

Abschlussbericht für das Auslandssemester

Fachbereich (h\_da): Informatik

Studiengang (h\_da): Informatik

Studienniveau:  Bachelor  Master  Diplom

Gastland: South Korea

Gasthochschule: Soongsil University

Department Gasthochschule: Computer Science

Zeitraum (von/bis): 09/22 – 01/23

Bewertung des Auslandsaufenthaltes insgesamt:

positiv  neutral  negativ

Bitte ziehe ein kurzes Fazit des Aufenthalts (2-3 Sätze):

The exchange semester is the best decision i have made for myself in my studies. I have met incredible people and experienced an amazing culture that was foreign to me. I have no regrets in doing it and would definitely do it again given the chance.

1. Vorbereitung des Auslandsaufenthalts

Wann hast du mit der Planung des Aufenthalts begonnen?

I started around 9 months before my departure

Aus welchen Gründen hast du dich für die besuchte Gasthochschule entschieden?

Soongsil University these days is quite known for their computer science department and they are located in Seoul. They also have a good support system for international students.

Welche Krankenversicherung hattest du?

I had the Die Continentale insurance that i received from my HAW.International scholarship

Welche Tipps würdest du Studierenden für die Vorbereitung/Bewerbung geben?

Start early in taking care of all documents because it can be alot and also apply to all possible scholarships because there are multiple available options in HDA.

## **2. Anreise/ Ankunft/ Formalitäten**

**Was ist bei der Einreise/Visumsbeschaffung zu beachten?**

It's important to apply for an appointment in the embassy with enough time before the departure. I applied in the Korean embassy in Frankfurt and after applying, I received my visa exactly in 2 weeks.

**Welche Tipps kannst du zum Thema Kontoeröffnung/Kreditkarte/Handy geben?**

I opened a Korean bank account to be able to do some things online such as online shopping, transferring money to my Korean friends, and ordering delivery.

For credit card I used my MasterCard from Germany that almost always worked. But to be more safe apparently Visa cards work everywhere all the time.

In Korea i used Chingu Mobile for internet which is the cheapest option and provided sufficient internet to last me during the whole semester.

**Hast du ein Stipendium beantragt? Wenn ja, hast du Tipps?**

## **3. Unterkunft**

**Wo und wie hast du gewohnt? Wie hast du die Unterkunft gefunden?**

I lived in the Soongsil University residence hall with a roommate. I was assigned a room by the university after applying.

The dorm was small but is enough for a semester. There is not kitchen provided but there is a cafeteria in the building that is very convenient. There are also many convenience stores and restaurants nearby that makes it easy to get food.

**Mit welchen Kosten ist für die Unterkunft zu rechnen?**

In Euros it costed around €250 per month with no deposit

## **4. Studium / Information über die Gasthochschule**

**Wurde eine Orientierungswoche/-tage angeboten? Bitte mache Angaben zur Dauer und zu den Inhalten.**

There was a big orientation day event on my first daay that i came late to. It consisted of information sessions and lots of games to help the exchange students to get to know each other. It lasted for around 4 hours.

## Wie ist die Infrastruktur der Gasthochschule?

Soongsil University has a big campus that is very beautiful and has a lot of space for studying and relaxing with friends.

## Bitte beschreibe die von dir belegten Kurse und bewerte den jeweiligen Kurs auf einer Skala von 1-10 (1 = sehr schlecht bis 10= sehr gut)

### Kurs 1: Mobile Network – 7/10

This class feels like a class in Germany which means very extensive and hard. It covers everything from 2g to 5g. From the very basics to very recent developments. It is quite interesting but sometimes too technical that it can be quite hard to follow. The professor is quite fast and gives homework that requires a lot of time to do and sometimes it's not worth the points received. The quizzes as well as exams are also quite hard and it is impossible to get a good score. But because the students including the exchange students are graded in a curve, in the end I received quite a good score.

### Kurs 2: Management Information Systems - 5/10

This class is supposed to be conducted with a mix of Korean and English but because there were only 2 exchange students in the class, the professor always conducted the lectures in Korean. But I still had to always come because attendance was required and make up part of the grades. I ended up studying only by reading the written materials that are all in English. The materials were very extensive but quite boring. The professor mostly only read from the slides during the lectures. We needed to write 2 papers and had an oral exam for the finals but the professor was quite generous with the grading.

