

Exchange Report

*Yonsei University, South Korea
2017 Fall Semester*



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| Part I – Monthly Activity Log

August 2017

Yonsei got two orientations – the one for exchange students and the one for students living in the dormitory. With a view to get myself settled all the stuffs before the start of semester as well as for attending the orientations, I took the flight on 26th August and finished all the check-in procedures upon my arrival. Since the orientation is mandatory, you have to reserve time joining the programs. Many Yonsei-related issues and information which would be conducive to your exchange life would be introduced during the orientation, for instance, student card would be distributed to you, the range of activities that exchange students can join would also be introduced. On top of this, it would be a great opportunity for you to expand your network which is critical for a fruitful exchange life. For the remaining days, I spent most of my time in exploring the facilities and spots in Sinchon, purchasing necessities, sightseeing around Seoul and hanging out with the new friends made in Yonsei.

September 2017

Yonsei Fall semester officially commences at 1st September, and the add-drop period is from 5th to 7th September which is the last chance for you to adjust your timetable. I took this chance to make a timetable with 2 dayoff, thereby saving more time to travel around. The academic workload in this month was actually pretty light, so I grabbed much time in hanging out. Some of my Hong Kong friends and my family came visit me in this month, so I really did a lot of sightseeing. For example, we went to Ihwa Mural Village (이화벽화마을), Seoul Tower (서울타워), Han River (한강), Gwangjang Market (광장시장), Insa-dong (인사동), Gyeongbokgung Palace (경복궁), Bukchon Hanok Village (북촌한옥마을), Noryangjin Fish Market (노량진수산물시장), Majang Meat Market (마장 축산물시장), Gangchon Rail Park (강촌 레일파크). Most importantly, September is the month for Yon-ko game, which is undeniably a must-go event if you are exchanging in Fall Semester. Only by participating the event, I have built an extremely strong sense of belonging to Yonsei University and got a taste of the cheerleading culture of Korean students.

October 2017

October began with a long holiday, composed by Hangeul-Day (한글날) and Korean Thanksgiving Day (추석). I got a holiday about 10 days, so I took the chance to travel to Busan (부산) and Gyeongju (경주) with my friends. We have visited many

spectacular places, for instance, Haeundae Beach (해운대해수욕장), Oryukdo Skywalk (오륙도 스카이워크), Busan Tower (부산타워), Gamcheon Cultural Village (감천문화마을), Jagalchi Market (자갈치시장), Bulguksa Temple (불국사). It was really a memorable journey with endless fun and joy. However, the end of the holiday marked the start of a spate of workload. I got a lot of project meetings and assignments deadline in this month. Furthermore, it was also the month for mid-term examinations, so I was quite busy in the last two weeks of October.

November 2017

Nevertheless I got many projects and individual assignments in November, I spent a lot of my time sightseeing around and outside Seoul. For example, I went to Petite France (쁘띠프랑스), Everland (에버랜드), Haneul Park (하늘공원), Gwanghwamun (광화문), Myeong-dong (명동), Dongdaemun Market (동대문시장), Seoulland (서울랜드), Yeouido Park (여의도공원). I even went hiking in Seoraksan (설악산) and travelled to Jeju Island (제주도). Jeongbang Waterfall (정방폭포), Cheonjiyeon Waterfall (천지연폭포), Osulloc Tea Museum (오설록 티뮤지엄), Udo (우도), Samgumburi Crater (산굼부리), Mazeland (메이즈랜드), Jungmun Beach (중문해변), Seogwipo Mael Olle Market (서귀포매일올레시장), Dongmun Market (동문시장) were all great places to visit.

December 2017

Stepping into the last month of my exchange journey, I had to first deal with all the presentations, proposals, assignments, reports as well as final examinations. Fortunately, I finished everything on 15th December, thus I still got 2-3 weeks for completing the remaining items on my bucket list. I bid the buddies I met in Korea farewell, tidying all the stuffs from my dormitory, and lastly making good use of the minimal time left to revel in this marvelous place. For instance, I went skiing in Jisan Forest Ski Resort (지산 포레스트 리조트 스키장) and I went Running Man Experience Museum (런닝맨 보물을 찾아라), Alive Museum (박물관은 살아있다), Nami Island (남이섬), Apgujeong (압구정), Gangnam (강남), Gasan Digital Complex Station (가산디지털단지역), Seoul Express Bus Terminal Shopping Street (서울고속버스터미널), Rose Garden (장미정원), Yeongdeungpo-dong (영등포동), Common Ground (커먼그라운드), Seoulllo 7017 (서울로 7017), Cheonggyecheon (청계천) and the like. The time I spent and the memories I gained in this journey is undeniably one of the best parts in my life.

| Part II General Exchange Information

1) *Visa Procedures*

For exchanging in South Korea, you have to apply for D-2 Student Visa, which is necessary for staying in the country for more than 90 days. Please be reminded to check all the required documents before visiting the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Admiralty. The required documents and reminders are stated below :

