



# RETOUR D'EXPÉRIENCE

## Seoul, Corée du sud



UNIVERSITÉ DE  
MONTPELLIER

**MONTELLIER**  
**MANAGEMENT**



I loved my experience abroad. It was a great way to discover a different culture, especially in South Korea where daily life is quite different. Also, it gives you the possibility to meet many students coming from various countries and with very diverse backgrounds.

If I could go back in time, I would go back to this exact same university (Chung-Ang) as it did its best to include exchange students. They provide various English courses and they plan a lot of events like the cultural exchange program where you can meet and learn. My tip would be to take Korean classes, which I unfortunately didn't do, to learn even more about the local culture.



# Practical informations



A student visa (D-2) is needed. You can find the list of all the necessary documents online. Some of them have to be filled, some are from you, and some of them have to be provided by the university. My tip would be to submit your application for the visa right after you received the documents from the university as it might take quite some time and Chung-Ang University sends them quite late. The documents have to be sent by post.



I took my flight tickets the moment I was sure of when I would receive my visa. I wanted to arrive in South Korea 4 to 5 days before the first day of class (also to be on time to move in the university's dormitory) to lower my stress of being in a totally different country. As I stayed only for one semester, I took my round-trip plane ticket. It was Air china company from Barcelona airport to Incheon airport.

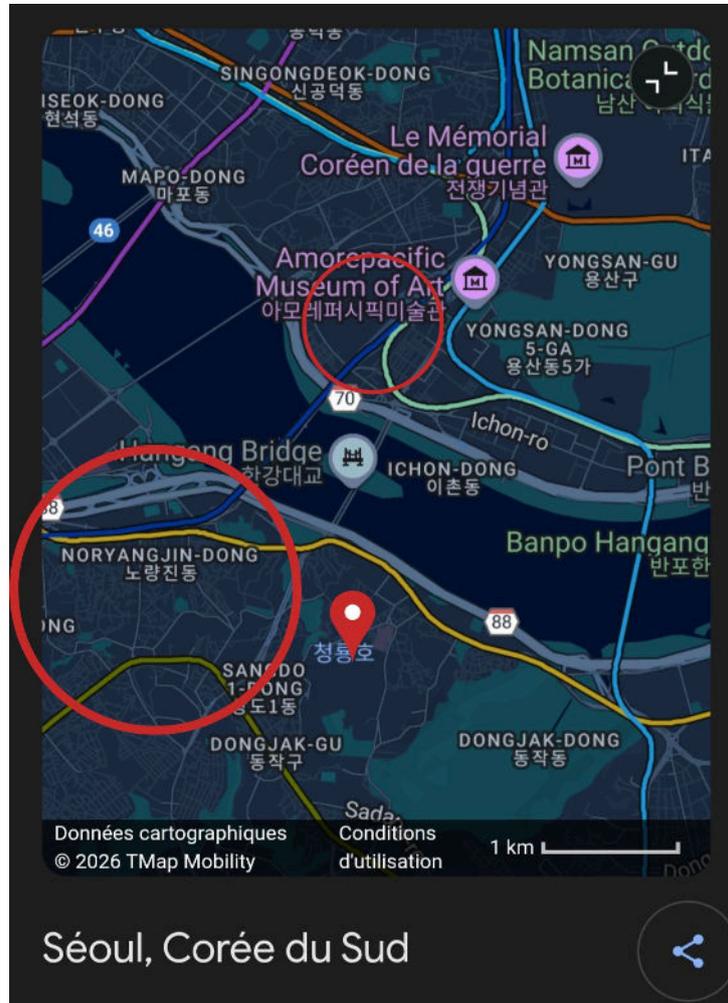
To me it is important to take big luggages and make sure they're not already full on the way in. What you might forget to bring are your bed sheets (especially if you're in the dormitory), shower towels (they mostly sell very small ones in Seoul), and suitable clothing for more extreme temperatures in comparison to France. No electrical outlet adapters are needed.



Most exchange students I've talked to had an online bank that could be used internationally like Revolut. It makes every transaction easier (no need to change your money to Korean won) but a physical card is necessary. It is possible to open a Korean bank there but some of the banks require you to stay longer than just a semester. Also I recommend very much to bring cash already converted in Korean won. The cash is used on a daily basis.



I recommend living right next to the university around Heukseok-dong or in the neighborhood right next to it, Noryangjin-dong. It can be a little far from the biggest neighbourhoods so I also recommend a place near Seoul station (the subway station). It is very well connected to pretty much everywhere but you'll take around 30 minutes to go to the university.



Most exchange students get a room in the dormitory. You have to register online. The university sends an email and explains how to do it. I find it important to mention that to enter your room in the dormitory, you have to do a tuberculosis examination which is around 10€.

Other options are guesthouses with communal rooms like the kitchen and that are foreigner friendly. You can also get a goshiwon (very small studio) but it might be more expensive and harder to find.



For the dormitory I paid around **1300€** for four months.

# Courses selection

The inscription at the university is totally online and has to be done before going to Korea. Once you arrive, you just have to get your student card at the orientation event from your buddy. Other than that, you'll have to register to the Alien Registration Card to stay legally in the country but you can do it through the university.

I just want to warn you about a mistake I made: the year you choose (1st, 2nd, 3rd,...) is a level measure and is not the same as your year in France. For example, I was in 3rd year in France but I'd never had financial classes so I should have chosen 1st year for this class.

For accounting, I started the previous year so I should have chosen 2nd year for this class.

**Financial Accounting:** online class (videos to watch before the deadline), very nice and easy to understand, I recommend

**Corporate Finance:** a major, I chose the wrong level so it was too hard for me, I recommend

**Mathematics for Economists:** not adapted for my studies, necessary to use complementary books to understand, I don't recommend

**Marketing: interactive,** a lot of group work and oral presentations, very international based, I recommend **Financial Management:** content similar to corporate finance, only theoretical, I don't recommend.

# Notes

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All my classes lasted for 1h15 but they can last for 3 hours. They don't require a lot of homework but you still have to study after each class. One issue that you may face: some professors speak in Korean even though it's an English class. During the first month, you can freely change your classes with an easy online process.

Regarding the exams, you have graded homework from time to time. For the exams, there're the midterm exams in the middle of the semester and the final exams at the end of the semester. They both last for around a week. The grades are on a 100 but on the transcript of records the grades are A,B,C and F.

# South Korea

## TO DO LIST

- Get a Korean phone number (with Chingu Mobile for example)
- Take Korean classes to learn even more about the local culture
- Go to any food market in Seoul (like the Tongin market) for cheap and good food
- Visit Jeju-Island and Busan and try to plan travels in Asia (China, Japan, etc)
- Dowload useful apps (Naver map, Kakao talk, Kakao taxi, etc)

