



Student Exchange Evaluation

Every student loves to hear of other's exchange experiences. These forms are very useful when selecting your exchange destination.

Please include as much information as possible. Feel free to use additional pages, enclose photos, links to blogs/ videos etc.

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Cheyenne Henderson-Watkins

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Name of Exchange University: Sungkyunkwan University

Country: South Korea

Year of exchange: 2018

Language of instruction: English

List courses taken abroad:

Contemporary Korean Society & Culture
Political and economic development in Korea
The population and politics of contemporary Korea
Advanced Korean

2. EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

How would you rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10?

Poor

Excellent

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Comments:

3. FINANCES

Total cost: \$6500

Room: \$2500

Airfare to host institution: \$500

Holidays/travel expenses: \$1000

Other:

Did you spend more than you expected? What was more/ less expensive than you expected?

I spent as much as I expected to spend, but I spent way more during a trip to Japan during the exchange.

What was the best way of accessing money during your exchange programme?

Transferring money from my Aus bank account to my Korean bank account

Do you have any advice about finances, budgeting or the cheapest way of living/travelling?

Find a cheap money transferring website as they will usually be much faster than the bank, don't aim to spend all of your savings.

4. ARRIVAL

Was there an airport pickup/ buddy service available?

Yes but I did not use it.

5. ORIENTATION

What was Orientation like? Was it useful? Were there social activities?

It was a nice one day event where we got all the essential information we needed and then an after party. The after party was where we could fully interact with each other.

6. ACADEMICS

What differences did you find between the UWA system and the system at your host university?

Contact hours: Much more, lectures + lectures are the same so you have to go no matter what

Homework: about the same

Course (lectures, tests, etc.): testing more flexible for exchange students, no set standard.

Workload (heavier/ lighter) and assessment (harder or easier): depends what classes you take. but workload is about the same, assessments easier.

7. FACILITIES

What were the library/ Wi-Fi/ email facilities like at your host institution?

Yes

8. SOCIAL

What kinds of social events were there? Was it easy to meet people?

There was a buddy club (H1-Club) that we were put into at orientation but there were very few events and only some buddy groups were actually active. I only met my individual buddy once.

9. ACCOMMODATION

Was on campus housing available? What were the rooms like? Were you on a meal plan or did you cook your own food? Are the residences close to the university?

Please add any additional information that you think be of interest with regard to housing.

There was close on campus housing but I lived in a sharehouse instead. On campus housing was all shared rooms. My sharehouse had a few single rooms. I generally cooked my own food but eating out is often less expensive.

10. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

What was the most difficult aspect of planning your exchange?

Having timely responses from the university, as they cut it quite fine to before you leave. Finding housing that was suitable was also a challenge as there are less options in the neighbourhood than in other areas.

What advice do you have for future exchange students?

Open a Korean account it will be better, try to get involved on campus as much as possible even if it involves joining a different buddy group. Don't skip any classes, book accommodation as soon as possible, live within walking distance as public transport can be so full at rush times that you can't get on.

What are the 5 most important things to take with you when you go to your host university?

1. Windows computer (if possible) to view course catalogue

2. Clothes for multiple seasons - winter is unbearable
3. Extra money to ship things home at the end of your stay
4. A phone that's completely network unlocked
5. A bag smaller than your big suitcase for small trips.

11. General impressions

What were the most rewarding aspects of biggest disappointments of your exchange experience? How has your perspective changed as a result of your exchange experience?

Remember that students are interested in reading about both good and bad experiences.

Overall, I had a great experience, but as I had already been on exchange to South Korea before it was kind of tainted by my last trip and I couldn't help comparing. The best aspects were living in the surrounding neighbourhood of Hyeon, which had so many wonderful things to do and see and was just an all round good student hub. It also did not take long to get from there to other important parts of the city. The campus itself is beautiful and historical but there are a lot of hills!

Making friends was a strange experience and kind of clique based, as the buddy program didn't operate frequently so many people made friends that were of the same ~~sex~~ nationality and didn't mix too much. I was lucky enough to live in a diverse household and made some great friends out of it.

Classes were very much up to the discretion of individual lecturers and varied in their difficulty and content, but overall were extremely informative. However, the Korean classes only had four levels, with a huge gap between intermediate and advanced. It made learning very difficult, especially when the number of years spent learning Korean varied drastically in advanced.

Food is cheap and tasty especially when eating out with friends, but it is generally very difficult to find a cheap way to eat ~~also~~ alone. There is so much to see and do in Seoul, but don't forget about other cities as they also have a lot of great things to offer too.

Thank you for your time.