

SEP 08 2009

YJ

Seoul, South Korea: Yonsei University
Summer 2009

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1.

- a. Yonsei's international student dorms are a great option to be close to campus. The current dorms are in shambles, but they are in the process of building new dorms right next to it, that will be the best option in the future. If attending Yonsei in the near future, I would recommend staying at Casaville or DMCville, which are options offered in addition to regular dorming at Yonsei.
- b. Orientation was canceled due to N1H1 flu scares.

2.

- a. Compared to the University of Washington, that classes I took were equivalent to the size of upper division courses, where the professor was able to get to know all the students names and work. There were midterms/final exams, as well as quizzes. As summer school students, we had full access to all facilities on Yonsei's campus, but because we never attended a tour, it was difficult to find those locations. The library was also far from our dorms, so most students stayed in the dorms to do their homework/study. Internet access was available, but we had to wait until the start of school to gain access. This was a hassle because we checked into the dorms about five days before school started, and the only way to access the internet was to use a LAN cord, which we had to purchase.
- b. Instruction was equivalent to instruction at UW. Some classes are miss or hits, the same goes for Yonsei's summer program. But at Yonsei, the professors that I had, were all well-known in their area of instruction.
- c. I would recommend Korean Business Ethics class, because I heard many good things about that class. Also all my friends who took that class, felt that it was fun and engaging.
- d. My study abroad coursework related to my double major in Korean Language and Culture.

3.

- a. Dorming/homestay/office hotel
- b. Dorming because I wanted to be on campus and close to classes.
- c. Please see 1a

4. Yonsei is a huge university on top of a hill, North of the Han river in Seoul. It is within walking distance to two bustling areas. One is called Shinchon , which is known in Seoul as being a college town, equivalent to Seattle's U district, but with much more to do and see. The other area is called Edeh (in front of Ewha Women's University), there are lots of places to eat and shop. Otherwise if you want to travel through Seoul, it is relatively easy because of the public transportation.
5. Korea is relatively safe as long as people are smart and stay in groups. It is dangerous to ride taxi's at night alone, especially for women.
6.
 - a. I knew many Seoulites from the language exchange program at the University of Washington, so it helped to have them as friends. Also having family friends helped as well.
 - b. In Korea, it is all about seniority, no matter what that person has achieved in life. So it is important to show the utmost respect for adults. Also for some older generations, it is important to them to retain the language and culture, so many older people will get angry or yell if English is used.
7.
 - a. It is better to just withdraw money from international ATM's which are available close to Yonsei, and there is also a bank on campus.
 - b. Spending money, not including board, because the dorm fee was already paid upfront, was about \$800 USD...because I am considering the traveling that I did on the weekend, but that is on the more expensive side.
 - c. N/A
 - d. No complications to fin aid because I talked to any fin aid counselor if there were complications.
8.
 - a. IP&E office was relatively good at administering the program, but because there was a new person taking over for Korea's study abroad, I don't think it was as efficient. There was a lot of paperwork that I was confused about, and I constantly had to ask about. It would be much easier if there was a guideline or outline of due dates/paperwork from the beginning that outlined the entire process.
 - b. NA
9. This program is best suited for students who want something to do over the summer that doesn't take up the whole summer, and is extremely laid back and fun!
10. My expectations were exceeded, I had much more fun and learned more than I had expected.

3. HOUSING:

- a. What housing options were available to you?
- b. Which did you choose, and why?
- c. What would you recommend?

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

- a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?
(e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)
- b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.
(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

7. FINANCIAL:

- a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?
- b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.
- c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.
- d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any complications?
If so, how did you address them?

