Hi! I’m Rebecca, a final year Social and Political Science student here at York.

I was lucky enough to spend last year studying in South Korea, at Seoul National University. While there I majored in Sociology, although I took a wide range of classes from Korean language and culture to Economics. I found studying such a variety of subjects a refreshing and interesting way to build knowledge in areas I would have otherwise never explored, and it definitely made me interested in specialising in alternative career paths in the future.

Although SNU’s campus is a lot bigger than what I was used to at York, there was a real communal feel, especially amongst the international students through initiatives such as SNU Buddy and the International Student Association. Definite highlights were competing in the Buddy Olympics, exploring the Han River markets, and trying to figure out an escape room in Korean.

Despite the pandemic and restrictions, I was still able to enjoy a lot of what Korea has to offer. From surfing along the East coast to skiing in the North, South Korea has many seasonal activities that are great to give a go! I would recommend trying out the Choco Pies in Jeonju - a traditional hanok village where you will see people exploring in Korean national dress (hanbok). All this is not to say that Seoul has little to offer! The busy city has distinct neighbourhoods that each offer something different for you to enjoy, such as unique cafes, lively busking performances, and ever-changing pop up shops.

There is no better time to explore another country than with a year abroad, so if it is something you have even the slightest interest in, I’d encourage you to go for it!

If you would like to know more about any global opportunity available here at York, feel free to get in touch at global-assistants@york.ac.uk