

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.

(Evan Jiang, ACUCA Secretariat, Email: acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw)

1. Name: Grace Amelia Gunawan

2. Home Institution— Name: Soegijapranata Catholic University Country: Indonesia

3. Host Institution— Name: Handong Global University Country: South Korea

4. Study Period: from 08 / 2012 to 12 / 2012 (mm/yyyy)

5. How did you hear about the ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme? (Please Specify)

International Office at your institution, ACUCA Website, From Fellow Student, Others

Comment:

I heard about ACUCA SMS from my lecturer and International Office in my university.

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

I took four classes, Theory of Housing, Architecture Studio 1, Environmental Engineering 2, and Korean 1. I did some activities, such as:

- Handong Saemaul Academy, a seminar and trip about Korean village development
- UNAI Aspire Workshop, there were 3 countries which participated in this workshop. Each country had to create creative programs about Millennium Development Goals which can be done in their country. In this workshop, Indonesia got the 2nd place.
- Culture Night, there were 6 Indonesians in Handong at that time, we presented dance and cooked traditional food from Indonesia.

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

I think the most difficult thing is language. It was not that difficult to live inside the campus, but when I went off campus, it was difficult because most of Korean can't speak English well.

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

Student Mobility Scheme gave me so many experiences. I learned not only Korean culture but also other country's because I met students from other parts of this world. By exchange program, you can study, learn culture, and make friend with international students in the same time. I think exchange program is a very good chance to take, the experience will be unforgettable.

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

Yes, in language, I can speak English better, read Hangeul (Korean character), and speak in Korean for daily life conversation. From my experience, I see that Koreans are very serious and diligent in study. It opens my mind about how important education is and does everything with diligence.

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

Asian cultures are interesting. From learning Korean culture, I also learned little bit about Chinese and Japanese culture. The uniqueness is these three cultures have many similarities but still they have differences.

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 required.

I arrived in Korea on August 21, 2012. When I arrived in Pohang, Korea, I found difficulty to communicate with dormitory staffs to find my dormitory because they couldn't speak in English. But after that, I met new international friends, helpers, and International Office staffs so I didn't feel confuse anymore to communicate with Korean. It was started with orientation for international students. There were students from United States, Netherland, Costa Rica, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Pakistan, Kenya, Nepal, and Mongolia. The orientation was so fun, we were divided into four teams and there were seven until ten people each team. We did some activities such as drew Korean flag, learned Korean, did some missions at downtown, campus tour, and tried Korean food for the first time in Korea.

I experienced a different education system in Handong Global University. The first one is for undergraduate student, they have to choose two majors. The second is every Wednesday there is chapel time and after that student join team meeting, every team is leaded by a professor. We created fun activities like Korean barbecue, ice skating, watching movie, fellowship, etc.

Lucky me, I came in fall semester, in this semester there was culture night. In culture night, we, Indonesian students presented traditional dance and cooked gado-gado, traditional food from Java, Indonesia. Other countries also cooked their traditional food and presented dance, presentation, or sang traditional song. Other activities are UNAI Aspire Workshop and Handong Saemaul Academy. UNAI Aspire Workshop is a workshop to create creative and applicable ideas to create better life as in MDGs. Indonesian team created cleaning and education project in Bantar Gebang, A slum area in Jakarta, Indonesia. We got the second prize for this project. Handong Saemaul Academy is a event that consist of seminar and trip to some places about Korean village development.

I also went to Seoul during Chuseok day (Korean Thanksgiving day) visited some places and did a survey to prepare my final assignment. The only one thing that I regret is I couldn't learn about Korean culture deeply. There was a trip for international students to experienced Korean culture, but it was held after my departure date.

From this exchange experience I can develop myself to be more independent, make friend with international students, and improve my English. I also learned Korean, it was fun to learned Korean and practiced it in Korea. This exchange experience will be an unforgettable moment in my life. Thank you for SMS ACUCA who gave me this chance. I hope there will be more students who interested to join this program and experience more about Asian culture.



