



RETOUR D'EXPÉRIENCE

Seoul, Corée du sud



UNIVERSITÉ DE
MONTPELLIER

MONTEPELLIER
MANAGEMENT



My experience abroad was great, I would recommend to anyone to go to Kookmin University if they ever had the chance. It's a perfect time to practice and speak English while discovering a new culture. It's also a way to become independent by facing a new country.



Practical informations



You need a visa, D-2-6 student visa. You need to gather all the paper required to apply for it, but it can be very long as you need from your host University a Certificate of Acceptance which is send early July. Therefore, I recommend using a third-party agency to obtain your visa quickly and to ensure that you'll receive it in time.



I booked my flight tickets from Asiana Airlines, not even 2 months before. I made sure to have my visa in time before buying the tickets. I flew from Paris Charles de Gaule to Seoul Incheon airport.

If you go during the first semester, it would be smart to take clothes for all seasons as in September the weather is very hot and humid whereas in December it's freezing cold and sometimes it can reach -15 degrees Celsius.



Concerning the insurance, Kookmin University asks for your insurance to check if it fits South Korea's requirements. For me, I subscribe to my parent's insurance which covers medical expenses abroad. They will also send you a mail for you to pay the National Korean Insurance after receiving your Registration Card. However, France and Japan are the only country which are not required to pay. You will need to go to NHIS Seoul Center for Foreign Residents to sign a paper to reject the insurance subscription.

I had to change bank. I opened a Revolut's account to avoid bank charges and to be able to transfer euros to korean won easily. In addition, you can withdraw up to 200



euros per month without additional fees from Revolut.

Seoul is a really vast city so you can easily end up taking more than an hour by bus/subway to go to university. I would advise staying near the University in Gireum area, Sungshin Women's university or Hyeohwa which are all metro stations located on Seoul's line 4 metro (blue line). The former station is more of a residential area while the other two are more student neighborhoods.



I was staying at the school's campus. They have multiple dorms building that you can apply to, most of them on campus but other near the university too.

Seoul is very pricy. To rent a flat you have to pay a deposit that can be very high and the cost for a flat/room can be easily up to 900 euros per month. If you're on a budget and you are accepted to stay in the dorms, the rent is around 500 euros for the entire duration of stay. However, they are some inconvenient such as not having a kitchen, sharing a tiny space with a lot of people, curfew...



Courses selection

- **Management Science:** kind of hard if you're not comfortable with Excel. However, the professor is very nice, very attentive and do a lot of study case in class. The midterm was made very easily for us to not give up for the rest of the class. So, I think I would recommend it for the next student.
- **Strategic Management:** the class is interesting, but it's solely based on participation. Overall, it was kind of difficult to catch what the teacher wanted for the final project; however, he let us a lot of time to work on it (multiple classes). If you are comfortable speaking and have the basics of management, I recommend this course.
- **People Analytics:** I think this class was very interesting, it was divided in two parts: before the midterm we worked solely on SPSS and then we moved on into more theory. There were a lot of in-class exercises, but it was only graded as participation points. In my opinion, it's the same level as MOMA's course so it won't be too hard to follow.
- **Marketing Seminar:** This class is similar to general Marketing classes; it is very complete you will learn about the entire marketing research process. As a part of your final project, you'll have to conduct your own marketing research. The professor is nice, took our concerns into consideration and sometimes pushed the deadlines for us to have more time. He also takes time to explain materials in detail. However, both midterm and final exam were difficult. Overall, I would still recommend this course.

Notes

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Each class last between 1 h 30 and 3h, so you either have two classes per week or one class of 3 hours once a week. I think the workload is acceptable because, in my case, it was material and concepts that I had already learned. Teachers are also very nice because they're often former Erasmus students or they've worked abroad before. Therefore, they are very attentive even though some of them can be strict.

For each class, there are two exams: one midterm just after Chuseok (beginning of October) and a final exam at the beginning/mid-December. It can be a project with a presentation or just a written report that you must submit. Concerning midterms, it's usually a multiple-choice question which last about one hour. Grades depend on professors but usually the final exam accounts for 50% of the final grade and the midterm for 30%.

South Korea

TO DO LIST

- Get a Korean phone number (at Seoul airport for example)
- Join the Global Peers Program from Kookmin University to join social events
- 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)

