

Yonsei University

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Exchange start semester | Autumn semester 2023 |
| Study level | Graduate (Master) |
| Home faculty at GU | IT-Faculty |
| Studies at GU | Master's in communication |

Courses during exchange

- Intensive Korean Language course
- Media communication in Korea
- English language and communication

Main difference compared to studying at GU

At GU you will have 4 different modules between September and December, however, in Korea, you have the opportunity to select the courses you want to do in September and are stuck with these courses for the duration of your exchange studies. I could choose significantly more courses than I had in Sweden during the same time period, but the pace of study was also a little more intense (I had to go to university 5 days a week even though I had 12 credits).

Arrival, orientation and housing

I arrived in Korea a few weeks before my studies started as I wanted to get used to the time difference and explore the city before the beginning of the semester. I lived in off-campus accommodation and settled in pretty easily. Everything else is quite convenient and Seoul is easy to navigate. Of course, if you can't read Hangul you'll struggle a little, there is a language barrier, but from personal experience people are usually friendly and willing to help you out.

Finances

The living cost in Korea is significantly more affordable than in Sweden. University lunches are incredibly cheap (around 3 euros per portion) and the portions are huge and the food is "home cooked". So no fast food at the cafeteria. Also, my friends and I would usually eat out as eating in restaurants here is also quite cheap, and much cheaper than buying groceries. The only thing is that fruits and vegetables can be more expensive here. My accommodation was around 500 euros a month, located in Hongdae, 20 minutes away from Yonsei University.

Life in a new country/culture

It was a great experience. Yonsei University is very picturesque and it's quite easy to make friends. Bonding with Koreans is a little harder, but all you need is a little bit of patience. I also got to travel across Korea, went to Jeju Island and Busan. A lot of my friends had also visited neighbouring Asian countries like China and Japan.

Overall exchange experience

10/10 would recommend. I've never lived in Asia before and this felt like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I would honestly consider moving here once I finish my studies at GU.