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Experience Report – Study Abroad at Konkuk University (Seoul, South Korea)

1. Which foreign university was attended (when, where, study program)

During the **Fall semester 2025**, I studied at **Konkuk University** in **Seoul, South Korea**, as an exchange student from **Hochschule Trier – Business School**. Konkuk University is a private university located in eastern Seoul and is widely recognized for its strong academic reputation in business administration, economics, and international studies.

I was enrolled in the **College of Business Administration** as an exchange student and took **English-taught business and economics courses**. The semester structure, teaching methods, and assessment system differed significantly from those in Germany, offering a valuable academic contrast and international perspective.

2. Which courses were chosen, and which lectures are recommended

During the semester, I completed the following English-taught courses (24 ECTS in total):

- **Current World Economic Issues (E)** – 6 credits
This course focused on current global economic challenges such as geopolitical risks, inflation, international trade disruptions, and economic policy responses. Lectures were discussion-based and required regular engagement with current economic developments.
- **Financial Management (E)** – 6 credits
The course covered capital budgeting, financial decision-making, cost of capital, and corporate valuation fundamentals. It was well structured and highly relevant for students interested in corporate finance and investment analysis.
- **Technical Analysis of the Financial Markets (E)** – 6 credits
The lecture introduced technical indicators, chart patterns, trend analysis, and market behavior. The course was practical and application-oriented, making it particularly interesting for finance-focused students. This was my favourite one, highly recommended! Professor is amazing!
- **Theory and Practice of Digital Trade (E)** – 6 credits
This course examined digital trade, e-commerce regulation, platform economies, and global digital business models, with a strong focus on Asian and international markets.

Overall, the academic level was high, and continuous assessment played an important role. I would especially recommend **Financial Management**, **Technical Analysis of the Financial Markets**, and **Current World Economic Issues** to students studying business, economics, or finance.

3. What preparations were necessary and how the application was made

The application process was coordinated through the **International Business Office (Business Faculty) of Hochschule Trier**. After nomination, Konkuk University provided detailed guidelines regarding enrollment, course selection, visa requirements, and accommodation.

Key preparation steps included:

- 1) Nomination by Hochschule Trier and application via Konkuk University's exchange system
- 2) Course pre-registration and Learning Agreement preparation
- 3) Application for a **D-2 student visa**
- 4) Dormitory application through the university system

Overall, the preparation phase required careful planning and timely submission of documents, but the process was well organized and supported by both universities.

4. What the accommodation was like and how the search took place

I lived in the **on-campus dormitory** provided by Konkuk University. The dormitory application was handled directly through the university and places were allocated via an internal application process.

The dormitory offered furnished rooms with basic amenities, good security, and shared facilities. Living on campus was very convenient, as lecture halls, libraries, cafeterias, and sports facilities were all within walking distance. In addition, the dormitory environment encouraged interaction with international and Korean students.

Compared to off-campus housing in Seoul, the dormitory was relatively affordable and eliminated the need to search for accommodation in a highly competitive housing market.

5. Approximate costs of the study abroad program

There were **no tuition fees** due to the exchange agreement between Hochschule Trier and Konkuk University. However, living costs in Seoul are relatively high.

Approximate monthly expenses were:

- 1) Dormitory accommodation: 400–600 EUR
- 2) Food: 300–400 EUR
- 3) Public transport: 40–60 EUR

4)Leisure and travel: 150–300 EUR

Overall, students should budget carefully, as Seoul is more expensive than most German student cities.

6. Everyday study life and leisure activities

Academic life at Konkuk University was characterized by **continuous assessment**, including midterm exams, final exams, group projects, presentations, and mandatory attendance. Compared to Germany, the workload was more evenly distributed throughout the semester.

In terms of leisure, Seoul offers a wide range of opportunities, including cultural events, museums, cafés, nightlife, fitness facilities, and travel destinations within South Korea. The campus itself is lively and well equipped, with modern libraries, cafeterias, and recreational areas.

7. Advantages and positive aspects of studying abroad

The main advantages of studying at Konkuk University included:

- Exposure to a different academic and cultural environment
- Improvement of English and intercultural communication skills
- Experience of living in a global metropolitan city
- Networking with international and Korean students

The semester significantly broadened my academic perspective and personal development.

8. Negative experiences

Some challenges during the semester included:

- High cost of living in Seoul
- Language barriers outside the university environment
- Intensive workload due to continuous assessment

Despite these challenges, they contributed to increased adaptability and personal growth.

9. Recommendations for future students

I would strongly recommend Konkuk University to students who are open-minded, adaptable, and interested in Asian business and culture. Future students should:

- Start preparations early
- Plan finances carefully
- Actively participate in courses and group work
- Apply for dormitory accommodation in time

10. Contact information

If required, I am happy to answer further questions regarding my experience:

E-mail: safbafin11@gmail.com

Consent to Publication

I agree that this experience report may be shared with other students of Hochschule Trier for informational purposes.