

**A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.**

At uOttawa I am studying towards a Bachelor of Commerce – International Management and Finance. At Yonsei University, I belong to the Department of International Exchange, as do all exchange students. For the semester, I am taking 15 local credits, or 5 courses. In the Yonsei system, a credit is equal to one hour of class time, so I have 15 hours of class a week, 3 hours per course. I am taking two business courses from the Business School at Yonsei, which is only available for local business students or exchange students who put their major as Business Administration when they register through the Yonsei Portal. These courses are Business Negotiations and Managing in Emerging Markets, which are both fourth year courses. The other three courses I am taking are offered by the Department of International Exchange, a department that hosts classes only available for exchange students. All classes offered by this department are in English but taught by Korean professors. The three courses I am taking from this department are Korean (1), International Business Communications, and Law and Justice.

International Business Communication is online with 1 hour of zoom class a week and one pre-recorded lecture which varies in length every week. The course is evaluated through two assignments: a one page thought on any lecture material, a paper on a company of your choice, and participation. Managing in Emerging Markets is a split classroom, or hybrid class with 2 hours in person and varying pre-recorded lectures. The class has 2 presentations, 2 executive summaries of articles, a final exam, and a participation mark. The last 3 courses are in person. First, Korean (1) has 2 hours in person on one day, and 1 hour another day. There is a final exam, a midterm exam, a participation mark, and a quiz every two chapters of the textbook. Second, Law and Justice has a 3-hour class in the afternoon one day a week. There is a final exam worth 70%, and a 30% participation mark. Finally, Business Negotiations has a 3-hour class once a week. Each class simulates a different negotiation case, and the class has a final exam, a presentation, a participation mark, and 6 case write-ups.

**B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.**

The academic calendar can be found on the Yonsei Office of International Affairs website. Classes began on September 1<sup>st</sup> and end on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The Dormitory registration opened in July, with Check-In beginning on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The online course registration period was from August 16<sup>th</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and an orientation took place on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Midterm exam period is from October 20<sup>th</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup>, and the Final exam period is from December 15<sup>th</sup> to December 21<sup>st</sup>. Before all this, there is another application period after the initial uOttawa application. The information pertaining to this application will be sent by the university with all instructions, about 3 months before the exchange semester begins. Results will come out about 2 weeks after the application deadline.

The holidays are quite different from Canada, with the biggest one being Chuseok, or Korean Thanksgiving, celebrated for three days after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 8<sup>th</sup> month according to the lunar calendar. This year the celebration was from September 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Chuseok is responsible for extreme traffic, so it is necessary to plan accordingly. There is also Korean National Foundation Day on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Hangul Day on October 9<sup>th</sup>. There are three semesters a year at Yonsei, with the Fall semester being considered semester 2.

**C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.**

It is difficult for me to comment on procedures to follow upon arrival as I am a citizen of South Korea and follow a different procedure. I simply presented my Korean passport at the local passport area and was on my way, but it can be quite a long and difficult process for foreigners. I have heard that it can take up to 4 hours to even leave the airport for people without a Korean passport. The Yonsei Global Service Center is very helpful, assisting on day-to-day affairs as necessary, and is always available if you need other help. They hold numerous cultural and communal events, allowing you to learn more about Korean culture while meeting other exchange students. They also help foreigners obtain their Alien Registration Card (ARC), which is necessary to stay for more than 90 days or to return after leaving the country. If a foreign student leaves Korea for any reason before receiving their ARC, they will not be allowed back into the country, even within the validity period of their visa. For this reason, exchange students often do their travel within the country during the period where they are waiting to receive their ARC and then do their international travel after receiving the ARC.

There is an overarching global club that offers numerous clubs for exchange students to experience different aspects of Korean life. Each student being limited to one club and the spots are in extremely high demand. Some examples of clubs offered by Yonsei Global are a Games club which goes to two escape rooms and one board game café, a Sports club that plays three different sports, an outdoor leisure club that goes hiking and kayaking, a cooking club, a dance club, and many more. There are other global clubs that pair exchange students up with Korean students who guide them through a Korean experience. The most popular club like this is the Yonsei Mentors Club, which pairs international students with a Korean mentor, who will take them to do activities.

