BÜRO FÜR INTERNATIONALE BEZIEHUNGEN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Fachbereich Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften | WiSo

Fachbereich Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften Nürnberg
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

Die Erfahrungsberichte werden von Studierenden verfasst und spiegeln nicht die Meinung der Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg wider. Jeder Bericht wird vor der Veröffentlichung* geprüft. Die Universität behält sich das Recht zur Kürzung vor.

Angaben zum Auslandsaufenthalt	
Studiengang an der WiSo:	International Economic Studies B.Sc.
Gastuniversität:	Chungnam National University (CNU)
Gastland:	South Korea
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität:	International Trade
Aufenthaltszeitraum (*Semester und Jahr*):	Wintersemester 2025
Darf der Bericht veröffentlicht werden?*	JA

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

Bei Fragen in Bezug auf den Datenschutz möchten wir Sie auf die Webseite des Datenschutzbeauftragten der FAU verweisen (https://www.fau.de/fau/leitung-und-gremien/gremien-und-beauftragte/beauftragte/datenschutzbeauftragter/) oder auf deren Email-Adresse (datenschutzbeauftragter@fau.de)

Schildern Sie Ihre persönlichen Erfahrungen und Eindrücke von Ihrem Auslandsaufenthalt. Bitte halten Sie sich dabei an eine Regel: Seien Sie fair!

- nur eigene Erfahrungen und Eindrücke beschreiben
- keine Unterstellungen, Spekulationen oder Gerüchte
- keine Verallgemeinerungen
- Kritik sachlich, konkret und konstruktiv formulieren
- keine Beleidigungen

Verwendung von Bildern: Falls Sie in Ihren Bericht Bilder einfügen wollen, verwenden Sie bitte ausschließlich Bilder, die Sie selbst fotografiert haben und auf denen keine Personen abgebildet sind. Aufgrund urheberrechtlicher Bestimmungen müssen wir Bilder, die diesen Vorgaben nicht entsprechen, aus dem Bericht entfernen.

Themenbereiche:

1. Bewerbung und Auswahlverfahren an der FAU
   Application and Selection Process at FAU
   The application and selection process at FAU was relatively straightforward and well organized. I would describe the level of difficulty as moderate. As part of the application, I had to submit a motivation letter and my transcript of records. Since I am enrolled in an English-taught degree program, no additional language certificate was required.

   After submitting the application documents, the selection process took approximately one month until I received the nomination and offer for the exchange program. Overall, I found the application procedure easy to manage and did not encounter any significant difficulties.

   The staff at the International Office were very helpful throughout the process. Whenever I had questions, they responded promptly via email and provided clear information. This made the preparation process much smoother and gave me confidence that everything was proceeding correctly.

   My advice for future exchange students is to start the application process as early as possible. Preparing the required documents in advance can reduce stress and help avoid potential deadlines or administrative issues.

2. Bewerbung / Anmeldung an der Gastuniversität
   Application and Enrollment at Chungnam National University
   After being nominated by FAU, I had to complete the application process for Chungnam National University (CNU). The required documents included a certificate of enrollment, a transcript of records, and a copy of my passport. These documents had to be uploaded through an online application form.

   In addition, CNU required original hard copies of certain documents to be sent by post to South Korea. This included a certificate of enrollment with an apostille and a bank statement showing sufficient financial resources of approximately USD 4,000 for one semester.

   Compared to the application process at FAU, the application at CNU was somewhat more complicated. While the requirements themselves were clear, communication during the process was limited. After submitting my documents, I received very little information regarding the status of my application and whether my documents had been received successfully. As result, I had to wait for updates without knowing exactly how the process was progressing.

   I submitted my application in April and received an acceptance email in June. However, I did not initially receive the official acceptance documents that were required for my visa application. Since I urgently needed these documents, I contacted the university directly by phone. After reaching out to the

resp
onsible office, I received the necessary documents, including the acceptance letter, in July.

Despite the communication delays, the application process was ultimately successful, and I was able to complete all requirements before my departure.

