

NKU Academic Exchange in Seoul, South Korea



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Spend a semester or academic year studying at
Sookmyung Women's 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 those 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 over 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 sites. 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.

Sookmyung Women's University

Sookmyung Women's University, with a student population of over 15,000, was established in 1906 as the first private women's university. However, despite its status as a women's university, admission for exchange students is granted to both men and women for their International Summer School and full semester programs. Sookmyung welcomes nearly 300 international students and 100 faculty from around the world, offering undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as nearly 150 courses in English, across the curriculum. Students can choose from a wide variety of courses including Korean language, International Studies, Korean Studies, Business and Economics, etc. Therefore, prior knowledge of the Korean language is not required. There are many amenities located on campus, including affordable student cafeterias, a medical center, several convenience stores, the English Lounge an English only speaking facility, and campus museums highlighting Korean culture and history.

Housing

There are several accommodation options for exchange students at Sookmyung Women's University. The university maintains dormitory complexes on campus, which are very affordable (between 170,000 and 510,000 won, or \$170 and \$510 a month), depending on if it's a private room or shared with up to three other roommates. The rooms come furnished, and vary between private and shared bathrooms. These accommodation plans come with no meal plan though students can purchase hot meals at the student cafeteria. Residence halls also have shared kitchen space and are set in neighborhoods with numerous bakeries and restaurants, many with delivery options. Most students eat adequately on a food budget of \$300 a month

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 is 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 both summer and semester or yearlong academic exchanges **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, an admissions letter from Sookmyung Women's University, a certificate of bank balance, a copy of your school transcript, and proof of financial capability for their time abroad.

Sookmyung University requires all exchange students to have hospital/accident insurance or other healthcare coverage for the entire year. If a student's current coverage does not meet the conditions of the university a contract with LIG insurance is offered for all international students. A health center is located on campus and offers general treatment and care for all students and faculty.

Useful Links

Sookmyung Women's University: <http://e.sookmyung.ac.kr/>

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

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

General Living Expenses

Sookmyung Women's 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	\$1,000	
Round-trip Airfare	\$2,000	
Food	\$800	
Local transportation	\$200	
Health insurance	\$350	
Personal spending	<u>\$2,000</u>	(shopping, entertainment, travel, etc)
Total	\$11,621	

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