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

- a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?
- b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

AUG 21 2009

South Korea: Yonsei University
Summer 2008

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IPE Evaluation Report

- 1) I recommend a UW-based outing before arriving to Korea so that the students can get to know each other and be less intimidated in an unknown environment.
- 2) My Asian American History class had five students in it, myself included. The other classes were similar to the UW classroom structure (roughly 15-20 students). The instructors were extremely friendly and informative, similar to the instructors at UW. Exams were fairly difficult (written exams) and the amount of reading per class was an intensive load. The computer facilities were far from the International dormitory and oftentimes difficult to use as the computers were not the standard Windows/Mac programs.

I highly recommend Professor Anne Choi, who taught Asian American History during the Summer 2008 program.

- 3) The international dormitory (I-House) at Yonsei University was being renovated. Thus, there was limited space for students and some students lived at a very lavish apartment complex. They were transported from the complex to the campus on a very timely manner.

While I enjoyed the air conditioned dorm room of the I-House, I felt that the dormitory was very small. Also, women slept on the left wing of the I-House, men on the right, and both were forbidden to transgress the sex-segregated corridors. I felt that was a bit too conservative for my liking.

- 4) The campus was beautiful, spanning acres of lush grass, fountains, etc. The surrounding community was very student-friendly and nearby restaurants were extremely affordable. The community was relatively safe and very welcoming to foreign college students.
- 5) No real health/safety concerns
- 6) I interacted with students from my classes and went out with them to pubs, bars, open mic nights. Ultimately, in a foreign city, students tend to stick together and venture the community and its nightlife.
- 7) A. Bank/wire transfer
B. \$500/month
C. I spent more on food than expected because the food was absolutely delicious
D. N/A

8) A. The advisors at IPE were extremely helpful and friendly; always willing to help students organize transcripts, travelling documents, etc.

9) This program is best suited for the student willing to completely immerse himself/herself in a culture that boasts the best food, nightlife, temples, tourist sites, etc.

10) I absolutely loved the experience. The classes definitely met my expectations, although they had rigorous course loads and the Korean community was extremely welcoming to foreign students.

Seoul, South Korea
Summer 2009

1. Arrival Overseas/On-Site Orientation

a. I had family pick me up from the airport but I recommend students use the airport shuttle bus.

b. My program did not have orientation.

2. Academics:

a. The instructions I received were similar to UW's system. The class size averaged from 10-30 students per class. Professors made an effort to get to know the students.

Grading/exams were similar to that of UW classes. A wide variety of library and computer resources were available for use.

b. The quality and content of the courses I took were very good. The professors were very knowledgeable and friendly.

c. No.

d. The courses I took went towards my upper (300-400) level courses.

3. Housing

a. Dorms, apartments, or stay with family.

b. I chose to live in the dorm because it was a very convenient location for classes, etc.

c. Dorm or apartment

4. Program/exchange site:

Yonsei University has a very large and beautiful campus. Outside the Yonsei campus there is a lot of activity including restaurants, bars, shopping, movie theater, etc.

5. Health and Safety:

At the time of my studying abroad, the swine flu was in Korea. The school took quick and precautionary measures for the safety of students.

6. Cultural aspects:

a. I met a lot of students through classes, dorms, going out, exploring the city, etc. I didn't have much of a chance to meet actual locals.

b. A difference I noticed was that Korea is very keen on social etiquette and respect of others.

7. Financial

a. The best way for me was to use my atm/debit card. I took out small amounts of money at near-by atm locations.

b. I would recommend 1,000 dollars.

c. none

d. no

8. Program administration

a. I thought the office did a good job. They were friendly and had a fast response whenever I had a question or problem.

9. Program/student type

I think students who are open to different cultures would be well suited for this program. Students who are independent and are self-motivated would do well.

10. I thought my overall experience on this program was great. I had small goals such as learning Korean, meeting my family members and doing well in school.