**D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).**

Airplane tickets round-trip cost me about \$2200 total from Korean Air. Housing costs can vary greatly, from 400 a month to up to 2000 a month depending on the location and type of housing. Personally, I pay \$1200 a month for a small apartment room with a personal kitchen, but there are budget options, such as goshiwons, which are an extremely small room that were meant for students preparing for exams that are much less. Vacation costs vary based on

location; however, a lot of other students have already been to Jeju, a tropical island in Korea, and are planning on heading to Japan and have told me the costs are reasonable.

Again, it is difficult for me to comment on regular costs since I have family that I can stay with in different cities. I have planned a trip to Busan for three days, with the hotel costing about \$140. The KTX (Korean light rail train), costs about \$53 one way, and can take you to major cities from Seoul to Busan. The public transportation system is much better than that of Ottawa, and a one-way trip costs about \$1.5. I only needed to buy one textbook, which was \$20 at the university bookstore. Lastly, the price of meals depends on the type and location. The main cafeteria has meals for an average price of \$5.25, a different cafeteria has an average price of \$7.2, and meals outside of campus would be anywhere from \$5 to \$40 upwards. In my experience, a budget of \$2,500 for meals would be sufficient.

**E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).**

Again, it is difficult for me to comment on application procedures before arrival. However, the university and global coordinators provide all the necessary information for visa applications. During the application through the Yonsei Portal, foreign students need to submit all the documents needed for a Visa, while also applying for the Visa itself. Along with the information provided by the university, there is a Korean Embassy in Downtown Ottawa that has been very helpful in my experience obtaining my Korean passport.

As mentioned, the course registration period was from August 16<sup>th</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup>. As I registered my major as Business Administration through the Yonsei Portal, I was allowed to register for two business courses. The registration for these courses was done through google forms, where I ranked three courses based on preference and was registered to two of them. The regular course registration begins as a bidding process, with each student getting 72 miles to bid on courses with, priority going to those bidding the highest. Afterwards, it becomes first-come first-serve based on waiting numbers until August 22<sup>nd</sup>. After August 22<sup>nd</sup>, there is a break until September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Course Add & Drop period, which is entirely first-come first-serve. However, there is the option to have a professor sign a Course Registration form, which could allow you to register for classes that are full or outside of regular availability. Housing deposit is possible, but is normally not necessary, especially for housing options for international students. Deposits are normally for locals, and there are options through local real estate agencies, but these are quite difficult to find unless you are already in the country.

**F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing**

My housing is located at 130-3 Yeonhui-ro 15-gil Seodaemun-gu. The building is called Grace Residence and is available through a website called EnKor. My accommodation is a small room with a private kitchen, bathroom, washing machine and a decently sized living area. There is a house manager and facility team that does repairs and maintenance. The building has a shared password for the front door and has an area for garbage disposal as needed. EnKor also has a

SIM service, hosts events for foreigners, and has a blog that provides a lot of valuable information about Korea. The cheaper accommodations would be about a third of the size, and often have many shared elements such as bathrooms, and often do not have any kitchen. As mentioned earlier, I am paying \$1200 a month, which is on the higher end for most students.

**G) Other comments or recommendations**

My biggest recommendation would be to take advantage of the opportunity and experience a new culture. There are so many things to experience in Korea, and the courses allow enough time to experience them. No matter what region of Seoul, there is always something new and interesting, and it is so important to push yourself out of your comfort zone and experience the offerings. It doesn't matter if you don't speak Korean well or at all, as long as you make the effort to learn basic phrases. If you show that effort, most people will be accommodating, and most Koreans in popular areas can speak English. No matter what type of person you are, there will always be something of interest to you.

**I) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience**

I arrived a week before courses began to get myself settled in, which I would recommend. At the beginning, I mostly just walked around the area nearest me to familiarize myself with the region, which was extremely helpful. I really like how condensed the city is, as everything is in walking distance, and anything you need is in close proximity. Once classes started, I did not feel a large burden, and still had time to wander around different areas. At this time, in October, I have needed to put a bit more effort into my classes and assignments as the Midterm period is coming up, but I still have more than enough time for myself, and I have been attending many games for the League of Legends World Championship. The Korean people are very helpful, I have met a lot of exchange students from all across the world, learned about new cultures outside of Korea, and it has been very fun experiencing new things.