D2-Visa Application	
1. Certificate of Admission issued by Yonsei (Would be sent to UST)	6. Latest academic report (Apply transcript from UST)
2. Exchange program confirmation letter (UST)	7. ID card
3. Agreement on exchange program between UST and Yonsei University	8. Financial status proof for the recent 3 months (Showing account balance > HKD25,000)
4. Student card	9. Colored passport photo (35x45mm)
5. Passport	10. Visa application form
Hours of Operation (Mon - Fri): [Submission: 09:00-12:00] [Visa Collection: 13:30-16:30] Only cash would be accepted so please bring enough cash! Cost : \$480 (2017)	

Apart from applying the D-2 Student Visa, you also need to apply for the Alien Registration Card, which would work as an ID Card for foreigners staying in Korea. After arriving South Korea, it is suggested that you make the online reservation for the application as soon as possible if you desire to tackle all these matters earlier, since it would be much more difficult for you to make a reservation since the start of semester. You have to reach the immigration office located at Omokgyo Station in-person, the route reaching the Office and the documents you have to prepare would be introduced in orientation. When you are making the online reservation, please be reminded to select “Immigration Office (Southern Part)”. Another point you have to be aware of is that Hong Kong is not counted under the “Mainland China Section” which would be processed at 2/F, instead you should go to 3/F for “Foreigners”.

2) *Orientation Day*

The orientation for exchange student was held on the 28th August at Baekyang Hall. A set of important information would be delivered to you on that day, including your student ID Card, campus guide, library guide, information about different student societies and reminders for exchange students. Student leaders of the societies would also give a welcoming talk, enabling you to have a better understanding about the school life in Yonsei University. Korean students from “Mentors Club” would then divide the exchange students into about 10 groups, bringing you to have a dinner in

Sinchon. After that, all the exchange students would gather in a Club, having some drinks and dancing in a place together. If you would like to have a taste of the “Club Culture” of Koreans but you are worried about the safety, it would be a great chance for you to make a try. As the whole area was reserved by “Mentors Club”, only Yonsei students are allowed to get in and it was actually quite safe for you to join it.

3) International Services & Activities

I am satisfied with nearly every slice of exchange life in Yonsei University, short of International Activities held by student societies. I have enrolled in two programs - 1:1 Language Exchange Program and Mentors Club respectively. Talking about the first one, I got paired up with a Korean boy as my language buddy, yet after receiving his contact, I got neither reply nor follow-up from my buddy nor the student organization, which really disappointed me. For the Mentors Club, since the number of exchange students enrolled for the program was much more than the number of Yonsei local students, many of us were not able to join it. Therefore, I would recommend you to register for more of these programs as you may not be able to join any of these if there are too many applicants.

4) Accommodations

I opted to live in on-campus accommodation provided for exchange students in Yonsei. There are two dormitories, namely SK Global House and International House, and I was living in the latter one. SK Global House got more facilities than International House, but even though you are International House resident, you can still access to them. It got private bathroom and toilet, but you have to be the one responsible for cleaning them. The size of the room is smaller than the one in International House and there is no refrigerator in the room. The fee is about \$2000 more expensive than International House as well. Yet, International House is for female only, so for all the male exchange students, they have no choice but to live in SK Global House. I love the dormitory in Yonsei a lot, though there is no private bathroom and toilet, it was cleaned every day, except weekends. On top of it, the cleanliness and design are much better than the dormitory in UST. The air-conditioner was out-of-charge for summer and there was a central heating system to keep the entire building of the dormitory warm in winter.

5) Course Registration

The course registration system for Yonsei differs from the one used in UST. Instead of merely relying on first-come, first served, a special system called “Mileage Points System” is used and every Yonsei students would be allocated 72 mileage points for enrolling into the courses they want. It acts like a bidding system, for the more

preferable courses, you have to allocate more points, so you can have a greater chance getting in. Yonsei has a database showing the mileage points that students had bet on in the past semesters for your reference. In my opinion, 72 mileage points are definitely adequate if you can make a wise allocation based on the past results. Provided that you are not able to get into the courses you want in the first round, there is also a second round – a first-come, first-served system which is substantially similar to the one we use in UST. Since Yonsei course registration system would be quite foreign to UST students, please be reminded to read all the instructions and procedures carefully beforehand.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

The system Yonsei adopted is named as YSCEC, it is actually an online system which is equivalent to the CANVAS system used in UST. Every study-related issue, including syllabus, lecture notes, homework, announcements would be posted on this platform. Another key you have to be aware of is attendance and lateness. Yonsei has a strict attendance policy. Without specifically speaking, if you absent for more than 1/3 of the classes, you would fail the course. Meanwhile, lateness may sometimes also be counted as absence for half of the class. Therefore, if you really like to have more time in travelling, it is essential for you to have official dayoff. The courses below are the one I took in Yonsei for your reference.

