korea, but what I've heard from other European exchange students its not possible to get that).

#### INFORMATION ABOUT SEOUL/KOREA

Seoul is a beautiful futuristic city but living costs are high. I am very interested in asian food, culture and (media) art and that was my motivation to make an exchange in Korea. I have asian roots so the culture shock wasn't too much for me. Koreans were towards to me a little bit different than to my exchange colleagues, actually many thought that I am Korean. I wanted to experience what its like to live in an asian country. In Korea being beautiful is a big thing. Surgery clinics, botox clinics, beauty & clothing stores are around every corner. Koreans are one of the best dressed people in the world. You might feel under dressed compared to them!

#### ACADEMIC LIFE

Besides the location of the area the campus is equipped with everything students need: library, sport classes, cheap restaurants, theatre, cafes, rooms for studying, smoking areas with a beautiful view, ... Contra point: Anywhere else you want to go from the campus takes nearly 1 hour. Our supervisor from the International Office, Mrs Seora Woo, is mostly available for any concerns. She makes a nice impression but she wasn't really supportive when I had problems. I have the feeling that she was much more willing to help my American colleagues to maintain a better relationship to their universities. America also plays a very significant role in Korea.

Be prepared for their (positive?) attitude towards Americans. Picking up classes is more like a game of luck. In the Bachelor program you are only allowed to make 19 ECTS (Master program 12). I was very unhappy with some of my courses, even though I prepared my list of classes very well I didn't end up having them. Reason was some teachers refuse to teach Exchange students because of the language barrier. There is a very strict rule of dropping classes: First week only meeting for talking, after that week its not possible to change any class. Except of one teacher nobody spoke english. If you are lucky there is someone in the class who is willing to translate and help you. But in general my teachers didn't spoke to me. Koreans are very shy people, but that doesn't mean they don't care. In general nobody told me if there was a homework, a presentation etc. In case of cancelation of a class I didn't got any notification. Honestly, I felt very left out and ignored most of time.

#### ACCOMODATION

I lived in the entertainment district Itaewon, the best place to live in Seoul for an expat. Not only because of the good traffic connection (20 min everywhere!), also many foreigners live here and a lot of events happen on the weekend. Contra-point: living here is very pricey. ~400 000 Won for room, Restaurants also very expensive just as everything else.

#### TRANSPORT

Transport is in Korea very cheap, fast and clean. Taxis are also very cheap starting from 3000 Won (~3€). There is no student discount and if you go everyday to campus include an amount of 500€ of transportation costs at the end of semester.

#### STUDENT JOBS

There is a good opportunity to work in Korea as a language teacher, but for one semester its not necessary for an extra job + there is no time.

#### END OF SEMESTER/SUMMARY

Honestly, I was a little bit disappointed of my exchange program, because things happened to me I didn't expect of an exchange. To say it again, I felt very left out and ignored most of the time, not only of Koreans but also of other Exchange students, of my teachers, ... Sometimes I had very good talk with Koreans, but still it was very hard to make friends because of their shyness. Some exchange students were nice, some ignored me from the beginning. It was hard to meet them in free time. Being shy is ok, but to degrade people just because of their nationality, gender and the personality is not ok!!! When I'm thinking back of my time in Korea it makes me on the one hand angry and sad because of this experience, but on the other hand I made an unforgettable time and also had good moments.

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