



STUDENT MOBILITY SCHEME REPORT

[For participants]

Your experience can help other students when they are planning for their study abroad program. To make sure that prospective students have a chance to learn from your experience, everyone who has participated in the SMS program should complete a Student Mobility Scheme Report.

Upon completion of the form, please submit it to the office which handles the ACUCA SMS at your institution.

Please note that the information will be shared with other students who are interested in the SMS through the website.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[For coordinators]

This report will be posted on the ACUCA Website. We would appreciate it if you could email us the file electronically.

1. Name: CHAN, Pui Yin Dave 陳沛然

2. Home Institution: Name: International Christian University **Location:** Tokyo, Japan

3. Host Institution: Name: Sogang University **Location:** Seoul, Korea

4. Study Period: Spring Semester 2011 (March 2011 - June 2011)

5. How did you hear about the ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme?

International Education Exchange Office at home university

6. What did you study and what kind of activities did you take part in while abroad?

Korean Cultural History 한국문화사韓國文化史(History),
Cultural Properties and Tourist 문화유산해설연습文化遺産解說演習(History),
Theories of Organizational Behaviour 조직행동이론組織行動理論(Business),
Wang Yang Ming School of Teaching 양명학陽明學(Philosophy),
Racquetball 라켓볼(Physical Education-Practical Exercise).

[All courses above were instructed in English]

Sogang Voluntas 서강사회봉사센터(西江社會奉仕 CENTER <http://voluntas.sogang.ac.kr/>)
- Mini Bulb Volunteer Group 꼬마전구봉사단(CHILDREN 電球奉仕團) - Weekly visits to care home for children with development disabilities, assist them with study, homework, chat together and play together.

7. Was it difficult adjusting to live abroad, and if so what were some of the difficulties?

Absolutely easy to adjust and comfortable to live in Korea. Because Korean people are very friendly and easy going, I want to move to Korea immediately and live there now.

8. What advice would you give to fellow students at ACUCA universities who are thinking of taking part in the Student Mobility Scheme?

Learn that country's language before you go abroad, you will see the difference and experience a lot more and know a lot deeper about their culture, society and people.

9. Have you been changed in any way by the experience, and if so how?

As it is difficult and impossible for human beings to survive on one's own, I noticed and understood the significance of having a good and broad interpersonal network and relationship.

10. How do you feel about other Asian Cultures now?

Traditional Confucius culture and customs are a lot stronger and a lot more emphasized in countries like Korea and Japan(in some ways) than in China which it is originated. This strong emphasis can be seen and observed all through my living and studying experience in Korea.

11. Any comments?

Below please attach a more descriptive account (300-400 words) of your experience with the SMS for possible publication to allow others to find out about the ACUCA SMS Program. Include such information as the type of study you did as well as the cultural experiences you had, and any other things you would consider interesting. Photos are welcome.

The Spring Semester at Sogang and in Korea reached the ultimate peak and was my highest climax in my university life.

In fact, I did not think of studying abroad or participating in student exchange programme because I am already studying away from my home in Hong Kong. I changed my thought when I began room-sharing with my friend from Korea. I suddenly realized that I have little to no knowledge about Korea being the nearest neighbouring country as well as the Korean Peninsula on the whole. Through learning Korean at ICU(by the way personally to me, I feel that Korean is the most beautiful language), taking courses at ICU about Korean history, Korean culture and Korean society, being good friends with incoming exchange Korean student and regular Korean students at ICU, constantly "annoying" them and asking them anything about Korean, last but not least with the worldwide Hallyu Boom coming along. By that time, I know that with all these I am ready to go to exchange in Korea.

To the others, fourth months seemed just a short while and will not be enough for a rich and fruitful exchange experience, but my main aim is to gain the maximum and achieve the greatest, so I would not regret when I leave Korea. Seeing, hearing, tasting, feeling the most, going to the most places, utilizing time in the most efficient way, meeting a lot of interesting people, furthermore making as many Korean friends and international friends, so as to create a larger and a better social and interpersonal network.

I often grasp every available opportunity and any good chance, therefore I always take initiatives to look for means to enrich my time in Sogang and in Korea, and to be active in on-campus activities and out of campus activities is the crucial approach to fulfill my objectives.

Numerous team projects in class had been the basis in having a close bond friendship with Korean classmates, I can practice my Korean and they can practice their English while we work together, we often eat out and hang around together around Sinchon, and we still keep in touch until now.

Joining the Sogang Voluntas 서강사회봉사센터 (西江社會奉仕 CENTER <http://voluntas.sogang.ac.kr>) Mini Bulb Volunteer Group 꼬마전구봉사단 (CHILDREN 電球奉仕團), I am good friends with other Mini Bulb Volunteer members, and we do weekly visits at care home for children with development disability, assist children with their study, homework, play, chat and enjoy the time with them together. From this I got to know another perspective of Korea in which foreign tourists, exchange students or even local Koreans have never aware of.

One of the largest student organizations at Sogang, HUG(Hands Up for Gathering), had exerted huge efforts to bring international students and Korean students together, let overseas incoming students feel comfortable like home at Sogang, and enjoy their time have fun together at Sogang University and Korea.

To gain an authentic and deep Korean living experience, I chose homestay and live with a Korean host family. Just like my volunteer at the children's care home, I especially like spending time with children so I chose a host family with 3 cute children, three daughters aged 2, 6 and 9. Every day at home had been a happy and a very fun day with three daughters and with the family. Because of homestay, I had also been able to go to weekend family outings to many places, meet the family's friends, relatives and grandparents, neighbours, and also to attend Korean style wedding.

Except for the four tremendous experiences above, of course there were a lot more other anecdotes and stories about my exchange life at Sogang and in Korea, but this letter to you is already too long so I think I will stop here.

I have definitely not regretted for these precious four months of exchange, and this experience is certainly a great milestone in my personal life, extremely significant for my further study or for my future career. Nevertheless, I am desperate to go back to Korea and go back to Sogang University not just to meet again my Korean friends and my homestay family there, but also I would like to reside in Korea, either for my further study or for my future career.