DB —
TW ✓
EB —

International Program/Exchange Evaluation Report

Student name

Student ID:

Email:

Program Location: Seoul, South Korea

Term/year: Summer 2010

1. Arrival Overseas/On-site Orientation:

a. I'd probably recommend either staying at a relative's place (which I did) or one of those student hostels that are really close to the school, it's really reasonably priced and you still get to see your friends that are living in the dorms easily. The dorms at Yonsei University is very nice and there is one specific for international students.

b. There was an orientation, it was entirely held in an auditorium. It was nice to meet the staff of the program and had pretty decent speeches. They used a powerpoint to explain registration, events, and etc. I found it pretty helpful. Downfall, compared to UW's freshmen orientation, there was a lot of activities with upperclassmen and movement. We sat down the whole time for about two hours and that was the end of orientation.

2. Academics:

a. Comparison with UW

-Classroom structure: smaller than UW, but I think it's because of the smaller population in this summer program. I would like to say maximum 30 people sized rooms to mid size lecture halls which fit about 50 people.

-Instruction: I thought this program was interesting because it had professors from different schools in the U.S. There were a couple Yonsei University professors, but had a lot more from the UC schools and other West Coast schools. Some teachers had TAs, but most didn't. There was no separate lecture/lab/quiz section.

-Teacher/Student Relations: I made really good relationships with my professors and the teachers really get to know the students and names.

-Grading/Exams: the grading system was weird, it was a computer generated curve. The first 35% of students with the best grades would get A's, and the following 35% B's, following 35% C's and so forth. I'm not sure if I was a fair grading process. In my human disease class, we had a midterm and final and our midterm was looked at. For Korean Language, all our final tests were reviewed thoroughly. And for Korean Cinema, there was a paper and final, which were fairly graded. I'm just not so sure about the system itself.

-Administration: At orientation, the president and many professors spoke with us.

-Library, computer, and classroom facilities: Korea is still very PC-oriented, which I'm not fond of. But, their libraries were beautiful. They had the best technology and it was very well organized. In order to have a study room or place, you had to rent it out (without cost) but it was well organized. The classrooms were fairly small because they were all held in the international building.

b. Evaluation of the quality and content of instruction

-I liked the fact that there were professors from around the US. My Korean Cinema professor was from Yale University, but was an alumni of Yonsei University and my Human Disease is a professor from UC San Diego. The content was fairly easily for a ten-week

program, but I learned a lot in all of my classes. There was a lot of material covered, but professors made it possible to do for students.

c. Recommending courses:

-I would recommend the Korean Language Program there, the teachers are really great. And also, I heard from other students that the Korean Studies classes are really worth it.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

-Well, I took two classes that related to my two proposed majors, Cinema Studies and Human Disease. My intended majors are Biology and Cinema Studies. And Korean Language for my own gaining benefit.

3. Housing:

a. Available Housing Options:

-There were international student housing, which was newly built. Also, around the campus, there were many student hostels which were cheap.

b. Which one did I choose?

-I chose to commute and live with my aunt, who was a 45-min bus ride away from campus. It was cheaper and I didn't have to pay anything.

c. What would you recommend?

-I would recommend the dorms, they're really nice and you get roomed with one other person. This way, you get to make a lot of new friends and be able to socialize with them more.

4. Program/Exchange Site:

Well, Yonsei Campus is in the same vicinity with another college, a women's college. Yonsei is in the heart of the city of Shinchon, and it's a perfect city for college students. There are a lot of places to eat and shop, and it's cheap. The bus stops and subway stations were all in half a mile radius.

5. Health and Safety:

I didn't have any health problems other than the polluted air of course. Seoul is really hot during the summer, which isn't all that better with the mix of pollution. I would say Seoul is a pretty safe city, but you can never be too careful. As long as you're not by yourself, you will be not approached. Plus, foreigners are less approached unless they are trying to sell you something.

6. Cultural Aspects:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?

- Well, for me it wasn't difficult because I can speak Korean and this culture is familiar to me. I met a lot of people through my family and classes.

b. Cultural differences

-The one problem I had was because I'm not entirely fluent in Korean cause I don't really use the language unless it's with my family. I stopped learning when I was ten so it's the Korean capability of a ten-year-old kid. Citizens could tell that I was a Korean American because I have an English (American) accent with my Korean. It was hard to pass by sometimes when I was trying to negotiate prices at the stores (they would give foreigners high prices), but it worked most of the time.

