

SEP 25 2014

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program: Yonsei University/Yonsei International Summer School in Seoul, South Korea

Quarter(s) of Participation: Summer 2014

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

I traveled with my family around Korea before the program started, which was a great way for me to get adjusted to daily living in Korea with the comfort of my family before studying independently.

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

There was one orientation that took place in a large auditorium with all the students participating in the Yonsei International Summer School (YISS). This orientation covered course system, buildings on campus, libraries and cafeterias.

2. ACADEMICS:

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

The teachers were friendly and knew students on a first name basis, which offered a pleasant setting. I disliked the grading/exam structure for the Korean language class. The grade is based entirely on the final four exams taken during the last week of class. All previous weeks there were no exams, so I was unfamiliar with the format of the tests and didn't like the stress of having my entire grade based on these two days of exams. The classrooms were cozy and had a TV monitor in them for class activities. There are computers and large study rooms in the libraries. Also there are several computers in the two international dorms on campus, which I preferred using.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

The language class covered a lot of material and the teachers were very dedicated in making sure everyone understood the concepts and vocabulary words. The teachers supposedly don't speak English, so everything is taught in Korean which is of course different than at UW, but you'll get used to the system.

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

I really enjoyed the Topics in Korean Culture: Seoul class. We discussed the history and transformation of Seoul and studied different districts of Seoul, which was very helpful as I'm new to this city and was able to learn about more significant places around Seoul besides the typical tourist locations.

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

The two classes I took were to enhance my understanding of Korean language and culture as I took first year Korean at UW and wanted to build upon that knowledge. These two classes were an excellent way to learn more about the language and culture.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

There were two international dorms available on campus, though they're competitive to get into as there is limited space. The two dorms are both for international students, so there are no curfews as opposed to the Korean dorms. The two dorms differ from each other because one has shared bathrooms and fewer benefits (International House) while others have private bathrooms and an option for a single dorm (SK Global).

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose the dorm with fewer benefits because it was cheaper, and I feel like I made the right choice. It may sound weird, but I got to meet my floormates by running into them often in the halls and bathrooms.

c. What would you recommend?

I'd recommend the dorm I stayed in, International House. The layout of the floors allowed me to meet many floormates. Also this dorm includes a computer lab downstairs, which is convenient.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus was under construction, so it was hard to get a sense of it all. It's also a very large campus, but within a few days I was able to get my bearings. Also this is a filming location for the drama Reply 1994, which is very cool! Also Yonsei is located just across the street from Ewha Woman's University and Edae, which is the shopping district surrounding that campus. Edae has many cheap clothing and shoe shops geared for women, and there are also great restaurants and cafes and street food here. And about a 20 minutes' walk away from the international dorms at Yonsei is Sinchon, a busy district with lots of restaurants, bars and themed cafes (cat cafes), and also PC bangs and a sauna. This place is filled with college aged students and is very safe to walk here at any time of day and night.

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 felt very safe walking around and taking public transportation by myself at any time of day all throughout Seoul. I even headed to the cities north and south of Seoul where there are no tourists and locals don't know English, and felt very safe there. The only place I was skeptical about was Itaewon, because it felt so much like Downtown 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.)

To integrate into the culture, I got out of the dorm anytime I had free time and started small, by walking around campus, and then to Edae and Sinchon. Then I expanded by taking the subway (which can take you to so many different places, the possibilities are endless) and exploring, and eventually I started using the bus as well (which is much more complex than the subway, as there are so many lines and bus stops). It was hard meeting Korean college students, but I met many other foreigners in the same program through my classes and dorm and through YISS's Friday extracurricular activity.

