

Seoul National University – Summer School



Taking part in Seoul National University's ISI programme allowed me the opportunity to study a subject that I seek to specialise in following undergraduate study, which I would not have had the opportunity to do in York. As well as this, I was able to complete my Korean language level one and I plan to build on this in the future. I would advise any student to spend as much time learning abroad as possible, especially at such a ripe and formative age that will be of benefit to you in any future career paths. Finally, I'd like to thank the Centre for Global Programmes for making this experience possible for me!

Hongyu – Management School

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Having one month of study life in Korea has taught me a lot on how to live and study well in such a non-English country. Firstly, language is the most difficult obstacle when living in Seoul because their first language is neither English nor Chinese, which has brought me some difficulties in communication. Luckily, I made friends with local Korean students and attended language class so I could at least deal with some informal chat with local people. I would say that it was expensive to have meals with meat in restaurants and sometimes I could not get used to their spicy food which is local people's favourite taste. I went to campus canteen frequently that offered tasty but not that spicy meals. Lastly, I think the most important achievement I gained is that I become more active and bold to make friends and speak English. For everyone attending summer school in Korea, we are all foreigners to local people and in this case we tried to find friends and helped each other on new challenges. During this process, it has facilitated not only my communication skill but also the skill on thinking of solution rather than sitting around. As for advice, I would strongly recommend students to shape different outlook and value going abroad, especially those which are totally different with original background. In those countries, you not only need to learn how to minimise cultural difference when making friends but also get to know a new cultural environment. Plus, independently living in a new environment also pushes you and facilitates new skills.



Elspeth – Department of History

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The experience has definitely made me more confident and self-assured. Being in a country and having to deal with culture shock and navigating daily life including currency and public transport was a challenge, and at first I felt very homesick. However, I adapted quickly. The International Relations course I took was very interesting and has had an effect on my career direction. The law professor explored issues of corporate governance and corporate law in the West and South Korea, and made me realise law is an avenue I could go down after my degree ends and one which would enable me to work on a more global scale. I now intend to apply to a conversion course after university. I would encourage every student to study abroad, even if it is just for a summer. It makes you re-evaluate your perspective and what you really want out of life.