



GO ABROAD TO
SOUTH KOREA

- My name is Sarah and I am one of the Go Global Student Liaisons at York International for the 2019/2020 academic year!
- I am a Glendon student majoring in International Studies and minoring in communications.
- In 2016 I applied to go abroad and ended up going abroad twice with York International, both times to Seoul, South Korea.
- The first time I went abroad I did a full year academic exchange to Ewha Womans University.
- Ewha Womans University actually wasn't my first choice school when I was applying, but my advisor at the time recommended it to me and I ended up having an amazing experience there!
- The second time I went abroad to Korea I did a summer abroad at Hanyang University so I was there for about a month
- To hear more about my experiences in Korea, keep on clicking!



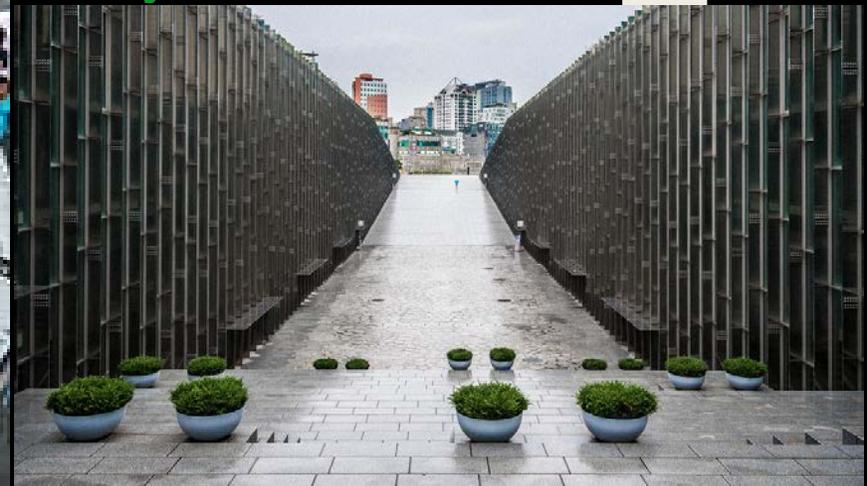
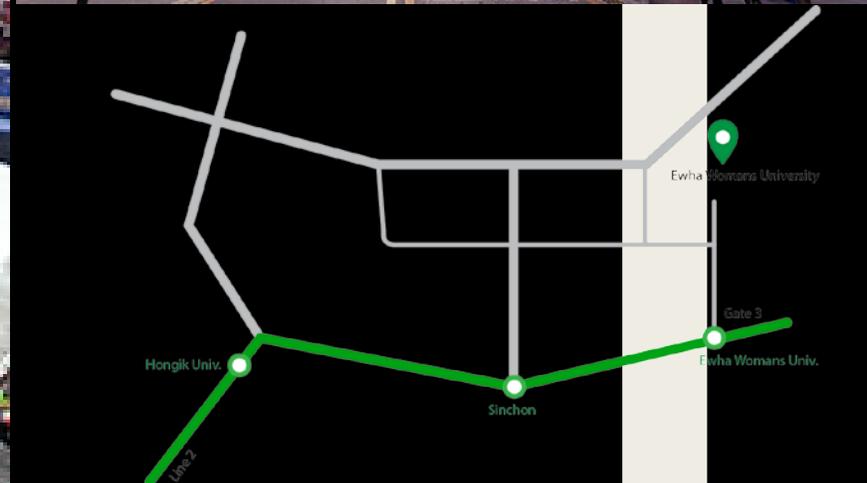


EWHA WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY



LOCATION

- Ewha Woman's University and the surrounding area is known for great shopping and great eats
- It's also a 10 minute walk away from the Sinchon area which is known to be a hotspot for students due to all the cafes, restaurants, shopping and nightlife
- Ewha Woman's University is close to Sogang University and Yonsei University making this area of Seoul, one of the top university districts