7. Financial:

a. The best way to transfer money is to create a bank account in Korea, cause there are a lot of wire transfer fees and atms will charge big fees to your account. I say best way is to physically bring the money and get it exchanged in the country.

b. I recommend like \$500-\$800 dollars a month.

c. I don't think I came across any unexpected expenses.

d. The only problem about my financial aid was the timing, it was cutting close to the short loan due date and I was worried that it wasn't going to get paid for. I called the Office of Financial Aid to configure the problem.

8. Program/Exchange Administration:

a. I'm not sure, I think even if the office administered it, I still would have gone through all that work of accepting credits and talking to the departments myself. I think students should have a choice whether they want the credits to be approved as an equivalent class or not. The students are paying for it anyways.

b. Yonsei's administration was very responsive and answered any questions I had in a 1 to 2 day wait. They were very helpful and made sure you got into the classes you wanted to.

9. Program/Student Type:

This is for a student that is looking to be an Asian city where they don't mind a fast-paced lifestyle and the city nightlife. Typically, it would be favorable for students that are interested in Korean culture and know some background information about it because they will be in for a huge culture shock. It was a culture shock for me even though I am Korean.

10. Overall Experience:

Academically, my expectations weren't met because I felt that it wasn't challenging enough. I loved my Korean Language class, but I didn't think my Korean Cinema was a great class that I expected it to be, the class structure was weird. The instructor didn't seem so interested in it. Human Disease was every morning, so it was really hard for me to focus. I would get up at 6am every morning to get ready and make the bus on time.

Personally, as I look back it now, I enjoyed a lot of it. I learned a lot, to get around a huge city by myself. And it being in a whole other language was really difficult at first, but learning how to read and speak Korean at the same time, it was really helpful for me. When I was there, I did get really homesick, cause the whole dirty, polluted air wasn't the thing for me. Something that I wasn't used to because I live in Hawaii where it's far more low key and slow-paced and Seattle, where it is the city but I live in University District and very clean. Hot weather is not the thing for me either, I'd probably want to go back to Korea in the fall or winter, but not in the summer. I never experienced a monsoon season before till I went to Korea. It really made my whole summer and I don't regret it.

Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
Yonsei International Summer School 2014

ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

1. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
 - a. I have family in Seoul so they picked me up from the airport and I stayed with them for the duration of my trip, so I don't really know what to recommend...
2. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?
 - a. The orientation was very brief and spent a lot of time covering the places available to eat on campus. They briefly featured a club at Yonsei that worked to integrate international students with Yonsei students, but because it was summer quarter they weren't very active. The orientation wasn't very useful for me, it just spent a lot of time covering what was in the guidebook they gave to us.

3. ACADEMICS:

- a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of

4. Washington's system:

- a. Classroom structure: Classroom structure was pretty much the same as UW. I had a reading & discussion lecture based class and the Korean class I took was run the same as the Korean class at UW.
 - b. Instruction: Instruction was very similar overall, a lot of emphasis put on key points and thoughtful.
 - c. Teacher/student relations: I was able to have a great relationship with both of my professors. One was in a 200 student class, so I went up and spoke to the professor and went to office hours. The second was in my 14 person Korean class. Since the class was so small I got to know them all very well. I think it was similar to experiences I've had at UW.
 - d. Grading/exams: Grading was fair and done similarly to UW. You do homework, and it's graded as a certain percentage of your grade, along with reading quizzes, group presentations, etc.
 - e. Administration: Yonsei administration was helpful because they had a specific office dedicated to helping YISS international students.
 - f. Library, computer, and classroom facilities: Use of the library was difficult because as an international student you didn't have access to the same things Yonsei students had. So in way, I think UW has a better library/computer usage system.
5. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