### Kurs 3: English Debate, Critical Analysis, and Interview Strategies - 10/10

A class that I took out of interest, I couldn't transfer my grades because it's not part of the computer science curriculum. But this class ended up becoming the best class I took. It was very interesting because we all took turns in debating in teams about various topics after learning about the various debating strategies. After about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the semester, we learned strategies for job interviews which were also very useful. The class is very relaxed but I learned a lot while having fun with the debates. The professor was also very friendly and nice.

### Kurs 4: Introduction to Korean Language 1 – 7/10

A very basic introduction class to the Korean language specifically for exchange students. The class is very slow and basic but might be a bit useful for someone with no Korean knowledge at all because we learned all the alphabets and how to read and write them. But it is definitely not enough for day to day life and I recommended learning on your own on the side to really progress.

Ggf. weitere Kurse:

Wann und wie konntest du dich für die Kurse anmelden?

Before the semester started we were sent a list of courses and we needed to give the course numbers to our buddies which then registered them for us.

Wie werden Leistungsnachweise an der Gasthochschule erbracht (Mitarbeit, Klausuren, Hausarbeiten etc.)?

This depended on the classes. Some classes have homework and some not. Some also have different forms of exams, for example writing papers or oral exams instead of the usual written exams. Attendance is always required for every class.

Kannst/willst du dir Kurse für das Studium an der h\_da anerkennen lassen?

2 of my classes are recognized in the h\_da , the other 2 I only took out of interest.

Welche Leistungen/Angebote gibt es sonst noch an der Gasthochschule und welche hast du genutzt (z. B. Sports, Clubs, interkulturelle Aktivitäten, Student-Buddy, spezielle Events...)?

In Soongsil, every exchange student has a buddy to help us with everything we need. There are also many clubs that can be joined but I didn't join any because I was already quite busy. There is the SISO organization that organizes events every month for the exchange students. There was also a school festival that lasted for 3 days that was very fun.

## **5. Alltag, Freizeit und Finanzen**

Wie hat es mit der Sprache geklappt (auch beim Studium)?

In day to day life its quite easy to get by with just using a translator and I learned to pick up some phrases that are frequently used. In the school I took mostly English classes except for a class but the professor was always willing to talk to us in English.

Wie war das Uni- und Sozialleben (Alltag & Freizeit)?

It is what you make of it. I generally had a lot of free time because my classes usually only took 2-3 hours a day and the rest of my time I used to explore Seoul. There are so many things to explore and see that one can never be bored in Seoul. It is also quite easy to meet people, especially exchange students, because I lived in the residence hall, so contact with the other students were very easy.

Sonstige Tipps und Hinweise (z.B. zur Stadt, zum Land, Kontakt mit der Heimat, Transport, etc.)

I would say that a big thing that I discovered after some time living in Seoul is that using Taxis is usually very worth it because it saves so much time and is very cheap relatively compared to other countries, especially when it's divided.

I also recommend applying for the ARC (Alien Registration Card) during the very first days of coming. SISO had an event at the very start of the semester where we can easily apply for it and this makes the whole process much easier instead of trying to apply for it on our own.

**Wie hast du den Aufenthalt finanziert? Welches Budget pro Monat würdest du anderen Studierenden empfehlen einzuplanen?**

I received the HAW International scholarship which helped a lot in financing my exchange semester. I would say when living in the residence hall, € 1000 would be enough for everything, including things like multiple trips and concerts. This of course depends on how someone spends their money.

## **6. Fazit**

**Was war die positivste, was die negativste Erfahrung?**

I would say the whole experience was very pleasant for me through and through and just spending time with my new friends and exploring Korea was just amazing.

The worst experiences are few and apart but maybe sometimes having to deal with drunk people when going out at night in clubs. But even then, there are always people willing to help and I would still consider the nightlife in Seoul quite safe.

**Kannst du den Aufenthalt weiterempfehlen?**

I would definitely recommend doing an exchange semester to anyone. This is a once in a lifetime experience that I wouldn't trade with anything else. I have met amazing people and went to amazing places and this really helped me grow so much not as a student but as a person.

## **7. Platz für Fotos**

**Hier kannst du Fotos des Auslandsaufenthalts einfügen:**