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

There were some cultural differences, such as many restaurants only have tables on the floor where you have to take off your shoes, so I suggest wearing nice and clean socks all the time. Also at restaurants, the waiters expect one person to order for everyone, rather than each person ordering their own entrée. Also people are for the most part very friendly, so don't be afraid to ask strangers for directions or for help; but just do speak Korean, don't be afraid to mess up! People tend to be surprised that you can speak very basic Korean and will compliment you on it. And lastly, clothing and shoe stores with no price tags expect you to haggle but the shop owners tend to try and rip off foreigners; I suggest going with a local the first time to get a feel for it, then next time try out some Korean bargaining skills. Also ask your Korean teacher or friend for common bargaining phrases.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

OCT 07 2014

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad/Exchange Program: Yonsei International Summer School

Quarter(s) of Participation: Summer 2014

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Stay: I arrived before the quarter began and I stayed with my language partner that I met through the language exchange program over here at UW. She and her family were very nice; I made sure I brought local gifts from Seattle to give to them.

Other students who arrived early had stay accommodations by booking a place through airbnb.com, a host family, or share houses.

Transportation: I was lucky enough to have my friend pick me up from the airport despite the toll fees.

Other students would either take the subway, taxi, or airport shuttle. The cheapest would be taking the shuttle for about \$10 USD. However Yonsei have student organizations willing to escort you from the airport to the dorms with a small "donation" to their organization.

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

Yonsei's orientation covered all the important topics such as school rules, dorm rules, grading policy, add/drop classes, all the different dining halls, libraries, printers, student organizations, surrounding districts, and special summer events. The information was very helpful but I wished they had a printout or an online file that we can access because I couldn't remember the details about printing on campus and it was nowhere in the info book.

2. ACADEMICS:

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

- **classroom structure:** About the same as UW. There are big lecture classes and smaller ones depending on the class. Students were mostly international, but there were a few local Korean students as well.

- **instruction:** People in this program usually take 2-3 courses. Professors who taught my classes were from Universities in the states. The classes were about 90 minutes with 20 minute passing times. Classes are only in session from Monday-Thursday weekly. Most lectures followed along with a

Powerpoint presentation and all files were accessible online. Instructions were in English like most classes in the YISS program.

- **teacher/student relations:** Both teachers tried to enhance participation in the class. My Korean Art teacher called on students to answer questions about what's being covered during lecture. My contemporary Korean culture teacher required students to raise their hands in order to get points. She also made great effort into knowing everyone's names – which I thought was very personable.

- **grading/exams:** I thought grading was very fair in both classes. They weren't graded on a curve and most of it was accumulative. Korean Art was tedious because of the massive information needing to be memorized in such short periods and there were 3 exams within 6 weeks. However, it was a class I learned most in. Contemporary Korean Culture covered a fair amount of readings, videos, and lecture notes too. Most of the grading weighted heavily on Thursday quizzes. Each quiz was 10% of our grade. Each teacher had their own grading policy like those in UW.

- **administration:** They had a team managing the YISS program as a whole, but it was a bit disorganized. They didn't always answer e-mails promptly and it was complicated getting refunds for overpayments. I had to open a Korean bank account in order to receive it.

- **library, computer, and classroom facilities:** Though I heard the library was quite huge on campus, I have not gone there during my time at Yonsei due to how far it was from the dorms. At SK Global House (the dorm I stayed in) they had a computer lab with printing services; though, the printing system was incredibly confusing. Each classroom had a chalk board, projector, sound system, and podium – much like UW.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Korean Art: The quality of content was quite rich with Korean history. We looked at art and ceramics from different dynasties and decades not limited to the Three Kingdoms period and the Joseon era, but also contemporary art, the Japanese colonial period, the Korean War, and Buddhism inspired artwork. I learned more about Korea in this class than any other class. There were also weekly field trips to places like museums and palaces.

Contemporary Korean Culture: Every week had a theme covering an aspect of Korea's pop culture. We went over films, TV shows, music, tourism, and many more. The lecturer had a special guest speaker come in one week and he was a music video producer/director. It was very intriguing. If you're a fan of K-POP or anything of that nature, this is the class to take. The lecturer provided deeper analytical insight to the topic; even the most "K-POP" knowledgeable person is bound to learn something new.

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

Yes! Though I had only taken two courses, I heard great things about Korean Film and the Korean Language courses.