The quality and content was very high quality. The professors who were teaching at Yonsei were very knowledgeable in the subjects they were teaching and provided a great experience. You can tell when a professor actually cares about what they're teaching so it was refreshing to see.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

I really enjoy professor Suk-young Kim's class on the hallyu wave and recommend it to any students who enjoy KPOP, KDRAMAS, etc. It really provided a critical look into hallyu wave culture that was a great experience. Sometimes it's important to critically look at and dissect things you consume for entertainment. Similarly, the Korean courses at Yonsei was really well structured and provided a great experience to improve my Korean.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education? (OVER)

My Korean hallyu wave class perfectly complimented my English major by allowing me to apply theories from my cultural studies courses to looking at Korean culture. It was really fascinating to look at how gender, sexuality and class tie into things like KPOP.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

I could either stay in the dorms or stay with family.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I decided to stay with family because I wanted to experience the true life in Korea of commuting because I was trying to see if I wanted to move to Korea after I graduate or not. I really loved the public transportation system. I took both the subway and bus to campus from the other side of the Han river, and it was a great experience commuting.

c. What would you recommend?

If you're able to live off campus, I highly recommend it if you want a true feel of Seoul.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Yonsei campus is currently undergoing a lot of construction but all of my professors spoke about how beautiful the campus was before it began... The campus is fairly large, and it's a bit easy to get lost, but overall I think it's comparable to UW. The surrounding area of Sinchon is a great and lively place to go at night. Korea has a great night life. You can walk around at 10pm and the streets will still be packed. I felt extremely safe in Korea and would often stay out late watching street performers in Sinchon, or go shopping in Idae.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

I was fortunate enough to not experience any health or safety concerns. I was extremely healthy and felt safe the whole time I was there.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

I already had friends in Korea, so I met a lot of my friends through my friends or through my classes. I didn't go to a club once, but I know a lot of people who went to clubs and said they liked it.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

A cultural difference that was weird was how people leave their stuff unattended. Theft isn't really a big issue apparently. In America, when you're at a café with a friend, one of you usually waits with the stuff, while the other orders. In Korea I tried to do that with my Korea friend and they thought I was so paranoid. They asked me why I had to stay by the stuff when I could see it fine from where we would be in the line.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

What I ended up doing is using an extra bank account that a family member in Korea had. So my mother sent money to their bank account in Korea and I just used the ATM to remove money when I needed it.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

I spent about 200,000 won per month (roughly 50,000 won per week). Food is extremely cheap. (2,000-4,000 won per meal) I didn't have to pay for housing, so I can't really talk about that... as for public transportation it was about 1,500 won per subway ride, so fairly cheap.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

N/A

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any complications?

N/A

If so, how did you address them?

N/A

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

I wish there were more chances for international students to interact with actual Korean students from Yonsei. I didn't get to meet many...

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

This program is best suited for students who want to experience Seoul during the sweltering summer. Seoul is a beautiful and amazing city with an awesome nightlife. I don't really like clubbing, but there was still a lot for me to do at night. I could go shopping until 4AM, or go to karaoke all night long. So it was a lot of fun. I think this exchange would really suite people who are into big cities.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Overall my expectations were spot on. Academically, I was expecting to take classes in mostly English (except for my Korean language class) and to have a similar experience to what I've had at UW. The Korean class was taught completely in Korean, which is also done at UW, so it wasn't that hard to adjust to. Personally, I had expected to go to Seoul and completely fall in love with the city, and I definitely did. I'm counting down the days until I graduate so I can return and find a job working abroad. Something about the city just drew me in and kept me there. I absolutely love urban cities like New York city, so Seoul was a perfect fit for me.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program: Yonsei University Exchange

Quarter(s) of Participation: Summer

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

- Arrive a couple days early to avoid jet lag / same day move in into dorms
- Plan to travel with a partner from program unless you're positive you can get around by yourself