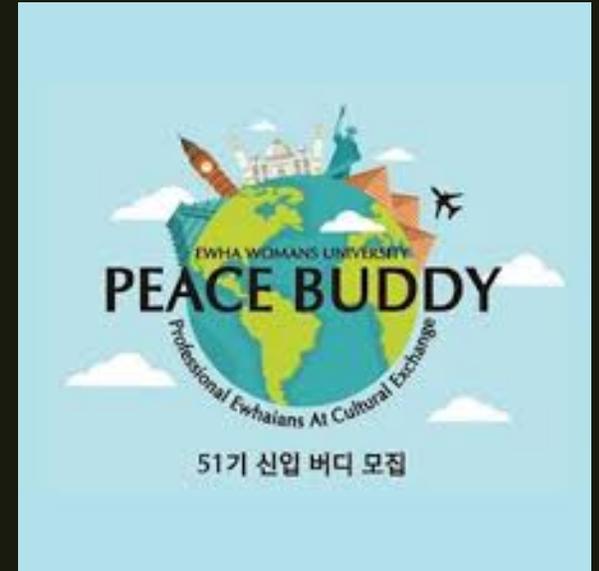
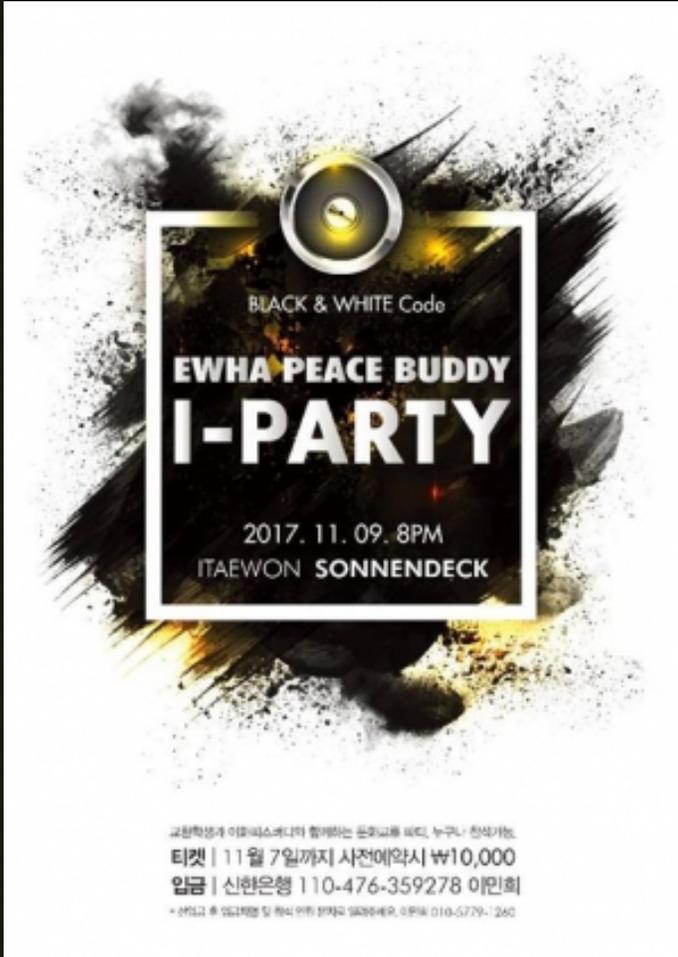
CLASSES

- I took classes which counted towards both my major credits and electives
- Courses I took included: International Security, Ceramics, Religion in Korea, Traditional Korean Painting and Intensive Korean language courses
- There are many options for both English and Korean taught courses
- Professors from around the world
- What to expect in class: lots of group work, essay writing, weekly readings, presentations



DORMS

- There are three dorm buildings, each varying in price (i.e. the newer built dorm cost a bit more than the older dorm buildings)
- Single and double rooms/ shared and nonshared bathroom options available
- Single nonshared bathroom rooms cost the most and double shared bathrooms cost the least
- Room amenities: Bed, desk, desk lamp, wardrobe, shelves, refrigerator (vacuums and hair blow dryers were available to be borrowed from the residence office)
- Dorms prices only cover stays for the semester
- If students want to stay longer, an additional fee must be paid (per night cost)

