

## Personal Report

**EWHA Women's University, Winter semester 2022/23, 1 Semester**

**International Finance, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt am Main**

### Language

#### **Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?**

Communication was not very easy as South Korea, being a homogeneous country for the most part, primarily uses Korean. Since I don't speak Korean fluently (beginner level), I mostly communicated in English and with the help of google translator. Many native students, despite being proficient in English, were often too shy to speak. But, since Koreans usually keep to themselves and international students mostly end up spending most time with each other, making friends and communication using both German and English was quite easy.

### Accommodation

#### **Did the host university arrange for accommodation?**

Yes, EWHA has 5 entire buildings dedicated to dormitories for international students.

#### **How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?**

300€

#### **How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?**

Very good. I was given a shared room with a private bathroom in the House-D. This house is the newest to the array of the dorm. buildings and thus, in a optimal condition. Very clean and spacious.

#### **How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?**

The dorms are on campus.

#### **Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc?)**

I was living on campus situated 3 minutes from Ewha Station. The downtown area of Hongdae was about a 40-50min walk or 10mins with the train. Sinchon about half that time. With these two areas within walking distance, I was able to buy anything and everything with ease. The nightlife is very active in Hongdae and is foreigner friendly with a wide assortment of bars and clubs.

### Living Abroad

#### **Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?**

Much more expensive! Cooking is about as expensive as eating out in Seoul. Eating out is about just as expensive there as it is in Frankfurt. Concluding, food is very expensive and so is shopping.

**What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?**

Right upon arriving in South Korea, we had to take a PCR test and another one to enter the dorms. EWha had failed to inform us that these tests can be done on campus for free and that the first test can be delayed by a few hours and can be done on campus. Therefore, some fellow students and I came across additional expenses. We also had to spend another hefty sum for the registration in South Korea.

**How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket?**

We didn't have a semester ticket and had to pay by the fair.

**How was your student life off-campus?**

Fun! Entertainment in South Korea comes in diverse forms and activities eg. the arcade and is much cheaper than in Frankfurt.

**How were the mensas/ student cafeterias?**

There was only one accessible mensa during my stay and it wasn't good.

**How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools?**

The Libraries were fantastic and there were plenty of workplaces available. I didn't come across any computer pools.

**Was Wi-Fi available on-campus?**

Yes, and a very fast one at that

**Were you able to use study rooms?**

I didn't need to use a study room as there was a separate space provided within the dorms. Nevertheless, there was massive space dedicated to studying across all the buildings and many study cafes right outside of the campus as well.

**Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?**

They had clubs for different types of sports, most international students can't get in due to the language barrier.

**Studying at the Host University**

**How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?**

Not necessarily more difficult but definitely more time demanding as I had submissions due every week, sometimes even multiple assignments due in the same week. Almost every subject had a group project as well.

**Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure?**

Classes were only 1h 15min per subject twice a week. Attendance was mandatory. Assignments and group projects were part of almost every class.

**Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner**

**university? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? How were the student services?**

I expected the International Office at EWHA to be as supportive and active as ours at FRA UAS but we were pretty much left on our own. The Office was always too late with answering E-mails, sometimes they didn't answer at all. We did not receive a proper orientation nor proper guidelines. The first few weeks very difficult because of this.

**Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?**

For courses, they only had some slots for exchange students and beyond that, even if you needed a slot for you to complete your studies, none were given out. They were not very understanding.

### Final Remarks

**What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience?**

Korea is wonderful and has a lot to offer, yet it must not be forgotten that most of the people you come across will be Koreans and you will need Korean to communicate with them, so I would recommend learning the language. Without learning Korean, your experience will be much different from that of students who are fluent.

Exchange students should do an extensive research about the workings of Korea before arriving and avoid coming without such. My stay started quite bumpy due to lack of information given to us but along the path I was able to discover Korea and I feel in love with the beautiful Country. Korea as everything from modern metropolitan cities to beautiful and scenic nature within a few kilometers.