Studying business at SFU, I went on exchange to Seoul National University (SNU) in South Korea,
from March 1
st
 to August 31
st
, 2016.

Being a citizen of South Korea, I did not have to apply for any visas; thus here I will focus more
on sharing the academic and general student life at SNU. Please refer to other exchange reports
for application processes and for life in general in Korea. You could read reports written by
students who visited Yonsei or Korea University.

* Housing

You will receive several emails once you are accepted into SNU, one of which will be about
housing. I strongly recommend applying for on-campus housing, for it is very cheap at SNU
compared to that at other partnering schools of SFU in Korea and any type of off-campus housing.
It costs between 500 to 800 dollars for a semester, while this amount would only pay for a
month’s rent if you decide to live off-campus. Moreover, while houses in Vancouver require only
half a month’s rent as security deposit, those in Korea ask between thousands to tens of thousand
dollars. And as a result you’d have to carry a large amount of money from Canada to Korea and
vice versa. v.EMC /P <</MCID 101>> BDC q
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At SNU housing, residents are randomly selected among applicants using a computer program.
However, as far as I know, exchange students are given priority. After exchange student applicants
are accepted, remaining space is allocated to undergraduate freshmen and seniors enrolled at
SNU.

There are three undergraduate housing buildings: building no. 906 which is a corridor access type
and has double rooms with bathrooms inside; building no. 919 that is an apartment type and has
suites (three double rooms) with a shared bathroom and a living room; and buildings no. 921 to
926, which are corridor access types and have shared bathrooms. Building no. 906 has the newest
and fanciest facilities, while buildings no. 921 to 926 are rather old. When I was assigned to
building no. 919, I was very anxious as I had to live with 5 other roommates. I had had my own
room and bathroom all my life, and did not enjoy living with other people. However, as I am even
offering living on-campus in this report, my worries were proved groundless.

There are a lot of advantages to living on-campus; you can make good friends very easily and
quickly; you can swiftly come back to your room between classes and take a rest; and you do not
have to wait in long lines to get on buses packed with people, saving a lot of time on the road
since there would be a traffic jam during rush hour, both in early mornings when coming to
school and later that day again on your way back home. On the contrary, living on-campus, my
roommate left our room 5 minutes before class since his classroom was in the building closest
from our dorm. In my case, I could stay in my room until 15 minutes before class because I could
take a shuttle bus circulating the whole campus.

Most basic facilities, such as convenience store, fitness room, laundry room, cafeteria, and bakery
are offered. In particular, cafeterias are turned into study rooms outside mealtimes, which saves
students from their bothersome walk to the library.

* Dining within campus

Eating in SNU is very affordable. You would have to go outside campus if you want special meals,
but normally you could eat on-campus. Meals at on-campus cafeterias or restaurants cost
between 1-20 dollars, but usually 3-5 dollars, with unlimited side dishes and rice. I especially
recommend Cafeteria No.3 in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences area (Bldg. 75-1), for it
provides the most delicious food among on-campus cafeterias for the cheap price. Don’t also
forget to utilize various apps and websites that show menus offered for each meal at each
cafeteria.

<Cafeteria meal
-$5>

On
-campus cafeterias are usually a five
 to thirty
 minute walk from the dormitory; if you are too
lazy for even that distance,
 you can visit residence dining halls in undergraduate and graduate
dormitories. At undergraduate dormitories you swipe your card, and at graduate ones you
purchase meal tickets. Lastly, you can very conveniently use delivery services whenever you want,
even at late nights, since Korea has a very quick and convenient food delivery culture
–
 in fact,
you will run into many delivery men as you go in and out of dormitories.

* Libraries

 There are two central libraries within campus at Seoul National University: one is the old main
building, and the other is Kwanjeong building, built in 2015. Students need their ID cards to enter
the libraries, borrow books, and reserve group study rooms.
Kwanjeong building is fully equipped
with
 a lot of high
-tech
,
 user
-friendly facilities: there is space for students to take a nap, a
multimedia plaza where two to six students can watch a movie together, a music appreciation
seats, and a lot of Blu
-ray
 movies by genre, which resembles
 a DVD rental shop.

<Classroom>

Wrapping up
 the report, I would recommend going out for an exchange program for two
semesters. As I had already lived in Seoul for a
 long time, there was nothing really new for me
about living in Korea. However, getting involved in
 campus life as an exchange student in Korea,
which
 was different from that in Canada
,
 was a new, exciting adventure. Another benefit of going
on exchange is that you can travel to neighboring
 countries once your semester is over. I applied

for one semester only since I had to come back to Canada in six months due to personal reasons.