3. Vorbereitung auf das Auslandsstudium
   Before departing for South Korea, I attended a Korean language course at FAU. This course was very helpful because it allowed me to learn basic Korean and develop simple conversational skills. Having some knowledge of the language made daily life in Korea easier and helped me feel more confident when interacting with local people.

   Apart from the language course, I did not have to make extensive preparations. One important aspect was health insurance. International students in South Korea are required to enroll in the Korean National Health Insurance system, which simplified the process and meant that I did not need to arrange a separate long-term health insurance plan on my own.

   Overall, the preparation process was manageable and did not cause major difficulties. My recommendation for future students is to learn at least some basic Korean before arriving. Even though many university services are available in English, basic language skills can be very useful in everyday situations and help students adapt more quickly to their new environment.

4. Anreise / Visum
   For my exchange semester in South Korea, I needed a D-2 student visa. Obtaining the visa was one of the most stressful parts of my preparation, mainly because I am not a German citizen.

   Initially, I contacted the Korean Embassy in Germany and was informed that I would have to apply for the visa in my home country. This created a significant problem because I had classes and important examinations at FAU until the middle of August, while the semester at Chungnam National University was scheduled to begin at the beginning of September. Since the visa process can take approximately one month, returning to my home country to apply would have made it very difficult to receive the visa before the start of the semester.

   Therefore, I contacted the embassy again and explained my situation in detail. After reviewing my case, they informed me that I could submit my visa application in Germany, although they could not guarantee that it would be approved in time. Since I had no other realistic option, I decided to apply in Germany. Fortunately, the process was successful. I submitted my application at the beginning of July and received my visa approval approximately three weeks later, at the end of July.

   The required documents included the acceptance letter from Chungnam National University, a certificate of enrollment, a bank statement proving sufficient financial resources, and several supporting documents provided by

the
host university. Although gathering the documents required some time, the preparation itself was not particularly difficult.

I traveled to South Korea with a layover in Mongolia before arriving at Incheon International Airport. From there, I traveled to Daejeon by bus with the help of friends. Chungnam National University did not offer an airport pickup service, so students were responsible for arranging their own transportation to the campus.

Looking back, I would advise future students, especially those who are not German citizens, to begin researching visa requirements as early as possible and to contact the embassy directly if they encounter any special circumstances.

5. Unterkunftsmöglichkeiten (Wohnheim, privat)
   During my semester abroad, I stayed in one of the university dormitories on the campus of Chungnam National University. The accommodation fee for one semester was approximately 1,300,000 KRW, although the exact cost depends on the selected meal plan. I chose a meal plan that included two meals per day on weekdays.

   The dormitory rooms were shared by two students. On my floor, approximately twelve students shared common bathroom and toilet facilities. The shared areas were cleaned every morning by the dormitory staff, which helped maintain a good level of cleanliness throughout the semester.

   One of the main advantages of the dormitory was its location on campus. However, the campus itself is quite large and built on a hillside. The dormitory was located near the top of the campus, which meant that I had to walk uphill frequently. Although my faculty building was only about a 15-minute walk away, the daily walks could sometimes be tiring.

   The dormitory provided basic facilities such as a refrigerator, microwave, and drinking water dispenser in the shared area. However, there was no kitchen available for students. As a result, students who enjoy cooking their own meals may find the dormitory less suitable. In that case, private accommodation might be a better option.

   Overall, I would recommend the dormitory to future exchange students because it is convenient, affordable, and located directly on campus. It is also a good place to meet other international students. However, students who prefer more privacy or who wish to cook regularly should carefully consider whether the dormitory matches their needs.

6. Einschreibung an der Gastuniversität
   The registration process at Chungnam National University was generally well organized, and the university provided support for exchange students upon arrival. During the first day of the semester, an orientation session was held for international students. Although the event lasted only about one hour, it was very useful and covered important administrative procedures.

During the orientation, students received assistance with opening a Korean bank account, applying for a residence registration card, and completing course registration. This support helped simplify several tasks that international students must complete shortly after arriving in South Korea.