Korean Art: This class is good for anyone who wants to genuinely learn about Korea and its roots. You do not have to have any artistic experience to take this course. It's a bit of work, but the material you learn will never leave you. This course is work intensive.

Contemporary Korean Culture: The assignments consist of reading material and videos. Other than that, most of the learning happens during lecture. This course is quite fun, entertaining, and has a reasonable load of work.

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

Since I was a Korean minor at UW, the courses I took at Yonsei was highly relatable into completing my minor. It gave me great insight and was definitely worth learning about the culture in its actual country of origin.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

For international students in the YISS program, they had 2 dorm options: SK Global House & International House aka I-House.

Other students stayed in places with host families and school affiliated hotels as well (most of time due to limited space).

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose to stay in SK Global House over I-House because they had private bathrooms in the dorm rooms, a computer lab, fitness room, and various stores and restaurants on the ground floor in comparison to I-House. The price difference was about \$100.

c. What would you recommend?

There was one con about the private bathrooms in SK Global House (may be the case in I-House's shared bathroom as well). The toilet was separated and isolated from the rest of the room and with a door BUT the shower and sink is across the room without an isolating door. The shower had a shower door...but when you come out of it, there isn't another door. (It'll be something you'll get use to and it wasn't a huge issue.)

Despite the one con, I thoroughly enjoyed my stay at the SK Global House. Everything was there and the convenient store downstairs was open 24/7. Almost all my friends stayed in the same dorm. When you buy household needs, the best place to go is Daiso (cheap and durable).

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Campus itself is quite huge. It takes a while to walk to some of the main buildings. There are many hills, stairs, and a few rocky paths. It is generally not too bad, but I can see why someone would not want to walk if it was raining heavily or the weather is scorching hot. Thankfully though, Yonsei has a shuttle running through campus.

One will never go hungry in Korea. Close to campus were bakeries, restaurants, and convenient stores. Yonsei is next to the Ehwa Women's University so the surrounding districts were Sinchon and Edae (each area has their own subway station). Edae is probably the closest from the dorm area but Sinchon is closer to the main gate of Yonsei. Beyond Sinchon there was also Hongdae, an area popular for its artsy-youthful atmosphere and nightlife.

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.

Health: During my time abroad, I got sick twice within 6 weeks. It was the sore throat/coughing/runny nose kind of cold. If its semi severe to the point you can't stop coughing, I highly recommend going to the school med center located on the second floor of the student union. There are many privately owned pharmacies in Korea. I bought a lot of different meds – cough pills, cough drops, and cough syrup. Cough pills worked “okay” but some of the ingredients in it would normally have to be prescribed if it were in the states. Cough drops taken were the good ol’ American Halls. Those actually worked the best and I probably have bought at least 10 packs (about 6 pieces per pack), might be advisable to buy a bag in the states before arriving. The most skeptical medicine I bought was the cough syrup. First of all it didn’t work AT ALL. Second, it tasted like cotton candy – so pretty much it was like sugar water, therefore it seemed like fake medicine. If you were to get any cough syrup, I would get it from the school clinic and not a privately owned pharmacy.

Sanitation is also different in Korea. Almost all the bathroom I went into had no seat covers. The best bathrooms were the super fancy toilets with multi-functions; usually those have sanitation wipes to wipe the seat. Bad bathrooms include squatting stalls, no toilet paper, and bar soaps. I HIGHLY recommend never ever using the bar soap. I can’t imagine the amount of germs on those. Keep a small bottle of soap in your bag for those emergencies. Sometimes certain bathrooms don’t have toilet paper, so have a pack of Kleenex with you just in case.

Safety: I didn’t have very many issues with my wallet or anything. However if you’re a girl out at night, I highly recommend going out with a safer/bigger group of people. Also, know the emergency number to call the police if need be (119 fyi). Screaming in public doesn’t always work because people think you’re just quarreling with a “boyfriend” (a friend of mine who didn’t speak any Korean experienced this). Worst case worse go into a convenient store or some store open at that time as a safe zone, find a way to contact your friends, and then have them pick you up. Other than these rare moments, I felt very safe while I was in Korea.

