

Step Outside Our Comfort Zone

Exchange at Korea University 2017-18 Semester A

Some may see an overseas exchange program as a short-term holiday and an escape from the stresses of school. While this may be true for some, I undoubtedly gained more through my experience at Korea University (KU) (고려대학교 高麗大學) where I spent my last semester (2017-18 Semester A) for three months.

As business students, we should step outside our comfort zone and seize every learning opportunity to enrich our business sense before graduation. I chose KU as it was in the top three universities in South Korea, especially the Business College. It provided a rare opportunity for me to live and study in an English environment with top Korean business students who were also proficient in English. I also shared my views on business issues with the professors and other international students during class. Among the five business courses I took at KU, I particularly enjoyed the course entitled International Business, which involved analyzing real case studies not only from the Asian market, but also from around the world. Each student engaged in open discussion and reflected on different business topics. This course helped me to enhance my understanding of international business, which is important to the field of accounting.

Other than the academic lectures, the most valuable experience at KU was the team spirit. There were at least 20 school songs, called 'Encouraging Songs 應援歌', used to encourage students to have a positive mindset. We sang the songs on many different occasions, such as during midterm and final examinations, sports festivals and anniversary days. Meanwhile, during the examination period, the colleges and clubs provided food packages free of charge to cheer up the students. I also helped as a volunteer to distribute stationery to the Korean college students who attended the admission interviews for KU. Through the experience, I learned the importance of teamwork, which will be important for my future career.

Finally, I helped to prepare the International Student Fair Festival. I met a group of students from Hong Kong and we gained a financial subsidy from KU to establish a Hong Kong booth. To effectively manage the financial support, we asked for advice from a Hong Kong entrepreneur who had opened a Hong Kong-style cafe called Charcoal Tea & Coffee in Seoul last year. He provided us with some valuable advice on cost control based on his own experience. I sought to apply my business knowledge to help write the financial proposal and efficiently manage the operation of the booth.

All in all, I believe that it is more beneficial to step outside of my comfort zone to try as many new experiences as possible rather than studying lectures at university alone. I believe in the motto 'Learning is unlimited'. Knowledge is not only learned from textbooks, but also from personal experiences. Let's go global and treasure your overseas exchange opportunity!



The above photo was taken with my Korean buddies and the other exchange students during a day trip in September 2017.



The above photo was taken after the International Student Fair with other exchange students who were from universities in Hong Kong. We formed a Hong Kong team and set up our own Hong Kong booth at the fair.