



# Exchange Experience Reports Yonsei University, South Korea

## Host University Evaluation

### Reports

**Name:** Matthew D. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty:** Science..... 1

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### Academic life

**How easy was it to figure out your course selection at your host university?**

- Super simple!
- Relatively straightforward
- Pretty difficult to navigate
- It was complicated and frustrating

**What did the process look like? Was it easy to register in your preferred classes?**

Yonsei University uses a different system which allocates pre-given tokens (or "mileage") onto the classes you want. This was very interesting and made me re-evaluate how badly I wanted to be in a course. As a result, I was super engaged in all my classes because I found them all very interesting.

**Were your courses as academically rigorous as your McGill courses?**

- Yes, they were as rigorous as my McGill courses
- They were similarly rigorous to my McGill courses
- No, they weren't as rigorous as my McGill courses

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## Yonsei University, South Korea

**How did the teaching quality at your host university compare to what you're used to at McGill?**

- It was better!
- Pretty similar
- It was much worse

**Tell us about it! How did it differ from the teaching quality at McGill? What can other students expect from their profs and course work?**

In my opinion, these professors genuinely cared for all their students and wanted to see them all succeed. They took the time to get to know us personally and most of them actively created engaging discussions during class-time which sparks new ideas from the readings or lecture material that may not have been thought of before. They resembled higher-level (like 500-level in my experience) courses at McGill Univ. that focus on discussion.

**What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?**

Participation (through active discussion), presentations, and testing readings, lecture material, etc. through tests or essays.

**How would you describe the evaluation and grading methods at your host university? Please select as many adjectives as applies!**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair               | <input type="checkbox"/> Unfair                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transparent        | <input type="checkbox"/> Complicated                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to understand                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Similar methods to McGill     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Different methods from McGill |

**Is there anything else you'd like to share about the academic experience at your host university?**

It was a great experience and life-changing in many ways.

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### Student Life

**Were you satisfied by the welcome and orientation services provided to you by your host university?**

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Very satisfied, everything was clear	<input type="radio"/> Pretty satisfied
<input type="radio"/> I was able to figure things out, but it took some time	<input type="radio"/> Pretty confusing
<input type="radio"/> Very confusing, I was lost	

**What is the best resource that helped you find your way at your host university?**

There were clubs at Yonsei Univ. that were created to help foreign exchange students with administration, learning Korean, language-exchange, various activities, etc.

**What was the campus environment like at your host university? Please describe your experience on campus with regards to safety, social opportunities, accessibility, etc.**

Incredibly safe, advanced in technology, very accessible, and an endless array of social opportunities. There was an event called Akaraka Festival that happened in the Spring and it truly felt like the entire university shared one bond together.

**Where did you live? Was it easy to find housing? Did you receive any support from your host university?**

I lived in the dormitory provided by Yonsei Univ. called SK Global. Relatively easy to find the housing at first and a great location at the top of the hill and near campus.

**What advice would you share with students travelling to your host university? Briefly give up to 3 tips!**

My best tip would be to take a few courses that aren't designed for exchange students but are taught in English (or Korean and English) because you will be able to meet local Korean students this way and practice learning the language. This will facilitate expanding your networking circle outside of international exchange students.

I would recommend staying in the dormitory (SK Global) if you want an easy way of commuting to school and meeting international friends. You can even economize by choosing to live with a roommate (a double room).

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### ***What advice would you share with students who will live in your host city? Briefly give up to 3 tips!***

Seoul is such a beautiful city filled with lots of traditional Korean cultures and innovate ideas. Go explore the royal palaces and places in Seoul or other parts in South Korea outside of the university hub (even though Sinchon/ Hongdae is incredibly fun).

Do not be afraid to try any type of food. Please don't limit yourself and immerse yourself into the culture whole-heartedly. Korean food is incredible and you should try as many things as possible while you're on exchange i.e. don't only eat at the cafeteria (even though their cafeteria food is amazing).

If you have any other interests or hobbies not he side, now is your chance to explore them. I was able to get invited to Seoul Fashion Week and collaborated on styling or dancing projects with a few artists because I actively created those opportunities for myself and met people.