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 hung out mostly with friends I met through the program; however, I did meet up with two of my language exchange partners that I met at UW. I was lucky in a way that they both moved back to Seoul when I finally visited. I got to spend time with one of their families since I was staying there before school started, and they treated me so well. I went on almost all the school field trips to further explore Seoul. I went to Jeju Island, Boryeong Mud Festival, Seoul City Tour, and many other places! Certain areas also have special festivals going on in the summer. In Sinchon, I attended the water gun festival. I can talk about all the places out there to visit but it would take too long. I highly recommend exploring Korea travel blogs (there are many YISS student blogs online), as well as the Korean Tourism Organization website.

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

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

I was fairly familiar with the customs in Korea beforehand but there were a few things I got caught off guard (positive and negative). When people go karaoke-ing it's normal for businesses to give free time – like an additional hour. Also keep in mind that spaces are small sometimes, so big groups have to sit separately if you go to certain restaurants. Not very many people would eat out alone either, so it's more of a norm to eat with at least one other person. When I was shopping at the street clothing vendors and small shops, they don't allow you to try on "one size" or "white clothes". Places that allow you to try on clothing are places like Forever 21 (and stores similar to it). Women shoe sizes only go up to an 8 US max, so people with bigger feet should bring all types of shoes. Bargaining is a touchy skill to use here in comparison to China – some will get offended but there are some that are obviously out to cheat foreigners. When riding the escalator, stand on the right side unless you're walking up (then you would go up on the left side).

Other important difference is there is NO TIPPING in Korea (they find it offensive). Always be polite in another country and lower heads towards superiors and older folks. Get use to the hurried culture in Korea; have your scan cards in hand when you get on and off the subway/bus. Girls avoid wearing low cut clothing, but for some reason really short shorts/skirts are okay. Korea dislikes separate checks. If it is a group of people, handle it amongst yourselves first and then go up and pay. The exception is if you're going out with certain groups of Koreans. It is custom for the oldest to pay for meals (conditions vary). It's endless, check the net for more.

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

To my knowledge Citibank allows transactions with no international fees. A few other methods include having certain credit card plans. For me I was a bit too late to prep for this. Therefore, I just called my bank and told them I would be across the world. Each time I withdrew or used it, I was charged 3% -- but that was the method I found simple.

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

I spent a lot while being abroad because I didn't want to miss out on anything since it took me so long to even travel abroad. I spent probably at least 1k-2k in one month. Granted, I went shopping, see shows, see musicals, ate a lot, travelled around, tried out their bars/clubs, and went to various tourist spots. It can get spendy. I recommend having at least \$600 if you don't plan to shop so much.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

I didn't expect buying medicine or a bunch of halls. So make sure to have money for these sorts of emergencies. Other unexpected expenses were tickets to special shows.

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

There weren't huge issues in regards to financial aid except one. When the money was distributed to my bank account, the department did not deduct my tuition and that became a huge hassle for me while being abroad. I had to ask my sister through e-mail to help me handle that and pay my tuition in the states and figure out how to transfer that from my bank account to UW.

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?

I thought IP&E did pretty well. The only thing I wished the advisers had mentioned were the separate fees to attend Yonsei field trips and paying for the dorm. I was told not to worry about sending money to Yonsei, but I wasn't told to send a wire transfer for my field trips and dorms (by the way those are SEPARATE accounts) ahead of time with my own money. As a result, I had to rush to my bank and just hope that the wires made it through for the deadlines.

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

N/A

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

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

I highly recommend it to ANY student whether you're interested in Korea or not. However, please be a student who has an open-mind on different culture and norms. Being a foreigner can have pros and cons abroad; some people will judge and some people will be eager to want to talk to you. Being abroad also means going to school, so represent yourself well as a student.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Academic: I expected to take 3 courses abroad but I ended up dropping one of them because the load was way too tedious for a six week quarter. I thought my two classes were a challenging enough load to manage during my time in Korea. I wanted to get a good grade academically and I know in order to do that, I need to understand how much I can take. Unlike being at UW (my home), I'm in a different country yearning to explore. With that mindset, I had to measure what was best for me and what would be a good outcome grade-wise. Some classes are also not as easy as it seems.