Student identification was provided digitally through the university's website and mobile application rather than as a physical card. This system was convenient and allowed students to access university services easily.

The most challenging aspect of the registration process was course enrollment. The first registration period took place at the beginning of August, before my arrival in Korea. I found this process difficult because I was unfamiliar with the registration system. In addition, many courses filled up within seconds, making enrollment highly competitive. As a result, I was unable to secure any courses during the first registration period.

A second registration period was held during the first week of September. By that time, I was already on campus and could ask university staff and fellow students for assistance. Thanks to this support, I was able to register successfully for my courses.

My recommendation for future exchange students is to familiarize themselves with the course registration system in advance and seek assistance if necessary. Since popular courses can fill up very quickly, it is important to be well prepared before the registration period begins.

7. Fachliche und administrative Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office, Fachstudienberater, Buddy-Programme, studentische Initiativen, etc.)
   The International Office at Chungnam National University was responsible for supporting exchange students throughout their stay. While the staff were generally helpful, communication could sometimes be slow. From my experience, there was only one staff member responsible for a large number of international students, which likely contributed to longer response times for emails and inquiries.

   The university also offered a buddy program in which each exchange student was assigned a Korean student who could provide support and assistance during the semester. In principle, this is an excellent initiative that can help international students adapt more easily to life in Korea. However, my personal experience with the buddy program was not particularly positive. Although I was assigned a buddy, we only met once during the initial welcome event. Afterwards, communication was limited, and it was often difficult to reach her because she was busy with her own academic commitments.

   As a result, I frequently relied on other exchange students and their buddies whenever I needed help. I found the international student community to be very supportive, and in many cases, it was the fastest way to find answers to practical questions and solve everyday problems.

In addition, I participated in AFKN (Association of Foreigners and Koreans Network), a student organization that brings together Korean and international students. Through this club, I had many opportunities to meet local students, make international friends, and participate in social activities. In my opinion, organizations such as AFKN are a valuable part of the exchange experience and can help students build connections beyond the classroom.

Overall, while the official support structures were useful, I found that the international student community and student organizations played an especially important role in helping me adapt to life at Chungnam National University.

8. Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan an der Gastuniversität
During my semester at Chungnam National University, I took the following courses: Financial Management, Global Business Management, Business Ethics, Logistics, and East Asian Political Economy. All courses were taught in English.

I completed five courses, each worth three Korean credits, which corresponded to approximately five ECTS credits per course. In total, this resulted in a workload comparable to a full semester at FAU.

In my opinion, the academic workload was more demanding than at FAU because the grading system was structured differently. Assessment was usually based on several components rather than a single final examination. Most courses included midterm and final exams, group projects, presentations, class participation, and attendance requirements.

Attendance played a particularly important role. Students who missed more than four classes automatically failed the course, regardless of their performance in other assessments. This requirement encouraged regular participation throughout the semester and differed significantly from my experience at FAU.

One aspect that surprised me was that the English proficiency of some professors varied considerably. Although all courses were officially taught in English, some lecturers had strong accents or limited English fluency, which occasionally made lectures difficult to follow. Future students should be aware that studying in English does not necessarily mean that communication will always be easy.

Despite these challenges, I found the courses interesting and gained valuable insights into international business, finance, and East Asian economic issues. Studying alongside Korean and international students also allowed me to experience different perspectives and approaches to learning.

9. Sprachkurse an der Gastuniversität (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig)\
I did not participate in a Korean language course at Chungnam National University. Therefore, I cannot provide a detailed assessment of the program based on personal experience.

From the information available to exchange students, the Korean language courses were offered separately and required an additional fee. The classes were held regularly during weekdays, which made it difficult to combine them with my existing course schedule. For this reason, I decided not to enroll.

10. Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)

Chungnam National University offers a wide range of facilities for students. The university library was large, modern, and comfortable, providing a good environment for studying and academic work. There were many study areas available throughout the semester. However, during examination periods, it could be difficult to find a free seat because the library became very crowded.

The campus also provided reliable Wi-Fi access. Internet connectivity was available not only in academic buildings but also in the dormitories, which was very convenient for studying and everyday communication.

