

**Erfahrungsbericht zum Aufenthalt im Ausland (Studium / Praktikum
/Abschlussarbeit > bitte nicht Zutreffendes streichen!)**

Name der Verfasser*in	Mira Smith
Studiengang, Fakultät	AIM, Wirtschaft & Soziales
E-Mail-Adresse	Mira.Smith@haw-hamburg.de
Land & Gasthochschule /Arbeitgeber	Südkorea – Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech)
Zeitraum Aufenthalt (inclusive Jahresangabe)	September – Dezember 2021

I decided pretty early in my studies that I want to study one semester abroad and I was also certain I want to do it in Korea because I used to live there for one year and I really wanted to come back. Therefore, I did not have to choose between all the partner universities and could start my application right away. The first thing I did was make an appointment with Lea Andres to see when I should start with the application process and what I should prepare. She was super nice and answered all of my questions. The application process itself was very easy once I got all the documents that I needed. Everything you need will be explained once you register in the online forum where all the applications need to be submitted. I think the only thing that would be good to know a little sooner is that you will need a letter of recommendation from one of your professors. I am not sure if that's the case for all universities but at least for SeoulTech it is necessary to have one. I recommend contacting a professor early enough so that they have time to write one for you without being stressed. After applying in the online forum at the HAW you need to wait if you get accepted by the HAW, after that they will nominate you at the partner university where you have to apply again. They will tell you step by step what you need to submit, but nothing impossible. Once you get accepted by the partner university you have to apply for the visa right away as it takes a while until you have all documents ready, and it takes another few weeks until it is ready to collect at the Korean embassy. I don't want to get into detail of all the documents you need but don't worry you will get all the information you need on the embassy website or the university (just know it's a D2 visa you need). Now after getting fully accepted, it is also time to take a look at the classes offered in English that you could take (you can take a look at them earlier but after getting accepted you definitely start to plan what classes you want to take). I recommend making a list of classes that you are interested in and also taking a look at classes that you would need to take at the HAW that sound similar where you might be able to get credits. With these preparations make an appointment with Mr. Schünemann as he is in charge of deciding and planning with you what classes you can get credit for. At SeoulTech you have a pretty good variety of English classes to choose from, some classes I took were "Operations Management" and "Corporate Value Analysis". Especially for the major AIM I think you will have no trouble finding classes at SeoulTech that fit your major. As far as I can tell there were no problems with actually taking the classes you chose, they all took place as planned.

Then all you need to do is book a flight and off you go. Because of covid entering into Korea is not as easy as it used to be and at least for my case I wish I would have had a detailed report on how everything works, that's why I decided to give you a detailed report on how it was for me to enter Korea. Keep in mind that that was in August 2021 so it might be different

now. Nevertheless, I decided to tell you about it because I sadly don't think covid is over any time soon. I had a transit in Istanbul and before boarding the plane to Seoul they gave me a paper where I had to sign that I know that I have to go into quarantine at a government facility and that I am willing to pay for my quarantine. Even if you plan on doing your quarantine at an Airbnb (I am not sure if this is still allowed) you need to sign it. It is just a safety precaution for the airline that they don't have to pay for your flight back if you decide not to go into quarantine. They collected the paper when we were boarding. In the plane they gave me some questionnaires about my previous travels and if I have any symptoms. Once I arrived at Incheon airport you will go through the first security check where they check your temperature and you give them these forms and your negative PCR test (make sure you have the test printed, at least for me they kept the test result). As I suffer from motion sickness every time I am in a plane my temperature was a bit high so they brought me into another room where they discussed my symptoms in more detail. I explained everything and showed them that I am fully vaccinated (its not necessary to be vaccinated but I think it helped me to get through this security check even with slightly high temperature). We agreed to wait about 30 min and check the temperature again, no idea if it changed but they let me proceed to immigration. After the first checkup you get to the second one, before getting in line you need to download the quarantine app and put your details like personal information and address of your quarantine place in it (don't worry there are English speaking staff members everywhere that help you if it doesn't work). Then at the security check they activate your quarantine app and if you plan on doing the quarantine in an Airbnb, they will call your host so make sure you have a valid phone number of your host and tell your host your approximately arrival time so they pick up their phone. Then follows the normal passport and visa check and you are off to go to the luggage claim. When entering the arrival hall at Incheon airport a staff member will greet you and ask where you are going (I got an orange sticker on my shirt, so everyone knew I needed to do to Seoul). They will send you to another staff member that will discuss your options to get to the Airbnb. For me it was a taxi that costs 85.000 won (about 65€) because I arrived at late evening and there were no busses going anymore. Make sure you tell them that you are an exchange student, and you will get a discount on the travel fair! Once I told them I am an exchange student and showed my visa again I got another sticker on my shirt that showed everyone I am a student (I liked all the color-coded stickers, it is so convenient!). Then you have the possibility to buy a Korean sim card and exchange some money before getting on the bus/taxi. I would definitely recommend getting both!!! You might need the cash for the taxi as they don't always take a foreign credit card and you will need the sim card to make an appointment for the covid test and many more things. I arrived late at night so I called the medical center the next morning (you will

find the number you need to call in the quarantine app and you can always call 1339 they will give you the number you need to call. It was a struggle to reach anyone since it was Sunday and the people, I reached didn't speak any English so write down this number: 1577 1366. This is a translating service that I found after 3 hours struggling on the phone. You call them and tell them your questions and the number you called where no one understood English, they will call for you and be your personal translator! In the afternoon I finally could go to the medical center for the test, I decided to walk there even though it was a 1 hour walk but you can also order a quarantine taxi to bring you there (you will get an info flyer at the airport. At the screening facility they spoke some English and helped me to get through the procedure. It was very fast, took me about 15 minutes. You will get the result sent to you via text message (so you also need a Korean number for this). That was the whole arriving procedure for me, the procedure is probably a bit different if you decide to go to a government facility.