Personal: I expected to hit all the spots I wanted to explore and do all the things I wanted to do. In the end, it was impossible. Students will be very surprised how fast a 6-week quarter will go by. I didn't expect to meet great and close friends so fast; but I did. We respect one another despite having different views and we had many long night talks. I worried about finding a group I could get along with, but it ended up happening so naturally. Seeing Korea in real life and not through YouTube videos was breathtaking. I will NEVER EVER forget this special summer.

AUG 27 2014

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

South Korea, YISS Program, Summer

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

There are many guesthouses located near the Yonsei campus if needed before move in. There are also many hotels located near the airport (which I stayed in the first night after arriving.) The orientation for the program covered pretty much everything students needed to know about spending the summer in Seoul. It covered the Yonsei campus (where buildings were, where to eat, where the dorms were etc.), transportation in Seoul, using the Yonsei school websites, how to get involved with locals, etc. It really helped me in being prepared for the next six weeks that I would spend on campus and in Seoul.

2. ACADEMICS:

The instruction received at Yonsei was almost exactly like what I was used to at UW. The classes I took were about the same sizes as the ones I've taken at UW, the professors were very dedicated in teaching the material, and there were multiple resources available to students at all time if needed. I feel like the quality of the instruction I received was great, although the classes went very fast. I would recommended Pre-Modern Korean History as a class, as it was very interesting and the professor knew and taught the material well. I am an Asian Studies major so all of the classes I took were specifically for my major at UW.

3. HOUSING:

There are two international dorms: International House and SK Global. I chose to live in SK Global because it's newer and had single rooms. I would recommend SK Global because it was clean and the rooms were nice.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Yonsei campus is currently undergoing construction everywhere, so it was a bit difficult to navigate the campus. However, it was still very nice, and very big. There is a hospital and many dining options right next to campus. Sinchon is a short walk from campus as well, so students are able to go shopping or have many food options to choose from.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

I had no safety concerns during my whole exchange experience. I did have a health issue, and the hospital I went to (Severance Hospital by Yonsei campus) was excellent, and it was easy because they have an international office with foreign doctors who speak English.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

I went out with my friends that I met through the program a lot, and we would meet some locals at restaurants or bars. I didn't join any clubs or do any extracurricular activities related to school because I was taking three classes and also trying to explore the city. There were definitely cultural differences but I knew a lot about them before (age respect system, bowing, clothing differences, etc.) I always tried to conform to South Korea's standards and respect their culture, and I didn't find it that difficult even though American culture is completely different.

7. FINANCIAL:

I only used ATMs while abroad, so that was the easiest way to handle money for me. I think it's a good idea to set \$15-\$20 a day aside for food, or even less as it's possible to get a lot of food very cheap in Seoul. I set a budget of \$2000 for the seven weeks that I was there, and I spent about \$1700, including an unexpected medical expense which came out to be around \$375. It's definitely possible to spend way less than that, depending on where one lives, the food they eat, what activities they do, etc.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

I had a great experience with IP&E. Any questions that I had were answered quickly and efficiently, and all forms were processed very fast. Everyone was very helpful.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

I think this program is best suited for a student who is ready to explore the world while still focusing on their studies. It was awesome being in Seoul and being able to explore everything the city has to offer, but I did spend a lot of time on school studies since the program was so short and classes went by fast.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

I think my personal expectations were absolutely met, and more. I had such a great time and I'm really happy that I completed the program and chose to go to Seoul. I fell in love with the city. My academic expectations were also met. However, I didn't realize how much work the classes were going to be since it was such a short quarter.

AUG 10 2015

STUDY ABROAD EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad Program: Yonsei International Summer School

Quarter(s) of Participation: Summer

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

The airport shuttle bus for 10000 won directly to the back gate of Ewha Womens University which is only 5 minutes walk from the dorms of Yonsei summer programs.

