



Fachbereich Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften Nürnberg FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

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Angaben zum Auslandsaufenthalt	
Studiengang an der WiSo:	International Business Studies
Gastuniversität:	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
Gastland:	Südkorea
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität:	Visiting Student Program - Division of International Studies
Aufenthaltszeitraum (Semester und Jahr):	Winter Semester 2025/2026
Darf der Bericht veröffentlicht werden?*	(Nicht zutreffendes löschen) <input checked="" type="radio"/> JA / NEIN

*Veröffentlichung unter: <http://ib.wiso.fau.de/outgo/partneruniversitaeten/>

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Folgende Angaben dienen zu Ihrer Orientierung, auf welche Themen Sie im Bericht eingehen können. Bitte füllen Sie sich weder verpflichtet, detailliert auf alle genannten Bereiche einzugehen, noch sich nur auf diese zu beschränken. Schreiben Sie über alles, was Ihnen wichtig erscheint und was Ihrer Meinung nach für Ihre Nachfolger nützlich sein könnte.

Themenbereiche:

1. Bewerbung und Auswahlverfahren an der FAU
2. Bewerbung / Anmeldung an der Gastuniversität
3. Vorbereitung auf das Auslandsstudium
4. Anreise / Visum
5. Unterkunftsmöglichkeiten (Wohnheim, privat)
6. Einschreibung an der Gastuniversität
7. Fachliche und administrative Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office, Fachstudienberater, Buddy-Programme, studentische Initiativen, etc.)
8. Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan an der Gastuniversität
9. Sprachkurse an der Gastuniversität (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig)
10. Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)
11. Freizeitangebote
12. Stadt (Sehenswürdigkeiten, Feste, Museen, etc.)
13. Alltag (Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobben)
14. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien)
15. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links
16. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)
17. Sonstiges

Vielen Dank für Ihre Unterstützung!



EXPERIENCE REPORT AS A VISITING STUDENT IN SOUTH KOREA:

The pathway for my semester in Seoul started about a year in advance at the WiSo in Nuremberg, during the International Day of 2024. I decided to organise my Visiting Student Program stay at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) through Asia Exchange rather than a direct university partnership. This route was not only efficient in terms of paperwork but also gave me an opportunity to spend my semester abroad in South Korea, which was not being easily offered through direct university partnership. The most time-consuming part of the preparation was the D-2-2 visa. I had to visit the Korean consulate and provide financial proof, and even resend some paperwork that had flaws, this having delayed the process quite a bit. So, I definitely would recommend starting this process as soon as the admission letter from HUFS is received in order to avoid any stress or complications that might arise before flying out.

Here is an Asia Exchange link of the program details: <https://asiaexchange.org/study-destinations/seoul-south-korea/hankuk-university-of-foreign-studies/>.

When I arrived at Incheon Airport, the transition felt very smooth. I had already applied for a room at one of the three International House dorms on Seoul Campus through Asia Exchange during my initial application, which I would highly suggest doing as getting an affordable apartment in Seoul can be quite challenging. This, of course, saved me from the trouble of having to seek housing in Seoul. Living in the dorm was a great experience because it is very near campus (a five-minute walk) and mostly housed with international students, making it easy to find a group of people early on. During the first week, the International Office held orientation sessions that covered the essentials, like applying for the Alien Registration Card (ARC), which is mandatory for staying in the country long-term, as well as to be able to re-enter Korea after traveling abroad while on the student visa period.

The academic side of HUFS was quite structured and offered a global perspective with a wide variety of courses in multiple languages. I took four courses: "FTA and Law," "Multi-Level Governance," "Regional Cooperation and Integration in International Relations," and "Understanding Culture", all held in English. The classes required regular participation and several group projects, which made classes feel more dynamic and helped me get to know more local and international students. Examinations consisted of one mid-term exam, held in October, and one final exam held in December, with two courses requiring a paper to hand in before the final exam. All the courses also had the group presentation projects which were given at assigned dates throughout the semester. These projects were meant to primarily count for the "concept/participation" grade, which would then be considered for the final grading. For the exam period, the University has a large, cozy modern library equipped with several computers for students to use. This is where I spent most of my time studying, especially during the early morning when it was far less crowded. The way to enter the library is by downloading the HUFS ID app and then scanning a QR into a gate screen. The library was open almost the entire day and it was regularly filled with students on the first floor,



which is where the talking area is as well as a coffee shop. So, this is a great and convenient spot to collaborate with classmates for group projects.

Additionally, HUFS also offers international students the possibility of joining student clubs. These clubs range from language clubs, to anime, to sports. Some of the clubs were more exclusive to Korean local students, however the sports clubs in my experience were very open to foreign students and I myself joined the running club, having run a marathon in the city with the club itself. For newcomer students who want to stay active and find easier ways to meet people outside of class, I really recommend joining one of these clubs. Note to have in mind though, is that application must be done early on, as a lot of clubs will close applications early on.

Here is a HUFS link on campus life: <https://hellohufs.hufs.ac.kr/Campus-Life>.

Life in Seoul, in comparison to Nuremberg, is very fast paced. There can be a lot of traffic, huge crowds and it can feel overwhelming. However, there was never a shortage of activities to do. In my free time, I explored sights like the Gyeongbokgung Palace and visited various museums, which fit perfectly with what I was learning in my culture course. On a practical note, I recommend getting a local SIM card at the airport, so there is data for navigation right away. This is very important since it's very easy to lose sense of direction in such a large city, with countless different metro and train routes. Regarding finances, Korea can be affordable for local food, local restaurants, or the university canteen. It is advisable, however, to budget for the initial costs of the dorm and the visa. Since working is restricted on a student visa (without at least upper-intermediate fluency in Korean, working is not allowed), it is important to have savings organised beforehand. Lastly, I've personally experienced not just in Seoul but throughout the country in general, that the majority of South Koreans, with rare exceptions, have very little English knowledge. So, learning the basics of the language was helpful for daily life, it can make a difference even for just reading signs or ordering food at local restaurants. In my case, this has helped me in a particular situation where I was lost and needed directions in a remote area where there was poor service.

Below is a link for further details into Korean life: <https://hellohufs.hufs.ac.kr/Helpful-Information/Life-in-Korea>.

Looking back, the semester at HUFS was a fantastic experience, unlike no other, that really broadened my horizon. I completed 12 credits with a GPA of 4.0, and I feel like I gained a lot of independence. The best part was the community at the International House and the chance to live in such a dynamic city. Not to mention that the nightlife and social scene also added to the positive experience. The only downside was the initial mountain of paperwork for the visa and residency registration, as well as the bureaucracy within Korea as well, which can be a bit slow. But it was well worth the effort, and I personally don't have any regrets whatsoever. And for whoever is considering Korea, I would encourage them to apply, and just to stay updated with deadlines and be open to a completely different way of life.