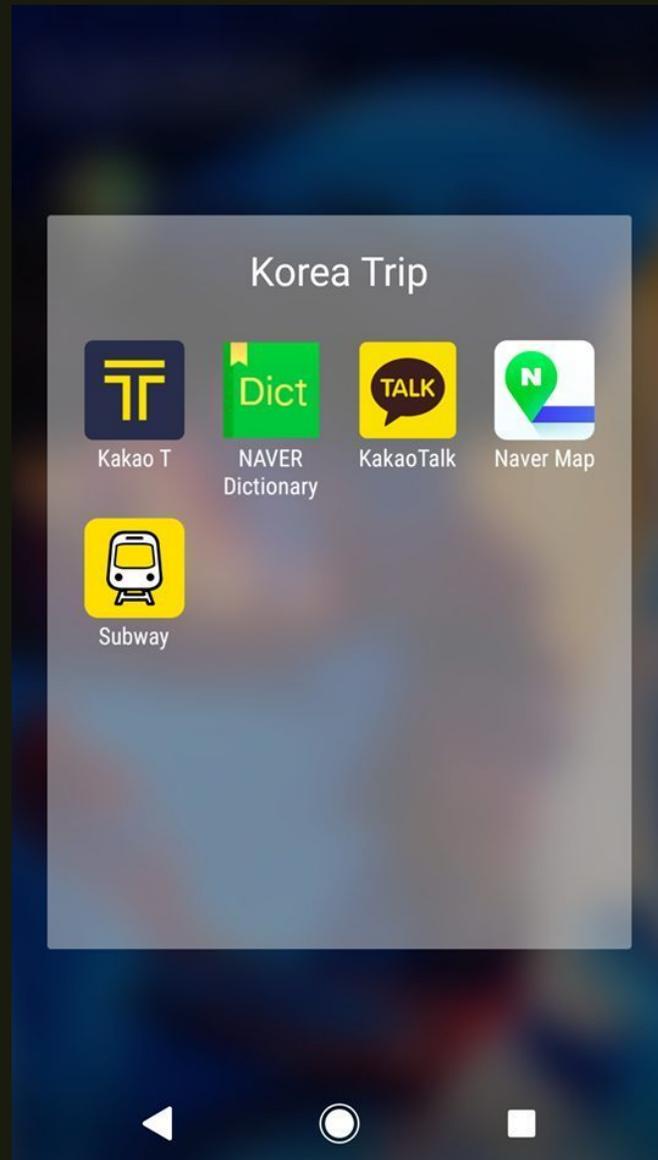


MAKING FRIENDS

- All Ewha exchange students are put into small groups and assigned a “PEACE Buddy”, which is a program that groups exchange students with Ewha students to show you around, hang out with etc.
- The Ewha Peace Buddy program also organizes events and activities for exchange students such as parties, trips and group lunches



BEING ABROAD IN SOUTH KOREA



USEFUL PHONE APPLICATIONS

- **KakaoTalk:** messaging app, main mode of communication in Korea
- **KakaoTaxi:** essentially like an uber, best and safest way to catch a taxi (as long as you know your current location and your destination, minimal Korean may be required)
- **Naver maps:** Google maps DOES NOT WORK WELL in South Korea, it may work sometimes but it is not accurate most of the time
- **Subway Korea:** You can see Seoul, Busan, Daegu, and all other major city subway maps of Korea on this app. It updates you on the next train, transfers, where to stand in order to transfer as quickly and efficiently as possible etc.
- **Naver Dictionary:** a great dictionary app and learning tool for Korean

TRANSPORTATION

- The cheapest and most convenient mode of transportation is public transportation
- Unlike TTC, it is always on time
- Like Toronto, they have a system similar to presto called “T-money”
- “T-money” cards can be bought AND reloaded at convenience stores (there are convenience stores EVERYWHERE in Korea). They can also be reloaded at subway stations
- They can come in many different designs depending on where you buy them from
- When traveling outside of Seoul, you can either take domestic flights, KTX trains, Mugunghwa Trains or Busses
- Occasionally, it may be cheaper to take a flight so keep tabs on flight prices
- Besides flights, KTX is the fastest way to travel around Korea (i.e. from Seoul to Busan it takes about 3.5 hours)

교통카드를 놓아주세요

전국호환

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE & CULTURAL AWARENESS

- Learning the language and familiarizing yourself with the culture will make your time in Korea a lot more meaningful, fun, and less stressful
- The Korean alphabet itself is very easy to learn and even if you don't know Korean, you'll be able to understand the English words that are just written in Korean (i.e., coffee, computer, etc.)
- I recommend to familiarize yourself with certain words (i.e., I have a seafood allergy and a lot of foods in Korea contain seafood, so I made sure to familiarize myself with phrases such as “does this contain seafood?”)
- Cultural awareness includes things such as: not sitting in the elderly/pregnant seats on the subway, knowing how to separate trash (food waste, recycling, etc.)