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

Our orientation was cancelled.

2. ACADEMICS:

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

- classroom structure- for about 1 to 20 to 40 ratio.
- instruction- the teachers at Yonsei summer school were not as qualified as the ones at UW.
- teacher/student relations- Very bad
- grading/exams- requires lots of studying in short period of time.
- administration- it was smooth and quick.
- library, computer, and classroom facilities- good and convenient

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Teachers were not clear on instructions. There weren't much teaching.

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

Korean level 4

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

For my own sake of learning.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

Lots of options

b. Which did you choose, and why?

SK global double. Spacious room with good facilities.

c. What would you recommend?

SK global double. Spacious room with good facilities.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The closest subway station is about 15 minute walk. I basically used the bus which is less than 5 minute walk away. Sinchon area has lots of 24/7 cafes and restaurants so it is pretty convenient. The 7737 bus is the most convenient bus because it goes to both Sinchon and Hongdae area.

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.

Severance hospital is within 5 minute walk. If there is any question or concern just go to the front desk of the dorm or the office downstairs.

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.)

Class or dorm.

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

Try to reach out or talk to people in your class or dorm. Before you even get there, there are already several groups like the UC schools or other 3rd party programs. Basically, you will need to be social and try to be friends with people in your classes or in your dorm.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

Bring US cash and then go to Myeong Dong to exchange on the street. Also, you can bring a card as well. My suggestion is to bring bunch of US dollars and then go to Yonsei Woori Bank to make an account and your student ID will be your cash card which you can use almost everywhere in Korea. The bank has English services and you will basically end up having to have a Korean bank account for you over or underpayment anyway.

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

500 per month not including rent but everything else. However, if you would like to do some shopping then you would need about 750 a month.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Lots of shopping and a trip to Busan.

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

No, but it does not come fast so you will have to pay for everything yourself first.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

Please comment on the effectiveness of the UW Study Abroad Office's services. What service could be improved?

It was helpful and efficient.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

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

People who enjoy city and night life or people who would like to learn more Korean.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

It was honestly okay. Not too amazing if you have been to other Asian countries. My suggestion is that if you want to learn Korean or you have to choose Korea then this would be for you. Otherwise, choose other parts of Korea or other Asian study abroad programs.

STUDY ABROAD EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad Program: Yonsei International Summer School

Quarter(s) of Participation: Summer 2015

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Pay attention to any changes to the countries' political issue or medical problem.

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

We did not have an orientation

2. ACADEMICS:

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

- classroom structure : every classroom is clean and nice
- instruction : the instruction style was very similar to UW
- teacher/student relations : it's a very diverse campus
- grading/exams : the grading policy and attendance policy are more stricter than UW.
- administration : it's fair
- library, computer, and classroom facilities : UW is nicer with facilities

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

The content of instruction was fair and manageable.

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

Introduction to Investment and Korean

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

The coursework is directly related to my major.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

There weren't much housing options, it's better to apply early to get a nice place, or students should meet some friends to rent a place nearby.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I chose International House at Yonsei, which was kind the bad, because it was common bathroom and shower room. They will assign you with random roommates; there is a very little chance you can switch. The housing staff doesn't really response to your email if you have concerns.

c. What would you recommend?

Apply early !

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is nice and they have very urban community around 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.

It's a safe district with a lot of security people who watch out for cars. They have a really big hospital which they can provide health care, but it's better for you to buy insurance before you come just in case.

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.)

we did not have much group activities, we just meet friends from classes.

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

I don't feel any cultural challenges.
(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?
one time wire transfer or open a bank account here.

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

\$1000

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

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

just communicate with the financial aid office and it should be fine.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

Please comment on the effectiveness of the UW Study Abroad Office's services. What service could be improved?

The UW study abroad office advisors were very helpful, I wish we could have a small group of orientation before we leave so we can connect with the students.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

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

I think all types of student can suit for this program.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

I was hoping that explore Korean culture and meet new friends.