After 14 days of quarantine, you are free to leave and I moved into the dormitory at SeoulTech. You have to apply for living in the dormitory when you apply at SeoulTech, so make sure to do so if you want to live in the dormitory. Another option would be renting an Airbnb but its way more expensive than the dorm. I lived in a double room in the international dormitory it was upper cheap (around 150€ per month) and very convenient. I had my own room and shared a kitchen and bathroom with one roommate. I can definitely recommend staying at the international dorm rather than the women or men dormitory because you have a little more luxury (like your own washing machine and a kitchen to cook your own food). But dont expect too much... everything is old and a little dirty but for me it was okay. You can also buy meals at the cafeteria if you live in the dorms. It is not the best food but if you like rice you will never leave hungry, and it is very affordable. In my opinion breakfast was a bit boring as it was the exact same every day (toast, jam, cereal and a cold fried egg) but lunch was pretty good most of the time. I didn't have dinner so I can't tell you how it was. You have to decide what meal plan you want on the day you move in and its not possible to change afterwards. The fee for the dormitory and the food must be paid in cash at the beginning of your term so make sure you are able to withdraw enough money. My fee was about 1.300.000 won (about 960€) for the rent and two meals a day for the whole four months.

My day-to-day life in Korea was different every day. In my case because of covid all my classes were online and most of the time it was not even a real time online lecture but just a video I needed to watch. It was a little sad that I did not get the chance to meet other students from my classes or my professors but on the other hand I could study very flexible and had a lot of time to explore the city and meet friends. Seoul is a city that never gets

boring! I was already living there for over 6 months a few years ago but I still explored new things I haven't seen or done before. There are endless possibilities. For example, you can go see Buddhistic temples or high tech shopping malls right next to each other directly in the city center. Public transportation gets you almost everywhere in Seoul and it is super cheap (about 1€ one way) just get a T-Money card at any convenient store , put some cash on it at any subway station and off you go. If you like skincare or stationary stuff Korea is the shopping paradise for you but you can also go for a round of karaoke and some Korean BBQ if you are not the shopping type. I don't want to get into too much detail about what to do in Korea, you can watch plenty of YouTube Videos about it. There are also a lot if things you can do in university in your free time, you can join one of the many clubs at SeoulTech. Judo, sword fighting, Christian clubs, photography, tennis and book club are just a few of the options. You will get a Korean Buddy that can help you to sign up for a club if you are interested and you can also always contact the international students club if you have any questions or need help.

Personally, I recommend studying abroad to everyone, it is something you will never forget, and you grow so much as a person. And if you are interested in the Korean culture or just want to experience something completely new SeoulTech is a very good choice. I already knew I love the Korean culture but my stay at Seoultech and being a student in Korea rather than working and travelling there was a completely new and amazing experience. I did not have many expectations regarding the university in Korea I tried to just go with the flow and see what happens, but looking back at my time there, nothing comes to my mind that I absolutely disliked or would do any different. Of course, not everything is perfect (e.g. the condition of the dorm or the food at the cafeteria) but I think if you are open for a new experience and a new culture you will have an amazing time.

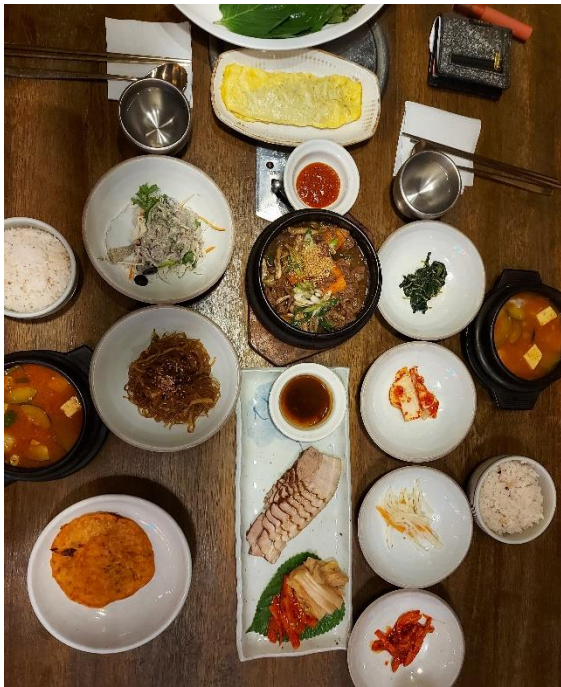
I attached some pictures for you to get a better idea on how life is in Korea and at SeoulTech.



The international dormitory.



Namsan Tower in the middle of Seoul.



Traditional Korean food, all the small side dishes are very typical and most of the time you get free refills.



The campus of SeoulTech.