

## **My Korean experience**

My name is Stefan Lohberger and my major is business and engineering. In summer 2012 I finished my bachelors degree in environmental and recycling techniques (branch of chemical engineering). From fall 2012 on I started my masters course in business and engineering.

At the end of my bachelors course I had to do a internship. While researching for a company I thought a lot about going abroad for internship but there was not enough time to do so. So I decided to go abroad at least once while doing my master course.

While I was doing my internship I researched about several countries I wanted to go e.g. China, Canada. But going to Canada was too expensive and China I found no university either. So I checked the homepage of my university for partner universities. So I found the KNU in Daegu, Korea.

After checking the deadlines I decided trying to go in the fall semester. But time was running short I had only 1 month left do prepare all necessary documents. Some documents where quite hard to obtain.

I eventually made it and in summer at the end of my internship I got approved to study for one semester in Korea.

I did choose the first year of my masters course because, after checking the curriculum of the master course, I saw that the most classes I have to take in the first year where basic economics. Due my previous job training and education, I did my A-level in economics and worked as accountant, I knew the most of the classes already.

At the KNU I decided to take a intensive Korean language course as well as 2 more classes related to my masters course. So I had a good mix between study and language training.

I didn't do much preparations prior coming to Korea since I wanted to make my own experiences. Also was I busy writing my bachelors thesis and moving until 1 week prior leaving. I still managed to do get all the authorities courses done, e.g. getting an international drivers license, insurance, credit card and so on.

I left Germany in the morning when it was still a bit cool. When we arrived in Seoul, around 1 am, even being in the middle of the night it was still somehow hot. All the way until Daegu everything went smooth, but after taking a taxi to the university I realized, I am in another country.

Our were housing in the dormitory of the university. You can find all you need in the dorms even a grocery store. The rooms are for 2 persons and relatively small. But it was more than enough, because most of the time I didn't spend in room anyway. I only slept and studied there.

After a bit chaos while choosing my final courses I got used to the different system and organization in the KNU. The Professors are some times not the same as I knew them from Germany. And the education system is very close to the American one means some times a bit easier.

Because I was curious how German language is being taught in Korea I visited a German language class. The Professor of the class was happy to have a native speaker in the class, so he asked me to stay for the semester and I did become a living CD player ^^.

Even tho my dialect some times came into conflict with the high German he used to know. It was quite interesting to see how hard it can be to learn German and I have big respect for people (especially Asian people) who manage to master or bring it to an average level. The buddy-program and the people from the office of international affairs at the KNU were a great help to get used to the new environment. We made many new friend with the exchange students and especially with the Korean students. KNU after all is a great university to be.

In our free time we did visit a lot of places in Korea. We did small student groups or big groups. Usually we had some Korean students with us as well to help us and a lot of them did enjoy hanging out with us. Visited the traditional Korean village in Andong, one of the past capitals from the time of the 3 Kingdoms at Gyeongju, moving to the Honeymoon Island of Jeju. Furthermore went to see Pyeongchang ,where the 2018 winter games will take place. So many things to see so little time.

Koreans are very social people to some extent so we spent plenty time together partying in a club or just going to a bar, restaurant spending time together. And the most important going to sing at music rooms.

I wont go much into detail since I believe everyone should make his own experience.

The people there are extremely friendly. I have never took so many pictures in my whole life with people than in these 5 months in Korea. I'm looking forward my next trip there to meet my new friends again.

Some tip's for the other students who plan to go there?

First and of all you will be in another country so most things are different especially the food (since a lot people did complain about it).

Go in with an open mind and enjoy your stay. If you complain only, you will miss so much. And have a smart-phone since without a phone u have a hard time to communicate ^^.

I will go back for sure! After my master thesis or maybe even earlier.