STUDY ABROAD EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad Program: Yonsei International Summer School

Quarter(s) of Participation: Summer

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Housing provided by Yonsei is little bit expensive. I heard finding room around Sinchon area is cheaper and more efficient.

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

Our orientation was canceled due to MERS virus occurred in June.

2. ACADEMICS:

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

- classroom structure
- instruction
- teacher/student relations
- grading/exams
- administration
- library, computer, and classroom facilities

The classroom size was relatively small in Yonsei. Even though there was several large lecture halls like Kane Hall in UW, Yonsei did not use those halls for international summer school. The level of instruction was pretty good. Even though each class was 100 minutes long, the instructors taught us with interesting approaching toward study topics. It was little bit difficult for me to get close with other students in the classroom as most of students were not international students like me but Yonsei students. Grading system was difficult to understand. I could not understand that final exam / project takes 50% of total grades. The class environment was somewhat not administered well. Some students did not pay attention during lecture and disturbed the learning of other students. There was no administration toward those students. Overall facilities were pretty good. Even though some buildings were old, every building was cleaned well.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Each class is 100 minutes long as program period is only 6 weeks and only 4 days a week. The instructors are from top level foreign universities and all classes were taught in fluent English. My instructors were kind but passionate at their works. They responded well to questions from students, gave additional explanation when students seem to be confused, and pointed out the students who were not concentrated on the classes. Their lectures were straightforward and clear so I did not have any difficulty academically. They also managed class time well, gave students 5~10 minutes break time during the classes when students got exhausted by continuous lecture.

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

I recommend Principle of Financial Accounting by Professor Charles Cho. I had no background about financial / business fields but his lecture was simple and straightforward so I could catch up and compete against other classmates.

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

I took accounting class in order to prepare entrepreneurship minor in UW. Also, I took Eastern Asian Cinema class for VLPA credit I need for graduation in UW.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

I did not have any option – they just assigned me a room number in one of dormitory.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

As I said above I stayed in dormitory because I did not have any transportation and did not know the area.

c. What would you recommend?

I do not recommend housing provided by Yonsei – finding room on Sinchon area would be more efficient.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The Sinchon campus of Yonsei University was little bit noisy and disorganized by construction of main road. Several buildings are located in an uphill road. Even though buildings were old, almost every facility was clearly maintained. Even though school cafeterias were pretty good, I recommend having meal in Sinchon area. Compared to UW, there are many hot places for entertainment. I had fancy and delicious meals with reasonable price and shopping with my friends.

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 did not have any health or safety concern during my study abroad. I felt like public safety in Korea is well managed by the government and police.

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.)

Unfortunately, there were no such group activities I involved. (Most of clubs were closed during summer, sports teams were doing group training in the outside of the campus. I integrated into other students by studying together for exam / assignment / project in the classes I took. It was valuable experience as they have distinctly different studying habit compared to us and I learned some methods which are useful for me. I had few chances of having lunch and dinner with local Yonsei students and it was good time to get to know their school life, study habits and cultures.

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

Many students are enjoying alcohol and clubbing too much. Even though they had to go to school next day, they had alcohol in club for a long time. I had difficult time as they forced me to join even though I am not the one enjoying alcohol and club.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

I just used the Bank of America debit card I made in the United States. (Of course I have to pay small amount of transaction fee.) I used global ATM when I needed to withdraw cash.

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

I recommend about 1,400,000 won (~ USD \$1191) ~ 1,700,000 won (~ USD \$1447) per month.

Housing - 900,000 won for 6 weeks

Food - ~20,000 won per day

Personal expense & transportation fee - 200,000 ~ 500,000 won depends on shopping habit

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

I had to buy an electric fan, extra summer clothes, and lots of drinks (water, soft drinks) due to the extremely high temperature.

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

No, I did not have any problem to fund my program.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

Please comment on the effectiveness of the UW Study Abroad Office's services. What service could be improved?