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

- Academics - helpful to know class schedule, grading, etc.
- School - helpful to know school layout and what is available on campus
- Dorm life - helpful to know rules and regulations of dorm
- Night life - good to know what's there to do at night

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure – The same as UW's
- instruction – they were about the same too
- teacher/student relations – Same
- grading/exams – Exams are held all on the same day instead of UW's professors getting to choose which day
- administration – Same
- library, computer, and classroom facilities – Same

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Instructions that had to do with the school's online system were consistently vague. Some of the instructions emailed out however, the ones with images were helpful in navigating

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?
Yes! Medicine & Society, and Contemporary Korean Culture

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?
It was about the same, a little bit more intense because of the short amount of time we had

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?
Dorming or off campus

b. Which did you choose, and why?
Dorming because it allowed me to make more friends and be closer to school

c. What would you recommend?
Dorming!

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is huge! It's a short walk away from the heart of Sinchon. There are quite a few restaurants and convenience stores around along with a hospital next to the school.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

Mosquito bites. Get some spray

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?
(e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

Through friends who were Korean and other friends, we ventured into the city often during the day and night

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

The language barrier was the most difficult thing to overcome. Otherwise I experienced no gender issues or social etiquette issues

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

Get an international credit card and before flying, have cash ready for places that don't accept card

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

Depends. \$1000?

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them?

Yes I did use financial aid. No problems

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

Communication could be improved. Also, instructions on what to do before going on the trip would help too. For example, I had no idea that I was responsible for the dorm payment because usually I would pay it through UW

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.
Students who are interested in the culture and having fun!

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?
Pretty realistic.

OCT 21 2015

Yonsei University YISS
Seoul, South Korea
Summer 2015

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival:

There are many cheap hotels in Seoul. They are a good choice if you can't go to the dorms right away.

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

Our orientation was cancelled due to MERS.

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure:

Similar to UW. The class sizes ranged from 12 to approximately 30. The classes were lecture style and you could raise your hand to ask questions. No quiz sections or TAs.

- instruction:

Very good. Some of the best professors from around the world come to Yonsei in the summer to teach courses in their fields. I had one Yonsei Professor who was strict but a good teacher.

- teacher/student relations:

The professors were more accessible to the students than in most classes at UW. They also cared a lot whether or not you were interested and learned. The Yonsei Professor I had was strict because I think teachers in Korea receive a lot of respect. However, he understood that there were cultural differences in the classroom.

- grading/exams:

Easier than UW

- administration:

It was confusing at times. The best resource was other YISS students and Yonsei University student volunteers.

- library, computer, and classroom facilities:

Yonsei has the most beautiful library I have ever seen. Go and see it at least once. There was a confusing system for using the school's Wi-Fi. You had to download a special program. Many other students figured it out, but I never did.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

The best class I took was Korean Political Economy with Prof. Yeonho Lee. His class was the most interesting because it was a Korean perspective of Korean History, which is strikingly different than the American perspective. His lectures were dense and confusing, however. Only take a class from him if you are truly interested in the topic.

Korean American History from Prof. James Kyung-Jin Lee was another incredible class. You must take this class if you are a Korean American. His lectures were interesting and the readings were all engaging.

Finally, the Korean Language class. I took the intermediate/advanced class. It's difficult to truly improve over 6 weeks, but the course was intense enough that I felt like my Korean did improve to some degree. The teachers are all very kind and understanding.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

Yeonho Lee and James Kyung-Jin Lee.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education? (OVER)

I am a Korean Major so my classes directly related to my major.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

The dorms were the only option I considered. As far as I know they are the best choice for a short program like YISS. You can stay at a homestay or in a one room apartment, but it might be difficult to find anyone willing to lease for such a short period of time.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose the dorms because they were the easiest to arrange.

c. What would you recommend?