Yonsei Course Code with Title (Credits)	Equivalent Course in HKUST (Credits)
BIZ3126 Consumer Behaviour (3)	MARK3420 Consumer Behaviour (4)
BIZ3134 International Management (3)	MGMT4230 International Management (4)
IEE3346 Human Resources Management (3)	MGMT3110 Human Resources Management (4)
IEE3349 Advertising (3)	MARK3410 Promotion & Ad Management (4)
*IEE1101 Beginning Korean Writing (3)	LANG1000-Course (2 – Free Credits)
Total : 15 Credits	Total : 18 Credits

*There is no previous database for the credit transferal of this course

7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are basically two gym rooms for you to choose in Yonsei University. One is located in the center part of the campus, which is actually quite far from the dormitory and one is located at B2/F of SK Global House. The former one is a lot bigger, equipped with a wider range of facilities, but you have to pay for a monthly fee of about ₩40000 for using it. The latter one is relatively smaller but it is free, and personally speaking, the facilities there are enough already. Even though I was living in the International House, I can get into SK Global House through the 4/F with the International House room key, so it is convenient for me as well.

8) Financial Expenses

The cost of dining and transportation in Seoul is relatively more expensive than that of Hong Kong, and you are advised to check the exchange rate of ₩ to \$ frequently. During my exchange period, the market rate of \$ kept devaluating, hence my cost of living in Seoul became much greater. On top of this, Korea is a country which has an extraordinarily high usage rate of cards, it would be more convenient for you to have a bank account living there. Most of the exchange students would open a bank account in Woori Bank, which can be found inside Yonsei University and it is out-of-charge.

Item	Amount in ₩	Amount in \$
Round trip flight tickets (HKG/ICN)	/	2550
Accommodation (International House)	1,456,000	10500
Visa application fee	/	480
Chest x-ray (Valid within 2 months)		150
Telecom services (Olleh Sim Card)		800
Necessities		2500
Education		300
Shopping		4000
Meals		12000
Entertainment		5000
Transportation		4000
Travelling		5000
Miscellaneous Expenses		2000
Total		49280

9) Health and Safety

In case you are not feeling well, you can visit the health center located in the Student Union Building on 1/F. It should be comparatively economical than the hospital or clinic outside campus. Please be reminded to take good care of your health since seeing doctor in Korea is quite complex in that you have to buy the medicine from the pharmacy instead of being able to get it directly from the doctor.

10) Food

Korean food is unequivocally the best part you can look forward to for your exchange. Since Yonsei University is really close to Ehwa University, Sinchon and Hongdae, where an array of delicacy gathers, you can always try different kinds of mouthwatering Korean food. There are several canteens inside campus as well, and the price there is

just about ₩3000-5000.

11) Transportation

Koreans use T-money as our Octopus Card. If you do not want to buy one, you can use the Student ID Card that Yonsei distributed as T-money as well. From my perspective, Google Map is not that accurate in Korea, so I would recommend you to download “Naver Map”, which is the one used by Koreans. It takes about 20-30 minutes from the dormitory to Sinchon or Ehwa University Station and the closest bus stop is 이대부중, which takes a 5-minute walk from the dormitory only.

12) Climate

Personally speaking, September and October are the two months with the most comfortable weather, so please grab the chance to go travelling and enjoy the magnificent maple leaves view in these 2 months. From October onwards, the weather would start getting cold, and it would begin to snow in November. In addition, the humidity in South Korea is always low, so please be reminded to bring more moisturizing products and drink more water. The temperatures of Seoul have been stated in the table below.

Seoul Weather			
MONTH	HIGHEST	LOWEST	AVERAGE
August	28°C	20°C	24°C
September	24°C	14°C	19°C
October	18°C	7°C	13°C
November	10°C	-1°C	5°C
December	3°C	-7°C	-2°C
January	1°C	-9°C	-4°C

13) Communication

Since I had learnt some Korean before, communicating with Korean was not that difficult. Yet, for some of my friends who did not know much about Korean, it was actually quite difficult for them to communicate with local Koreans outside campus since most of them do not know English very well. Therefore, I would recommend you to start learning some fundamental Korean in helping you to order food, buying stuffs, or making enquiries outside Yonsei University. I would recommend “Naver Dictionary” for you to translate Korean into other languages.

| Part III Items to Bring

- Minimal summer clothes (Clothes in Korea is really cheap)
- Heattech and jacket for both autumn and winter
- Laptop & router & lan cable (For better WIFI-connection in dormitory)
- Adaptors
- Personal medicine
- A spare mobile phone
- Passport and other personal documents

| Part IV Useful Links

- D-2 Student Visa Application
- <http://endlesskyx.blogspot.hk/2012/01/visa.html>

- Consulate General of Republic of Korea in Hong Kong
- <http://hkg.mofat.go.kr/english/as/hkg/main/index.jsp>

- Alien Registration Card Application
- http://www.hikorea.go.kr/pt/main_en.pt

- HKUST Study Abroad System
- <https://mystudyabroad.ust.hk>

- HKUST Course Equivalence Database
- http://arr.ust.hk/ust_actoe/credit.php

- YSCEC
- <https://yscec.yonsei.ac.kr/login/index.php>

- Course Registration
- http://www.yonsei.ac.kr/en_sc/

- Yonsei Accommodation Services
- https://ih.yonsei.ac.kr/language/index_chn.html

- Yonsei Academic Calendar
- <https://oia.yonsei.ac.kr/intstd/exCalendar.asp>