



South Korea, Seoul

Konkuk University Exchange Semester Survey

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- My exchange Winter semester took place in Konkuk University in Seoul. I arrived August 19, since dorm check in was August 21. Also, last week of August we had an international students meeting with Konkuk University coordinator and professors. Classes started September 2, but first week covered Introduction only.
- There was a variety English courses available, most of professors previously studied in the States so their English level was sufficient. The only issue Konkuk University had with organization. Since to register for the courses students had to compete to get place. Many exchange students I met did not get enough courses related their degree and had to take any courses available just to access credit points needed. Some courses mention in a list of Courses taught in English were in Korean or Chinese. And some students found out about it only after registration period was over and could not attend lectures, so professors gave them materials and tests in English but no classes. Classes I particularly enjoyed were Mathematics for Economics and Understanding Visual Media.
- The application process was easy. Both Trier and Konkuk coordinators were always in touch and easy to access. I had 100% support and did not worry about anything. The preparation every exchange student should perform, is to seriously check how the courses registration works to get the place for the courses needed.
- I stayed in the Konkuk dormitory. I would not recommend any student to stay there because rooms were very old and dirty. All conditioners were dusty, the plumbing was dusty. Previous tenants left lots of trash behind wardrobe and bed and no one cleaned it. Windows were almost grey from the dust layer on it. It was not comfortable to study or sleep there. There is no kitchen available in the entire dorm, only two or so cafeterias. I have not been there so cannot leave a review about it.

The dormitory administration office was available every working day and some convenience stores around open 24/7. The price was high comparing to the market one for that type of room. It would be better to find a place on Airbnb or Facebook groups.

- There was no tuition fee. Dormitory costed around 1400 euros for 4 months. National Health Insurance was around 60 euros a month. Food and Restaurants around 250-350 euros a month.
- Konkuk University has an amazing campus with gym, tennis and football fields, lake, festival zone available. Libraries are open 24/7 since Koreans are studying very hard and sometimes even sleep there. Some food or coffee places available.
- The main advantage is to explore a totally new culture and see the great city, to have an opportunity to live there. Students from all over the world were meeting each other and sharing the cultural experience. South Korea is a very safe country, so I never felt unsafe no matter what time it is.

Recommendations

- Do not stay in a dorm. Konkuk dorm administration was saying it an accident we got rooms in a such a horrible condition but the condition there does not happen after one semester tenants living there.
- Do not stay too far away from the University. The public transportation is convenient, but Seoul is huge and considering courses registration situation, you might not be able to predict your schedule.
- Register for courses before the deadline since if you did not get any courses you need, no one can help you. There is no way to fix it, and it is all your responsibility.