I recommend the dorms because they are easiest. They are also in a good location to get to class.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Yonsei has a lot of hills and it was a nuisance to walk around outside in the humidity. Some of the classes were in a building directly attached to the dorm, but others were located across campus. They were doing construction when I attended, so we had to walk over a large hill. There might be shorter routes after the construction is finished.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

None. The security at the dorms is much stricter than at UW. Seoul is also a much safer city than Seattle.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?

(e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

I didn't.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.

(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

I had limited contact with Koreans, so there wasn't much opportunity for cultural conflicts to arise. One time I tried to show a male friend my dorm room, but the security guard would not allow it. It was embarrassing, but the security guard assured us that even my father would not have been able to enter an all female floor.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

I don't know.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT**1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:****a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.**

If you want a cheap flight to Korea or any study abroad location, I used the Kayak system and it gave me a very low rate, but you have to take multiple planes to that location. When you land in Korea it is very easy to make your way outside of the airport since all the signs are in English. The best transportation out of the Incheon International Station was the subway. Basically where ever you travel in Korea you will use the subway system, which is very convenient!

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

Because of the MERS outbreak during my visit all orientations were canceled so I was not able to attend one.

2. ACADEMICS:**a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:**

The class room structure at Yonsei University was smaller than the classes at University of Washington. The average class size was around 40 students, so you get close and personal with your professors. The instructions given in class are very clear and they also have a form of canvas that the teachers use to communicate with their students. Grading and exams are very similar to UW as there is usually a heavy weight on the midterm and final exam. The Yonsei Library (Samsung Library) is ridiculously huge and has up to date technology. Basically go to the library as often as you can!

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

The quality and content of instruction for the business class was okay. Some classes were on par with UW classes, but others were vague and had little instructions.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

I would recommend the Human Resource class offered at Yonsei. You gain lots of knowledge about how other countries view the United States and how other countries business work.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

The course work was very similar to the amount UW classes give.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

On-campus housing (SK Global, International House), and there were some home stays available also.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose on-campus housing at SK Global since it was a 15 minute walk away from classes and because SK Global offered private bathroom in each dorm room.

c. What would you recommend?

On-Campus : SK GLOBAL

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Yonsei University is located in the middle of Seoul, you have all the attractions you want only a 30 minute bus drive away. The campus was under construction when I was there but it was still a very beautiful campus: trees, nice buildings, and very friendly staff. The surrounding community is very use to foreigners, and there are many shops to go visit in Sinchon which is only a 20 minute walk from campus.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

When I visited Korea there was the MERS outbreak but it was handled very well as it was officially declared over at the end of August. Other than that the medical facilities are clean, and on par with the United States, and the communities around the campus area are all safe places to roam around even at night time.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

Since the MERS outbreak all the field trips were canceled so the only way we could meet members of the community was at clubs, church, and through even classrooms as some Korean students were studying summer school.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

Since I don't drink, there was a lot of peer pressure to drink in Korea. Koreans are known for their drinking and it's considered impolite when you don't drink. I addressed this issue by explaining to them my reasons of not drinking and being firm with my decision.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

I would brought US cash and exchanged the money in Korea since the transfer rate is better. I also used my card to transfer money when I was running low.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

I spent in total around \$1200 dollars for personal items, food, and entertainment. Basically if you follow the spending sheet the IPE gives you , you will have more than enough money.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

None.

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any complications?
If so, how did you address them?

None.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Since the program was run by the abroad administer we had to make our own groups and find our own friends to go out with. But overall I thought the abroad administrators did the best they could with providing activities and events for students to attend.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

This program is best suited for students who are interested in learning about a small close knit society. Someone who enjoys the nightlife, and is willing to engage with other people to meet new people.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Overall the Korea trip meet my expectations, but I was a little let down when all the field trips were canceled because of the MERS outbreak. I was able to make new friends anyways, experience the Korean culture, and had an engaging classes to attend. I was very satisfied with my study abroad in Korea.