

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: Albert Budi Christian

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

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

4. Study Period: from 02 /2013 to 06/2013 (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:

Firstly, I read the poster about ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme in my university. Secondly, I joined the socialization about it. Thirdly, my lecturer and my vice rector offer this opportunity to me.

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

I have studied various kinds of things from both formal and informal education. From formal education, I studied Computer Science, which is my main major. Besides that, I also learned Communication to further improve my skills. The reason why I chose communication is because every type of businesses needs this skill. Then, from informal education, I joined several clubs and life groups. Firstly, I joined Handong Today English Newspaper, a journalism club which publishes English newspaper every month. I joined this club because I like writing. Secondly, I joined Idudus (International Day Unto Day Utters Speech). In this life group, we studied Bible together; we researched and read the books to prove the contents in the Bible. It was a very exciting experience because beside we learned some new knowledge; we also increased our faith to Jesus Christ. Thirdly, I joined IBS (International Buddy System), an international group to make a mutual relationship between Koreans and Foreigners. For Foreigners, they can learn Korean culture, and for Koreans, they can improve their English skill. Fourthly, I also joined Catholic Community. In this life group, I learned Catholic values to increase my Catholic faith. There were a lot of activities that I participated. Firstly, I joined Love Feast, an event for foreigners to cure home sick. Secondly, I joined Korean Traditional Art class to learn how to make traditional pattern in South Korea. Thirdly, I tried Darye (Korean Tea Ceremony) class to practice traditional form of tea ceremony. Another activity that I joined beside campus life is being a church activist. In St. Andrew's church, I served and worshipped God.

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

Food, I have a problem with food there. The taste of foods in South Korea totally different with the ones in Indonesia. That is the reason why I always cook in South Korea to make me survive. The advantage from this problem is my cooking skill significantly improved.

8. What advice would you give to fellow students at ACUCA universities who are thinking of taking

part in the Student Mobility Scheme?

Just take it. This chance doesn't come twice. Don't hesitate to take the chance. Because of this experience, my knowledge is significantly developed. I can see new things, I got a lot of friends, I can see the beauty of the world, and the main point is that it will help you to open the next step better.

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

Yes, I have.

There are a lot of positive things after I come back from this exchange, like being punctual, energy-efficient, more matured, more diligent, and read Bible more.

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

Every Asian region (i.e. East Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and South East Asia) has their own identity. For example, people from East Asian countries looks similar each other, but different with people from South East Asia. However, Asian people have similarities in terms of attitude and ethics. In addition, Asian countries have unique culture and values which are distinguished from countries in the other continents.

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.¹

¹ The photos are advised to be the subject of activities, learning, etc., and should include the student themselves. Please attach the photos dividedly within the Email.

Study abroad? I had never imagined before. It is like a dream for me. Special gratitude for ACUCA to make SMS program. This program helped me to understand and see the beauty of the world, like another diversity, another culture, another kind of food, another language, and etc. I am so happy with this. I have some unique story when I joined SMS ACUCA program. Before I went to South Korea, there was falter feeling in my heart when I was accepted as an exchange student in Handong Global University (HGU). Sometimes, I still think whether it is real or not. Because if I go there, this is my first experience to live abroad, but I believe God has a best plan for me, so I decided to go there. At the first, I was confused about many issues like the culture, language, and the offered courses in South Korea, especially in HGU. First issue was I did not know anything about Korean culture so that I was worried about my life there. Second issue was there was information about Korean people cannot speak English properly. Third issue is that I had taken all of the courses related with my major. Those problems caused fear inside of my heart. Sometimes I think, how can I live there? But fortunately, many people supported and helped me to overcome those problems. The international office staff in my university always helped me whenever I need a help, and I have a friend who joined in SMS ACUCA program in the last semester. She was like an angel for me because she gave much useful information about HGU and SMS ACUCA programs. She also introduced her friends to me. It was very helpful for me to survive in the first time I came there.

Last issue was the offered courses in HGU. HGU has so many courses taught in 50% Korean - 50% English, and 100% in English; it also has many fields of study. But for courses related with my major which is taught in 100% English, I had already taken them in my university. I was so confused because I don't have confidence to take the courses taught in 50% Korean - 50% English because I haven't learned Korean Language before. Finally, I chose the courses from another major that is taught in 100% English. It was very interesting to study another major, I learned new knowledge and new characteristic of friends. In HGU, I had 3 life sides as student. Those are academic, non-academic and spiritual life. My academic life went as a common student. However, there were some stuffs that I had to adapt, such as: teaching method which was quite different with my university. Besides academic life, I had various non-academic life. In HGU, I joined some clubs and events as I told above. Besides that, my non-academic life gave me much experience in understanding culture (not only Korean culture, but also international culture) and getting many good friends. I also had spiritual life since HGU is a Christian university. I joined some religious life groups that I told above too. Besides that, my friends always supported me to read and study Bible every day. It was really helpful to increase my faith as Christian.

Another experience that I got besides my life as student, I got another experience in South Korea, such as: I learned the history of South Korea, history of Hangeul and learned Korean culture. Besides that, I joined Perpika (Indonesian Student Community in South Korea). In there, I can cure my problems about food because my friends gave me Indonesian seasoning. It really helped me because I can cook Indonesian food by myself. I learned Chinese language too there. In addition, there are many friends from China who offered me to teach their language. It was very interesting to learn new language. Generally, being an exchange student under SMS ACUCA program gave me a great experience which is very useful in my daily life now.



