

## **Field Report (Erfahrungsbericht)**

### **What to prepare before departure:**

A lot of airlines offer student discounts for any flights. I choose turkish airlines and payed about 800€ for a roundway flight with 40 kg of baggage allowance. Also, before going there you can already book your appointment at the immigration office ([https://www.immigration.go.kr/immigration\\_eng/index.](https://www.immigration.go.kr/immigration_eng/index.)) For your ARC (alien registration card).

This card enables you to order food, make a bank account and you can also use it as an ID. In total I spend about 800€ monthly without the rent. I preferred to book my own place instead of going to the dormitory, therefore it was a little bit more expensive. Looking back, I think it would have been smarter to stay at the dormitory to save money and be around exchange students. I booked my place at airbnb and payed about 3000€ in total just for the accomondations. But I also had to do quarantine and moved places a lot, if you want a save and cheaper option, it's the dormitory!

If you are going in winter, take a really warm coat with you because I've never experienced this kind of cold my whole live. Weatherproof clothing should be priority when packing for winter, also the sizes are not as wide ranged like in Germany. It can be hard to find clothes if your body is not similar to the typical korean standard, so pack with that in mind as well. Dowload all the Kakao apps, kakao talk, kakao metro, kakao taxi etc. because the whole city works with these apps. For transportation, I prefer Naver. Bring enough Deo Dorant with you, because koreans dont use it that much, therefore it is expensive and not as strong like the German ones.

### **What I liked about my stay:**

I am truly satisfied with every experience I made. Korean people are kind, helpful and respectful always, especially the younger generation. I never felt in danger, even when I was walking down the street alone at night time. Every place is loud and colourful, at first it might be overwhelming but with time you get used to how lively the city in general is. You can always get food anytime, anywhere in a convenience store. There is a lot of festivals for students for free, I could see PSY peerform at a University festival. The night live is different from germany, every weekday clubs are

open, and full. At most places, entry is free, even if you are not a club person, I would recommend going once just for the experience. If you are bored, you will always find something to do, don't worry. Taxis are cheap compared to Germany and sometimes even more sufficient than public transport. Skincare is more advanced than Germany and you get really good quality products for reasonable prices.

### **What I didn't like:**

The older generation can be rude and racist sometimes, I suggest you ignore it. Me and my friends were sometimes not allowed to enter places like clubs and restaurants because we were foreigners (only Korean places), that was a little disappointing. Also, there is almost no public transport available after Midnight. The weather was either too cold or too hot for my preferences. Rent is super expensive just as fruits are. I think I ate only a few times fruits through my whole stay because of its high prices.

### **Which Courses did I take:**

I took the courses: Macroeconomics, International trade Law, Financial Management and Consumer Marketing. The classes were not harder than it is in Germany. But the study curriculum is more time consuming and intense. In every class, we were assigned with additional tasks and papers. Also, the Korean school system has midterms and endterms, so your grade depends on many different factors compared to the grading system in FRA UAS. The professors were really nice and easy to approach, but since we had online classes, communication was made through chatting portals on the university website. What I really liked were the facilities to study inside the university building. Different rooms with every equipment you need and modern decor made studying more fun and endurable than it is. The exams were all online and I also had to submit one presentation in trade law. For the exams: you have to point a camera to your face and another one to your desk. Everything is recorded and strictly regulated because cheating is taken really seriously. With some exams we could use our notes but others didn't allow any additional helping tools. In Germany you can make your own schedule and study whenever you want, but with Korean universities that's a little hard. They have a strict time schedule and attendance check so you can't be that flexible with your classes. I would recommend taking 4 classes in total if you want to see a lot and enjoy your time being there.

Ofcourse taking more exams is managable, but I personally found it more relaxing to enjoy this one time experience by taking less classes than usually.

### **How prepared was I for the exchange:**

Before travling to Korea, I took language courses at the University in Frankfurt. I learned reading and writing really fast and I would definitely recommend learning the hangul letters before going there. Everything is written in their native language and many restaurants don't have an english menu. I downloaded all the Kakao apps and watched videos about famous places. For an example, local Markets are much cheaper with fresh foods, so maybe look out where you can buy cheap meals nearby. I also recommend participating in the buddy programm at the FRA AUS because it will connect you with students from all over the world. I was really lucky to know people from Korea before even going there.

### **What you should know:**

Don't go there with any expactations: everything I thought and expected turned out really different. No matter how it turns out, good or bad, it will be a lifelong lesson and experience. Korean people are kind and respectull, you will feel more safe than in other countries. But still, be carefull with your drinks when you go out at night, especially if you are a girl. In Germany it is normal to approach people on the street and ask out for help or compliment others about random things. Korean's can be more shy about that, so if you go up to people on the street, they can react scared or agressive, don't take it personal.

### **How the exchange semester affected my professional/personal life:**

After moving to Korea, I became more confident with myself. I learned to speak up for myself in situations no one else would. Moving to another country thaught me that in many situations I can only rely on myself. I realized how much I still want to see in this world and how much I still did not experience. I wasn't this interested in traveling before. I can easier make friends and feel like my adaptability has increased even more. Regarding, my professional life, it was easier to get into job interviews because

of my exchange in Korea. I am more interested in learning the language and I hope to go back as soon as possible.

Thankyou to the International Office for making this experience possible! 😊



