

GUIDE

# YOUR DESTINATION

Everything you need to know about your destination



**YOUR WAY ABROAD**

## STUDY DESTINATION

# SOUTH KOREA

### 1. ARRIVAL IN SOUTH KOREA

We recommend traveling to South Korea at least a few days before the start of the study program, if possible. This will give you a chance to get to know the surroundings and recover from possible jetlag before the beginning of your semester. However, we don't recommend arriving in South Korea too early, especially with a tourist visa. Please let us know if you for some reason are unable to arrive in South Korea in time.

Once you arrive at Incheon International Airport, go through the Immigration and Customs control. Present your passport and other documents when asked to the immigration officers. Please be polite to all the officials at the airport. After the inspection, go to the luggage pick-up area to collect your luggage. There is also a possibility to purchase a local SIM card from the airport, but you can also do it later after being settled to your destination.

If you are staying somewhere else than on-campus dormitories, or arrive before the dorms open, you are responsible for the arrival arrangements. If you'd like to or need to find your way from the airport to the campus, we recommend you use a taxi since navigating the Seoul public transportation system with a lot of luggage can be straining.



## 1.1. Documents you need when arriving

Please have the following document at hand when arriving in South Korea:

- A valid passport and D-2-8 student visa.
- Filled out Health Declaration Form and Arrival Card
- Things to have by the airport such as T-money card, sim card, download Naver Map or Kakao Map.

## 1.2. Registering with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

We recommend that all students register their trip at their home country's embassy or Ministry for Foreign Affairs before the start of the study abroad program. Once you have a local cell phone subscription, you can give the number to your local embassy. Most countries offer citizens the possibility of registering online.

Registration includes giving out your personal data, contact information for the duration of your trip and information about your stay abroad to the ministry in case of emergencies or crises.

All independent travelers are advised to register their trips.

## 2. HOST UNIVERSITY – KONKUK UNIVERSITY (KU)

Konkuk University (KU) is known for its high-quality education and research in engineering, business, life sciences, veterinary medicine, and other fields at both the Undergraduate and Graduate levels. Konkuk University is recognized as one of South Korea's leading private universities, located in the heart of Seoul with a strong global reputation for academic excellence and innovation.

The university was founded in 1931 by Dr. Suk-Chang Yoo as People's Hospital and was renamed Konkuk University in 1959. KU's Seoul Campus serves as its main hub, while the Chungju Campus, established in 1980, supports regional education and research. With its motto of fostering practical knowledge and creative global leaders, Konkuk continues to expand its influence both nationally and internationally.

Konkuk University offers 56 undergraduate, 87 master's, and 82 doctoral programs across 13 colleges and 13 specialized graduate schools. The university hosts over 15,000 undergraduate students, 4,000 postgraduate students, and more than 600 full-time professors.

Over 1,200 researchers are engaged in various projects within 86 on-campus research institutes, with total research funding exceeding USD 100 million as of 2023.

KU is globally connected through 656 partner universities and institutions in 73 countries. More than 200 English-taught courses are offered each semester, supported by 70 international faculty members. The university sends over 300 students abroad annually and welcomes more than 500 exchange students from partner institutions each year.

Konkuk University's facilities include the modern KU:L House dormitory, the Konkuk University Hospital, and the Star City Complex, which features a department store, shopping mall, and theater. The Seoul Campus is directly connected to two subway lines, offering easy access throughout the city and a safe, convenient environment for all students.

Konkuk University has established international recognition for its programs and maintains global partnerships with leading institutions such as SUNY Stony Brook, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Nanjing University. These collaborations support dual degree and international internship opportunities, enhancing KU's role as a global academic hub.

KU has been accredited and recognized for its excellence in several disciplines, with strong research and academic programs in:

- Engineering
- Business Administration
- Veterinary Medicine
- Life Sciences
- Art & Design



## 3. WORKING IN SOUTH KOREA

**Not allowed while studying in Konkuk University.**

## 4. CONTACTS

The international office at HYU provides support for exchange students for academic issues, assistance and information. It is responsible for the documents required for scholarships, the issuing of certificates, the organization of Korean language courses and accommodation.

