

NKU Academic Exchange in Seoul, South Korea



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Spend a semester or academic year studying at
Hansung University!

A brief introduction...



Office of Education Abroad
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NKU Academic Exchanges

The Office of Education Abroad offers academic exchanges as a study abroad option for independent and mature NKU students interested in a semester or year-long immersion experience in another country. The information in this packet is meant to provide an overview of the experience available through an academic exchange in Seoul, South Korea. However, please keep in mind that this information, especially that regarding visa requirements, is subject to change. It is the responsibility of each NKU student participating in an exchange to take the initiative in the pre-departure process with regards to visa application, application to the exchange university, air travel arrangements, housing arrangements, and pre-approval of courses. Before and after departure for an academic exchange, the Office of Education Abroad will remain a resource and guide for participating exchange students.

South Korea

South Korea is a country swathed in green and the Koreans are a people passionate about nature. Spread over the national parks, peaks and valleys, and hot springs are numerous cultural relics and temples that serve to remind visitors of Korea's long history. Still, the country's dedication to keeping up with contemporary times is evident in cutting-edge technologies and the worldwide success of companies such as Samsung and Hyundai. Korea has four distinct seasons, with a wet, hot, monsoon summer and a very cold winter. Except for some northern parts of South Korea, most of South Korea's winter will be similar to Cincinnati.

Seoul

Seoul, a city of about 10 million, is in the northwest corner of South Korea; its border with North Korea is only about 25 miles from the city center. Seoul is a cosmopolitan metropolis with a large international influence that extends beyond its neighbors Japan and China. It hosted the 1988 Summer Olympics and the 2002 FIFA World Cup. Despite its tall buildings and neon lights, Seoul offers the visitor a wealth of cultural sights. The history of Seoul is still retained in the centuries-old temples, palaces, pagodas and pleasure gardens hidden unsuspectingly among high-rises and 12-lane freeways.

Hansung University

Hansung University, with a student population of over 7,000, is dedicated to expanding though at the same time it remains focused on building a relationship with the local community. The university has come along way since its beginnings in 1945 and now offers courses in many undergraduate and graduate programs. Since 2005, Hansung University's Korean Language Program caters to over 150 international and exchange students. Courses there provide intense training for basic competency in the Korean language and the Korean characters and also center on Korean culture. Therefore, prior knowledge of the Korean language is not required. There are many amenities located on campus, including an affordable student cafeteria, fitness center, medical center, and several convenience stores.

Housing

There are several accommodation options for exchange students and Hansung University is also available to help students find suitable housing. The university maintains a small dormitory complex on campus, which is very affordable (around 100,000 won, or \$100 a month) because several students are usually assigned to one room. The rooms come furnished, though students should plan

to provide their own bedding. This type of accommodation comes with no meal plan though students can purchase hot meals at the student cafeteria. There are also residence buildings around the university that students can rent. Two meals day and laundry services are generally included in the cost of renting a room in a residence building. Though the cost differs according to the area in which the building is located, this option is usually around 400,000 won, or \$400, a month. Students generally have the opportunity to share a room to reduce this cost. Students should also note that in many cases, rooms are unfurnished. A home-stay with a local family is also an option.

Transportation

Seoul is home to a well-developed, inexpensive subway system that is widespread and convenient to use. Since signs are generally in both Korean and English, it easy for foreigners to take advantage of public transportation in Seoul. In addition to the subway system, there are many bus lines that serve the city and taxis are readily available as well. For traveling outside of Seoul, the train network is extensive, clean, and reasonably priced. The high-speed train, KTX , runs the length of the country and reaches speeds of up to 186mph.

Visa and Health Insurance

U.S. citizens who participate in the semester or year-long academic exchange **will** require a visa to be allowed entry into South Korea. Visas can be applied for at a Korean embassy or consulate office in the U.S. To apply for the visa, students must have a passport, a “Standard Admission Statement” from Hansung University, and proof of financially capability for their time abroad. Visas for longer than 90 days typically cost less than \$100, though students should check with their nearest consulate for exact fees and procedures.

A health center is located on campus and offers free medical services to students of Hansung University. The Korean Language Program does not provide a private health insurance service; it is recommended that students apply for national health insurance upon arrival in South Korea. Students who wish to do this must present their certificate of studentship and alien registration card to the national health insurance corporation which is located near the university. The insurance fee is usually 50,000 won (\$50) per month and 3 months of health insurance fee must be paid in advance.

Useful Links

Hansung University: <http://www.hansung.ac.kr/eng/about/president.htm>

CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov>

U.S. Department of State information: <http://travel.state.gov/>

General Living Expenses

Hansung University, South Korea

Semester Estimated Expenses

Please use the following budget only as a general guide for expenses for one semester. Also note that expenses are estimated and subject to fluctuate according to currency rates* and general economic inflation.

Tuition	\$4236	(undergraduate, in-state tuition for 12-16 hours)
Passport	\$135	
Visa	\$100	
Accommodation	\$2,400	(for a room in an off-campus residence hall and 2 meals per day. Prices vary for on-campus dormitories and homestays.)
Round-trip Airfare	\$2,000	
Food	\$500	
Local transportation	\$200	
Health insurance	\$350	
Personal spending	<u>\$2,000</u>	(shopping, entertainment, travel, etc)
Total	\$11,249	

*July 2014 exchange rate: 1 U.S. dollar = 1015 South Korean won