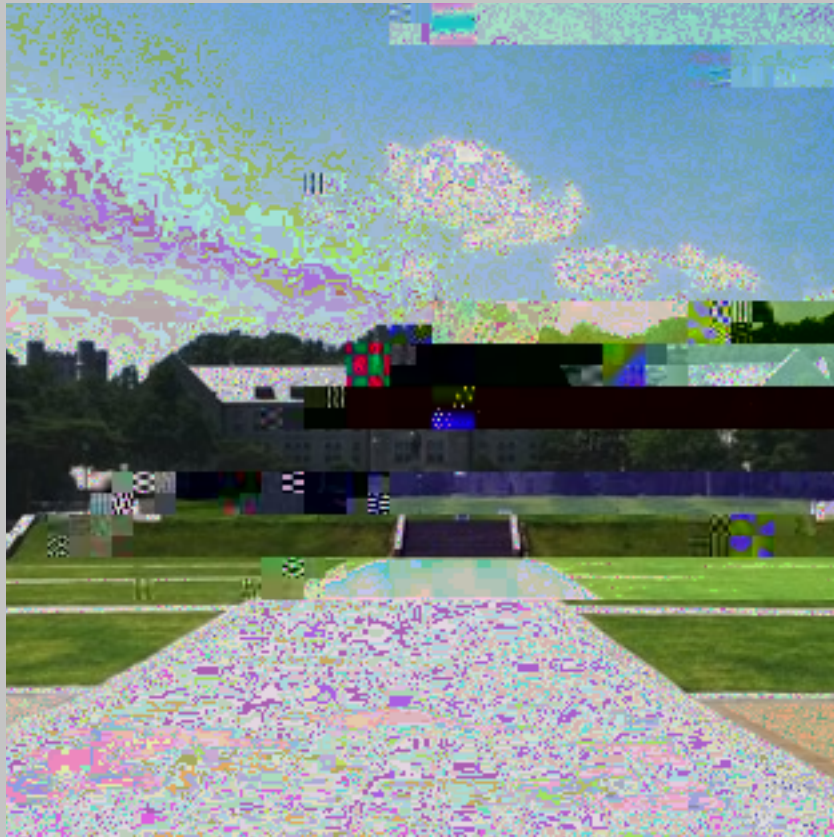


Summer 2016
Seoul, South Korea
Korea University

Int'l Summer Campus @KU



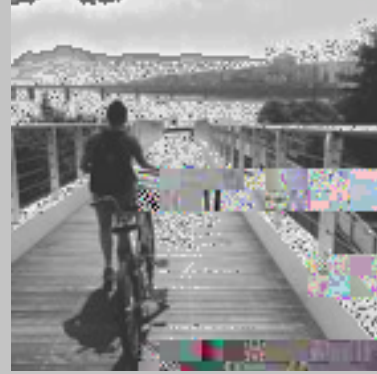
Korea University, located in the north-east region of Seoul in what is called Anam-Dong, or District of Anam. There are two subway stations conveniently located: Anam station which is nearest to the KU residences as well as restaurants and shops; and Korea University Station which is near the academic buildings. The photo above is taken from Central Plaza, roughly the middle of both subway stations. Don't worry if this sounds overwhelming! You'll be provided with a map at orientation and lots of friendly KU Buddies that will help you find your way.

“You’re going to South Korea in the Summer? The weather is great then!”

- Said no person ever



Observatory, Seoul Dream Forrest



Tandem bike rental along Han River

Part 1

Weather & Packing

Don't worry, you've made the right choice. South Korea is an amazing place to spend your summer abroad, however, it is HOT. As a Canadian, there were definitely days I thought I would melt, so save yourself room in your suitcase and don't bother with your hoodies and sweaters. It doesn't even get cold at night like it does in Vancouver. The coldest night I experienced was probably 25 degrees. But, DO pack a rain jacket. July is Seoul's heaviest month for rain— I almost wished I had brought wellies with me. Feel free to throw in a foldable umbrella into your luggage, but you'll probably go through a few while staying in Seoul— the wind would often steal them away. Don't get me wrong, there will still be lots of days with beautiful sunshine but blistering heat, so don't forget your sunglasses and sunscreen.

