

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I went on exchange in South Korea, at the Seoul National University of Science and technology (Seoultech). My exchange period was during the spring semester of 2024.

2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?

I am studying computer science at KEA

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Please briefly explain what each class was about.

My five courses were

Korean for beginners. This course taught us the fundamentals of the Korean language.

Introduction to computer engineering. This course taught us the fundamentals of computer engineering.

Information Security. This course taught us a theoretical approach to cyber security.

Operating systems design. This course taught us the principles of the operating system.

Digital logic and systems. This course taught us Boolean algebra and the digital logic used to make a computer run and perform tasks.

How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?
Very helpful. Choosing courses in Korea is very overwhelming, and would have been nearly impossible, had it not been for the help I received from the staff.

. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

All of the classes were very theoretical except for the Korean class, which I felt really helped me learn Korean.

What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?
The courses in general were generally not very rewarding. The way they teach subjects in Korea, is extremely outdated and you really felt a lack of learning.

What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose? I aimed to choose classes I thought were interesting and useful, which I realize now was a mistake, as you won't be learning a lot from the classes due to the language barrier and their inefficient way of teaching. If you decide to go to Korea (WHICH YOU ABSOLUTELY SHOULD!!!) I would choose classes that are easy and not very demanding, so you can focus more on immersing yourself in the culture without having a big academic stress.

How was the application process? a. What did KEA help you with? b. What help did you receive from your school abroad
The application process is very overwhelming. My advice would be, to use all the help you can get from your international coordinator both at your home school and school abroad, which is what I did, and that helped me tons.

Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination? a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

I didn't have a lot of difficulties. It was a bit confusing learning how to use your Korean portal in the beginning, but you quickly get used to it.

Where did you live? a. Was it difficult to find accommodation? b. Was it expensive?

I found a room in a house on Facebook. It was extremely easy, Seoul is a big city, with a lot of apartments, and the rent is generally cheap.

What kind of expenses did you have in general? a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with? Most of my expenses were used on food and traveling to neighboring countries. Eating at restaurants is very cheap, but buying groceries is very expensive. I stuck to my budget

What kind of income did you have during your exchange? a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus b. Did you apply for any grants and did you receive any?

I received SU in Korea, and I also applied for the Knud Højgaard grant, which I got.

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad? a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process? The biggest challenge is the language barrier. Koreans are very bad at english, and generally only speak korean. Luckily i had a korean roommate who was good at english, which helped me a lot. If you go to Korea, you'll have an easy time finding korean friends who can help you with the language problems. Since i lived off campus, i generally relied on my korean friends to help me with my troubles, rather than the School.

What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?

Just being there was amazing. I dont have one experience that stands out from the rest, as it was just the whole experience of living in Korea, that was perfect.

What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school? Don't be afraid to look stupid while trying to speak Korean to Koreans. And also find on language exchanges at Meetup.com (there are many) The language exchanges are also a good way to make friends outside of campus, which i definitely recommend, to prevent you from just living in a exchange bubble while in Korea.