Although the university offered various study spaces, I often preferred studying in cafés with friends. Coffee shop culture is very popular in South Korea, and there are numerous cafés around the campus and throughout the city. Many of these cafés are specifically designed to accommodate students and provide a comfortable atmosphere for studying. As a result, cafés became one of my favorite places to work on assignments and prepare for exams.

11. Freizeitangebote

One of my favorite aspects of the exchange semester was the opportunity to travel and explore different parts of South Korea. In my free time, I often visited other cities and experienced different regions of the country. South Korea has a well-developed transportation system, making it easy to travel between cities and discover new places during weekends and holidays.

Student life at Chungnam National University also offered a variety of social activities. AFKN (Association of Foreigners and Koreans Network) regularly organized events for international and Korean students. These activities provided excellent opportunities to meet new people and experience Korean culture. One memorable event organized by AFKN was a trip to an amusement park, which allowed students to socialize outside the university environment.

Another highlight of the semester was the annual Chungnam National University festival. The festival took place over three days during the fall semester, shortly after the midterm examination period. During this time, the campus became very lively, with various performances, activities, and events for students. The festival was a great opportunity to experience university culture in South Korea and enjoy the atmosphere together with local and international students.

12. Stadt (Sehenswürdigkeiten, Feste, Museen, etc.)

Daejeon is a calm and relatively quiet city compared to Seoul. It is less crowded and offers a more relaxed lifestyle. I found the cost of living to be affordable, especially compared to larger cities.

The city itself does not have many major tourist attractions, but its location is very convenient. Seoul can be reached in about one hour by train, making it easy to visit the capital for shopping, sightseeing, or nightlife.

I would recommend Daejeon to students who prefer a quieter environment and do not want to live in a large metropolitan area. However, students looking for a more vibrant city life may find Daejeon somewhat less exciting.

13. Alltag (Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobben)

Daily life in South Korea was generally convenient. With the support of the university, opening a bank account was straightforward and did not cause any difficulties. I mainly used my Korean bank card for payments, as card payments are accepted almost everywhere and are often more convenient than carrying cash.

For mobile services, I used KT. My monthly plan cost approximately 36,000 KRW and included unlimited mobile data, internet access, and phone calls. This was sufficient for all my daily needs.i re

14. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien)

My semester abroad was mostly self-funded. I received a one-time travel scholarship from FAU, which helped cover part of the travel expenses, but all other costs were financed personally.

On average, I spent around 1,000,000 KRW per month, excluding larger travel expenses. This amount covered accommodation, food, transportation, and other daily costs.

In my experience, living in Daejeon was relatively affordable compared to larger cities such as Seoul. Students can save money by using the university cafeteria, taking advantage of student discounts, and living in the university dormitory.

15. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links

The most helpful source of support during my semester abroad was the community of other exchange students. Since many students faced similar challenges, it was often easy to find answers and practical solutions by asking fellow exchange students.

In many situations, other students were able to provide assistance more quickly than the International Office, simply because they had already experienced the same issues and knew how to solve them. Therefore, I would strongly recommend joining exchange student group chats and building connections with other international students as early as possible.

While the International Office remained an important contact point for official matters, the exchange student community was often the fastest and most effective source of information for everyday questions.

16. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

Overall, my semester abroad at Chungnam National University was a valuable and memorable experience. The best part of the exchange was meeting people from different countries, making new friends, and experiencing a different academic environment. Studying in South Korea allowed me to gain new perspectives and develop both academically and personally.

The most challenging aspect of the semester was the administrative process before departure, particularly obtaining the visa and dealing with communication delays during the application process. However, these difficulties were temporary and were outweighed by the positive experiences during the semester.

I would recommend Chungnam National University to future FAU students. The university offers a welcoming international environment, affordable living costs, and a good opportunity to experience Korean culture. Daejeon is a safe and comfortable city, and its proximity to Seoul makes it easy to explore other parts of the country. Students who are open to new experiences and cultural exchange will benefit greatly from studying at CNU.