When it comes to packing, definitely consider comfortable shoes when staying/studying at KU. The entire campus is made up of stairs and steep hills. You'll also want comfortable shoes as transferring between subway stations can sometimes be a bit of an adventure (more on that later). Other than that, clothing styles are extremely similar to that of Vancouver. Don't worry about not fitting in because of a particular brand or style of t-shirt you might have. However for women it can be uncommon to wear tank tops or other thin-strapped tops. I'm not entirely sure if it was a cultural or fashion-related trend, but it was definitely noticeable.

Part 2

What to expect on campus & in residence

If you are staying in residence, Global House and CJ International House both have communal kitchens for use complete with fridges, stoves, a microwave, and a toaster. If you plan on cooking you will need to purchase or bring your utensils. I ended up buying a small pot and utensils at a near buy shop for less than \$10 in attempts to eat out less.

All residence buildings also have a laundry room that cost 1000 won per machine (washer or dryer). You will need 500 won coins to operate this, as well as your own laundry detergent.

you will need to purchase a T-money card (exactly like a compass card) in order to tap and go through the fare gates. Trips start at around 1250 won (~\$1.50 CAD), and will increase depending on distance, not "zones". You can purchase a T-money card at any convenience store (7 eleven, GS25, mini stop, to name a few). The cards themselves can be purchased by credit card, but **you can only reload them with cash**. I noticed most of the cash I had brought ended up going to this. If you find yourself experiencing nightlife, the subway does close relatively early, but not to worry, taxis are cheap compared to Vancouver and can take credit or t-money to pay for them (often around 12,000 won/\$15 CAD for a 25 minute ride).

There is honestly too many places for me to recommend for you to visit, so you are best doing a google search for the things that would interest you. Some of my favourites included:

- the Dongaemun Design Palace
- renting bikes along the Han River
- cycling through Seoul Forrest
- walking through Dream Forrest
- street food and shopping in Myeongdong
- nightlife and great food in Hongdae
- hopping on a bus and going to the Mud Festival in Boryeong (2.5 hour bus ride from Seoul)
- K-Live the K-Pop experience
- Cookin' Nanta show (live show in a theatre)
- Animal cafes! Dog, Cat, raccoon, and many more!

Some of these are included in the KU field trips that are every Friday. You don't want to miss out of these field trips as the school will pay for your admission and transportation!

Part 4

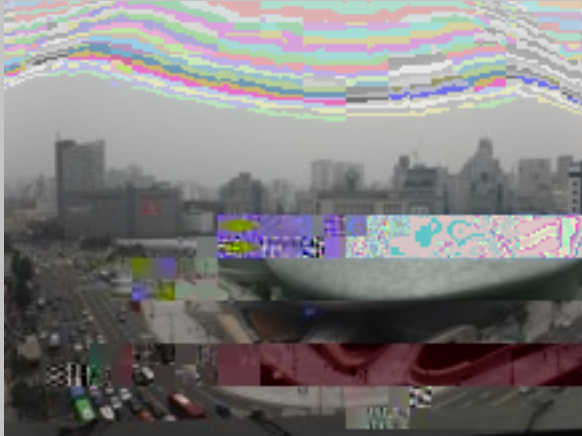
Looking back/Final Notes

My only regret is that sometimes I let the heat get to me and thought, "wow it is too hot to go out today, or to do that", so are there some things I missed out on. Also don't be afraid of experiencing somethings on your own. You will definitely make lots of friends in at KU but don't let their plans for their own summer abroad affect yours! If no one wants to get to Seoul Tower but you do, then just go!

Definitely participate in the KU Buddy program. It's a great way to make friends and learn about parts of Seoul that tourists wouldn't normally find out about otherwise. They we're also the best people to ask when you can't find something or need help with the subway.

Consider purchasing a data plan for your phone in Seoul. There is a cell shop on campus that was able to help me. I definitely would have got lost if I wasn't able to access the internet when I needed to! Speaking of that, Google maps works for transit in Seoul, but not walking. For a better map app, get Naver.

Lastly, try not to have western food while away! There are so many Korean dishes that I miss so much now that I have returned. Be sure to try street food while you are out and about!



Dongaemun - major area of Seoul



Boryeong Mud Festival