



הפקולטה לניהול
אוניברסיטת תל-אביב



Tel Aviv University
School of Management

In the fall semester of 2015 I had the chance to study at Yonsei university in South Korea as part of the student exchange. A very interesting, fascinating and recommended experience. Seoul is a huge metropolis with 12 million residents and a non-stop city. Here is a brief summary of my experience:

Visa

The student visa to Korea is absolutely free. It is better to check that the visa you get is for multiple entries as it usually is, it will be easier to travel to other countries with this kind of visa. I was told by the Korean embassy in Hertzelia to come there only three weeks before my trip and I picked up my passport after a week. They ask for picture, application form and Yonsei university documents that are sent to Tel-aviv university.

For further information you can visit Korean embassy [website](#).

Accommodation

Dorms- I was living at SK global house dorms on campus. The best dorms at the university and they are allocated only for exchange students. There are two kind of rooms- double room that cost around 375\$ for month and single rooms that cost around 560\$. The rooms are quiet small but have shower and bathroom in the room. To get the single room you must apply as soon as the online registration starts.

The other dorms offered called International house and located next to SK global house. They are cheaper but there are only double rooms and the shower is located outside the room on every floor.

Off-campus- The university is located near central and relatively expensive area called Sinchon. The price for a room in an apartment with roommates is around 450\$-500\$. The problem is that most of the real estate brokers do not speak English and not so willing to help. Another option is Goshewons- small rooms for rent that are relatively cheap but usually don't look very welcoming and comfortable.

Immigration

The Korean authorities require from people that stay more than 90 days to have an ARC (Alien Registration Card). It can take all day unless if you go there in the early morning or around 5 pm before they close (as I remember at 6 pm).

For further information regarding the ARC check out this [link](#).

Living and Transportation

Yonsei university is located near one of the central and busiest areas in Seoul called Sinchon. There are a lot of restaurants, bars, supermarkets, karaoke (everywhere!!-they love it!),

shopping centers and much more.

The currency is the Korean WON 1\$≈1200Won so you can eat Korean food for around 5000 won or enjoy Korean barbecue for 10000 won (less than 9\$). It is cheaper to eat outside than cook, for example fruits and vegetables are very expensive.

Public transportation is very efficient and comfortable. Mostly I used the subway, Sinchon station is located 15-20 walking from the university and cost around 1\$ one way. To use the public transportation you have to buy T-money card which is sold at every station and it is valid for all kinds of transportation, even taxis. The main disadvantage of the subway is that it doesn't work between 12 am to 5 am. Of course you can take the taxi, the price is reasonable especially if you share the fare but **don't** take the black ones they are much more expensive. Moreover, note that if you want to rent a car for a trip or any other reason you have to have an international license from Israel.

University

There are about 1000 exchange students each semester so you get to meet people from all over the world. There are around 10 MBA exchange students and the courses I took were with GMBA students (Students from all over the world that are doing the entire MBA at the university). Usually the exchange students join the GMBA events and of course there are university events so you won't be bored there and you can meet there a lot of interesting people as I did.

On campus there is a student union building where bank, three cafeterias, barber, travel agency, post office and convenience store can be found. There I opened my bank account free of charge. The cafeterias are cheap and have pretty good food, from Korean to western cuisine.

As far as the academic level, I took only elective courses and 3 of 4 were good (Leadership, Global strategy and Entrepreneurship in action) and one was no very fruitful and boring (Technology marketing). The business faculty is considered as one of the best in Korea and most professors studied and taught in the US.

Traveling

The best part of course!! Except Seoul there are a lot to see in Korea. The second largest city in Korea is Busan and it is located by the sea in the south east area very close to Japan. It is a very nice place to see (especially at night). Nice view points, one of the largest fish markets in the world, the largest department store in the world and more. Three days there would be great. Another place is Jeju Island that is located in the south west of Korea. It is considered as Korean Hawaii and it is relatively warm. The highest mountain in Korea is located there and it is great experience climbing it (4 hours, 10 km). There are more places to visit like the waterfall that falls to the sea and sunrise peak to watch a beautiful sunrise. About 4-5 days is enough to explore the island.

Another must do is temple stay where you stay and live in a Buddhist temple for 24 hours and experience their way of life. The temples that have those programs are all over Korea and you will get email from the university informing about special discount for students. Other countries to visit around are China, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan, I even heard about Israelis that went to North Korea through China with an organized trip that cost around 1000 euros. Other great places to visit are Singapore, Thailand and Philippines but they are further

away and you may consider visiting them after you finish the exchange. Japan is a must see and plane tickets there are cheap (around 100\$).

Pictures



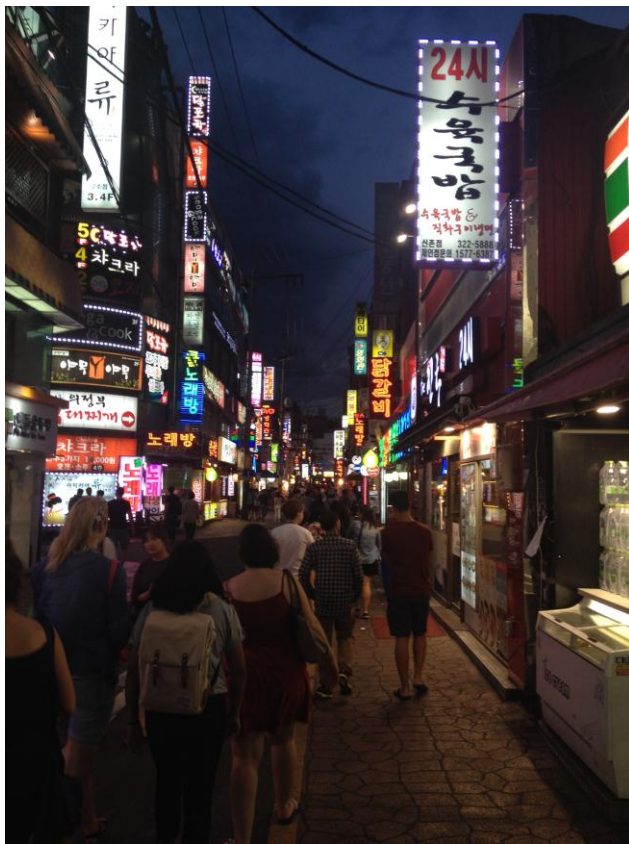
Temple stay



Sinchon area



Hallasan mountain, Jeju Island



Sinchon area

If you have any questions or need any further information feel free to contact me
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