



Nanna Kristine Bjerregaard Christensen

Nanna_bjerregaard@hotmail.com

Hanyang University ERICA

Septemper 2024 – December 2024

1. Introduction

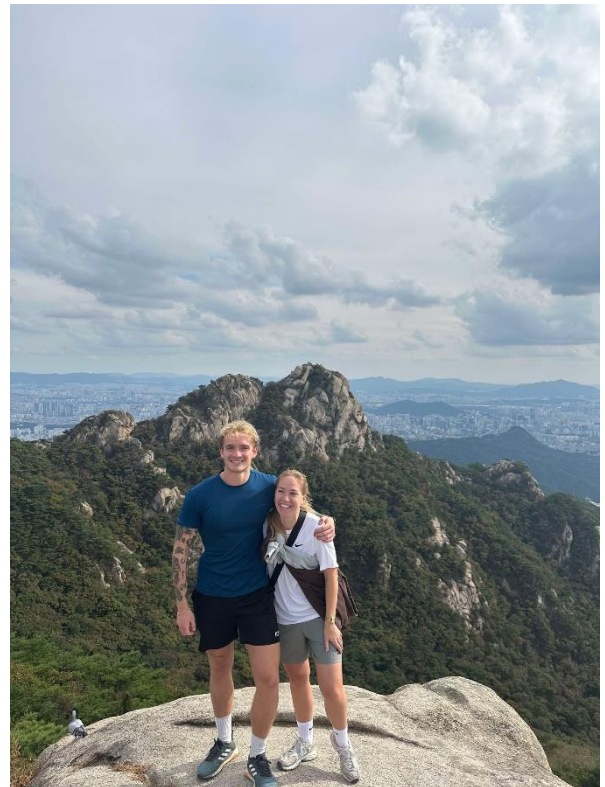
Studying abroad is one of the most exciting and transformative experiences a student can have. When I decided to spend a semester at Hanyang University ERICA in South Korea, I was eager to explore a new culture, meet people from around the world, and challenge myself both academically and personally. While the journey wasn't without its challenges, my time at Hanyang turned out to be an unforgettable experience filled with learning, growth, and meaningful connections. This guide shares my insights and tips for anyone considering studying at Hanyang ERICA.

2. The process of applying

Applying to study at Hanyang University involves a fair amount of preparation. Before you even arrive in Korea, you'll need to fill out forms, apply for a dormitory, and register for courses. There are plenty of deadlines to keep in mind, many of which are based on Korean time. Be prepared to wake up in the middle of the night to have the best chance of securing your desired courses, as spots fill up quickly.

If your schedule allows, I recommend signing up for more courses than you need. You'll have the option to try them during the first week and drop the ones you don't like.

Another essential step is applying for the Alien Registration Card (ARC). This requires gathering documents and taking a new photo. The photo



studio on campus (in the welfare building) is convenient. While some people received emails saying their pictures weren't acceptable, simply re-uploading the same photo often worked.

The first few weeks can feel overwhelming with all the administrative tasks, meeting new people, and adjusting to campus life. Don't worry—most exchange students join group chats where you can ask questions and share tips.

3. The dormitory

Dorm life at Hanyang is what you make of it. The rooms are small and may remind you of a prison cell at first, but with a little personalization and decoration, you can create a cozy space. Personally, I spent more time at the welfare building, library, or other common areas on campus, which felt warmer and more inviting.

There's a small gym for women on the 2nd floor of the dorm. While the equipment is limited, I sometimes preferred it over the larger gym in the Gymnasium building.

Laundry facilities are available on multiple floors of the women's dormitory and on the first floor of the men's dormitory. Washing or drying costs 1,200 KRW per load. Be cautious—since the machines don't display temperatures, some of my clothes shrank early on.

The dormitory cafeteria is affordable, though I didn't eat there often. From what I heard, it's good value for the price.

4. Courses

Like I said, the courses you want can be a bit difficult to get. The ones I got was:

1. **Macroeconomics:** On average we were about 10 students in the classroom which made it some quiet and boring classes. The class did pretty bad in general, so I feel confident saying it was not an interesting class even though the teacher was nice.
2. **International economics:** Now this class was also not great in my opinion but only because the teacher was chaotic in his notes and had a heavy Indian accent. Professor GG Das is overwhelming, but he is quite nice and gives bonus points on exams and tests.

3. **Consumer Behavior:** This course was a little less heavy in my opinion. The classes were nice, and the teacher was interactive and funny. The teacher will ask you questions in the middle of class, so you do have to pay attention.
4. **AI in Medicine:** I liked the concept of this course, however, it was really boring. The professor was nice, but he would just read the lines of his PowerPoint slowly twice and every 30 minutes he would repeat the same in Korean. The exams were also the most difficult for me because it was 'fill out the blank' where you had to remember his PowerPoints line by line.
5. **Operation Management:** This course was okay but the workload is a bit much. At midterms and finals the professor would give a big handwritten assignment that was due the same date as a quiz and exam in that same course. When you also have other exams coming up it can be a lot. The course itself is nice and easy if you are good at math.

5. Social and cultural experiences

For me this is the most important part. When I applied for exchange I thought it would be the cultural experience of Korea that would be the most exciting but I ended up spending 4 months mostly focusing on my relationships with the other exchange students.

Ansan is not really the most interesting place to explore, and spending most of my time on campus I didn't dive too much into the Korean culture. This was not on purpose but the social experience of going to the university in Ansan is truly great. It takes 1.5-2 hours to get to Seoul but there is always someone that wants to join you when you go somewhere.