MAKING FRIENDS ABROAD

- I strongly recommend making friends before you go to Korea
- You can meet a bunch of people by joining different Facebook groups (ie. there is a Facebook group for incoming exchange students at Ewha)
- You can also make friends here in Toronto by attending language exchanges, making friends with international/exchange students here at York or meeting other York students who are also interested in going abroad to Korea
- You can check out the calendar of events on the York International website and drop by events like “Coffee Break” where you can meet other international students

* There are only a few more dates of the Coffee Break events left before the semester ends!



FINANCIAL PLANNING

- From the moment you apply for exchange, you have a little less than a year to prepare for exchange (depending on when your host country's semester starts)
- Take advantage of the time you have to save up
- Start planning in advance for how much you are planning to spend on groceries, phone services, entertainment etc.
- York International also provides students with YIMA
- I was able to fund going abroad through a combination of working part-time, OSAP, bursaries and scholarships
- Make sure to keep in mind the global exchange rates when saving up (CAD to KRW)



ITEM	COST (KRW)	COST (CAD)
Meal at McDonalds	₩ 6,000	\$6.80
Coffee	₩ 4,000-7,000	\$4.55-8.00
Beer	₩ 4,000	\$4.55
Public transportation fare (one-way)	₩ 1,250	\$1.40
Movie ticket	₩ 10,000	\$11.35
KTX train: Seoul -> Busan (round trip)	₩ 70,000-100,000	\$80.00-114.00
Mugunghwa train: Seoul -> Busan (round trip)	₩ 40,000-60,000	\$45.00-68.00
Bus: Seoul -> Busan (round trip)	₩ 30,000-50,000	\$34.00-57.00

**Registration
of Canadians Abroad**
is a free service that can keep you
connected in case of emergency.

travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration

Travel.gc.ca Canada

STAYING SAFE

- South Korea is known to be a safe country, that being said, there is no such thing as being too safe
- Maybe for your first few days or weeks in Korea try not to stay out too late alone until you familiarize yourself with the area
- Register with the Canadian Embassy in Korea travel advisories
 - They will send emails whenever there is an emergency (i.e.. I received emails whenever there was a rainstorm, forest fire, etc.)
- Know where the Canadian Embassy is. If anything happens in Korea, for example you lose your passport, they will be the ones you need to contact

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Travelling abroad? Sign up with:

Registration of Canadians Abroad

travel.gc.ca/register
For more information +1 613 944 6788

Download the Travel Smart app at
travel.gc.ca/mobile

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GOING ABROAD TIPS

• KNOW WHERE TO SHOP!

- My shopping hack in Korea is to shop either in markets or around universities
- Shopping around universities, you'll be able to find some of the best affordable food options and affordable shopping for trendy clothes
- Another shopping hack is to keep an eye out for deals at convenience stores, sometimes there will be 1+1 or 2+1 shopping (BOGO or Buy 2 get one free)

• PACK LIGHT!

- Be sure not to over pack, you're going to want a lot of space to make room for all the things you'll want to bring back!
- Be sure to pack things that you know you will use, for example, I have a specific hair products I like to use so I know I'll need to pack a lot of that but things like notebooks or slippers are things I can easily buy from the dollar store in Korea
- Pack smart! Using packing cubes, or suction bags will help you save a lot of space, just make sure they don't exceed the airlines baggage weight requirements

• MAP OUT THE SEMESTER!

- If you plan on doing a lot of exploring, take a look at the Korean calendar for the year you are abroad to see which days the holidays fall on (also confirm with your professors/syllabus to see which days you don't have class). You can use these holidays to travel around Korea or internationally

• GET OUT OF THE CITY!

- There is no doubt that Seoul has A LOT to offer. With the abundance of cute cafes, amazing restaurants and the fun nightlife, it has so much to offer travelers. But there is definitely so much to see outside of Seoul too! Some places I recommend outside of Seoul are Busan (the second biggest city in Korea, known for its beaches) and Jeju Island (popular tropical destination for many)



MAKE SURE TO RESEARCH:

GETTING A SIM CARD
BANKING
VISAS

KOREAN HISTORY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE
HOUSING AFTER EXCHANGE

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE TOPICS OR ANYTHING
REGARDING GOING ABROAD TO SOUTH KOREA CONTACT ME AT
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