Mr Seokje HYUN / 현석제

**Coordinator**

International Programs Team, Office of International Affairs, Konkuk University  
#104, Law School Building, 120 Neungdong-ro, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul, 05029, South Korea

Tel: +82-2-2049-6201 / Fax: +82-2-2049-6226 / E-mail: [seokjehyun@konkuk.ac.kr](mailto:seokjehyun@konkuk.ac.kr)

## 5. MONEY

As a guideline, you will need between KRW 10,000,000 and KRW 12,000,000 per year (12 months) to pay for accommodation, food, transport, books, clothing, health services, entertainment, etc. but this can vary according to individual circumstances. A room in a shared house/accommodation, not including food, can cost between KRW 350,000 and KRW 450,000 per month.

### 5.1. Cash withdrawing money, and credit cards

Paying by credit card is usually only possible in bigger shops and department stores, so you should always have cash in hand as well. There is a bank that operates foreign exchanges on-campus, but you should also exchange some money at home before leaving for Korea to be able to cover the first expenses.

## 5.2. Bargaining

Although bargaining in Korea is not as prevalent as it used to be and perhaps less common nowadays than in South-East Asia, for example, the habit is not completely gone. Bargaining might not be effective when the price is already low (e.g. 10,000 KRW for a t-shirt), but it's worth going for a lower price when purchasing multiple items or something more expensive. Don't take bargaining too seriously. You will get the best price with a sense of humor and a few words of Korean, as well as by knowing the prices (for example, in thousands: 1000 – 100,000). We recommend you start communicating in Korean as soon as possible. Already a few words show respect towards the locals and their culture. People will give you better service and lower prices for sure. Bargaining can be a pleasant experience for you and also for the seller.

## 5. PHONE CALL AND CELL PHONE SUBSCRIPTION

If you want to use a cell phone in Korea, you should plan on spending at least KRW 50,000 for that.

### KakaoTalk

KakaoTalk is a useful messaging app for your phone in Korea. Approximately 93% of Koreans use it and instead of asking for your phone number, most of your new Korean friends will ask for your Kakaotalk Id. You can use it to send messages, make group chats, and have video calls.

### Internet

If you already own a laptop, you will probably find it convenient to bring it, but if not, you can use one of the computer labs on campus. There are many available on campus and of course, they are free, and all are equipped with high-speed broadband service. As an exchange student, you will get a KU ID card which will give you access to all the computer facilities on campus.

### Emergency Numbers

Fire, Emergency and Ambulance Tel: 119

Police Tel: 112

Medical Emergency (aimed at foreigners in Seoul) Tel: 1339

Tourism and Translation Service Tel: 1330 › Coast Guard Tel: 122

International Emergency Rescue Tel: 02 790 7561

## 5. TRANSPORTATION IN SOUTH KOREA

### Subway, Buses, Train, and Taxis

There's a lot of public transportation to use at South Korea. In subways, there's 23 lines all over Seoul and you must know which line are the destination you are going to. For buses, it consists of four colors (red, green, blue, yellow). Red are longer distance buses and a rare sight within Seoul, yellow buses run through the main areas and popular tourist spots, so there aren't many bus stops, while blue and green can be seen frequently around Seoul. Knowing which route you will take helps in determining which bus number you should ride. For trains, you can either buy your tickets at Seoul Station or pre-book them online using the Korail app. These trains can quickly take you outside of Seoul. Lastly, for public taxi, it is widely available, but it is highly suggested that you download Kakao T. To use Kakao T, you must have a T-money card for payment while some accept cash, it is better to have the card to avoid being cancelled by drivers.

### 7.1. Making your way to the airport

There are few ways to go to Seoul from Incheon International Airport, below are the recommended options you can try to go to Konkuk University:

- **For students staying at Seoul:** Buy your tickets upon arrival and use the airport bus. To check your options, you can visit the following link below:  
[https://airportlimousine.co.kr/en/sub/sub01.php?cat\\_no=4](https://airportlimousine.co.kr/en/sub/sub01.php?cat_no=4)  
<https://klimousine.com/EN/>
- **For students staying at dorms:** You can either buy your tickets at the airport upon arrival and use the airport bus to Seoul and then book a taxi going straight to Konkuk University or you can book and ride a taxi from airport to Konkuk University. It is not recommended to use the subways at Seoul if you have your luggage with you.

# YOUR WAY ABROAD

**The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences  
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.**

*Miaa Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student*

-  [info@asiaexchange.org](mailto:info@asiaexchange.org)
-  [asiaexchange.org](http://asiaexchange.org)
-  [@asiaexchange](https://facebook.com/@asiaexchange)
-  [@asiaexchange](https://instagram.com/@asiaexchange)