Shannon Quinn, my study abroad adviser, explained me specific and accurate information about the program and guided me to prepare the things I need. I did not have any confusion for my study abroad application. Sometimes, her service hour and my available time were not matched due to my class schedule. It would be great if student can make a reservation with adviser for beside service hour. But I really want to say that Shannon was great help to me and I really appreciate her and the UW study abroad office for all their work.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

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

I recommend to the students in lower year and have interest in Korean culture. The classes offered by YISS program are mostly introductory level. If Junior / Senior year student participate this program, he is less likely to obtain the credit that could be transferred to UW. Also, I felt Korean culture is distinctly different from that of my expectation or media. If student does not have knowledge about Korean culture, it would take some time to be adapted.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Academic expectation was lower than I thought – even though the instructors taught student well, small size classroom and annoying classmates were discouraging my studying. There were too many Yonsei students in each class than international visiting students like me.

Personal expectation was higher than I thought – I enjoyed many Korean cultures with new friends I made in Korea. Food, shopping, transportation, entertainment, fieldtrip and group studying were good enough for me to understand about Korea. Even though school program is relatively not that valuable than that of UW, I appreciated Yonsei for giving me a chance to experience academic program and other culture in new environment.

AUG 20 2015

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Dear Foreign Study Returnee:

The International Programs and Exchanges Office requires that students enrolled in University of Washington direct exchanges or foreign study programs submit a final report to our office concerning their experiences abroad. This report has a dual purpose: to help us evaluate our current exchange ties and programs and to help us inform and orient students who will be participating on foreign study (or are considering applying) in the future. We ask you to reflect on your experiences abroad by addressing each of the topics in this outline. Advice or comments on other topics are also welcome.

The reports are kept on file in the International Programs and Exchanges Office and are available to any prospective student or interested faculty or staff member. If you wish your report to be read by the International Programs and Exchanges Office only, and withheld from all others, please write CONFIDENTIAL at the top of your report.

Thank you for your cooperation. We appreciate your time and effort.

PLEASE TYPE YOUR REPORT OR WRITE LEGIBLY. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO BE CONTACTED BY THE IP&E OR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CURRENT AND PERMANENT PHONE NUMBERS AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESSES. THANK YOU!

IP&E PROGRAM EVALUATION OUTLINE:

-Please list your name, program location, term/year of participation, and your current and permanent phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses at the top of your report.

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

I could pretty much buy everything in Seoul. Yonsei normally holds orientation for the foreign exchange students, but this year they canceled it because of the MERS virus. Instead, they passed out the orientation packet at the information desk and a Yonsei T-shirt☺ You can pretty much find all the information in the packet.

2. ACADEMICS:

Yonsei had a lot of cool classes. The classes I took were manageable, but I heard some of the classes were difficult. Teachers are very friendly, and they all speak good English. Some of the buildings are old, but they are nice inside. The cafeteria food is really good and cheap, and you can also buy snacks at convenience store. I recommend the Korean Cinema class. It was relatively easy, the quality was really good, and the teacher was funny.

3. HOUSING:

A lot of my Korean friends commuted from their homes, but I know dorms are available although they are expensive. I recommend living on-campus or near by. There are lots of cool shops and restaurants around Shinchon area.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

The program was really fun and I met lots of nice people. The transportation system is really good in Seoul, so you can go anywhere.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

I heard a lot of students canceled the Yonsei program because of the MERS virus, but it is really safe. There are a lot of clinics and pharmacies near by, and Yonsei has its own hospital, so you can use their service.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

I heard a lot of my foreign friends had fun in Seoul. Koreans are really fun to talk with and very nice. I recommend to the future students to try out lots of good restaurants and bars. Especially it will be a new experience to drink with Korean friends.

7. FINANCIAL:

It is usually expensive to live in Seoul, but if you stay around campus area, you can save a lot of money. Transportation fare is not expensive compared with the U.S. so you can go to a lot of cool places in Seoul.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

The program was well-organized, so I think the IPE office did a great job.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Students who are interested in Asian culture, K-Pops and K-dramas, and want to make Korean friends will love this program.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

It was a very fun experience. I recommend this program.