

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: Regita Permana Putri

2. Home Institution— Name: Sanata Dharma 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 the international office of my institution, they gave us some announcement about this program.

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

I studied English Education in Handong as an exchange student. In Handong, there are so many activities, both academic and non-academic. Besides learning English as my major, I also learned Korean language, culture, and history. I also joined some non-academic activities, such as: Christian club (ALPHA Course), Handong Cultural Night, UNAI ASPIRE Competition for Developing Countries.

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

At the first month, it was very difficult to adjust the life style because Korea and Indonesia has different culture and style in most of everything, such as: language, food, manner, teaching method, religious life, and friendship. Language was the most difficult problem, because most of people in Korea (especially Pohang) cannot understand English.

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

For fellow students, it will be better to look for information as complete as you can about the campus life from general until details, for example: how much is the living cost, what kind of textbooks that they use in teaching learning activities, what kind of food that they have, how is the weather, etc.

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

Yes.
In general, Handong gives me many positive values, such as: on-time habit, respect older people more, stronger belief to God.

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

Now, I have found out that Asian culture is so unique. Every country in Asia has so many different and unique cultures although they are in the same continent. It is so fun to learn new Asian culture because each of culture has a good and interesting meaning.

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 welcome.

I had never imagined of going to Korea before I joined the ACUCA program and got accepted as an exchange student in Handong Global University. At the first, I was confused about many issues like the culture, living cost, and the offered courses in South Korea, especially in Handong Global University. First issue was I did not know anything about Korean culture so that I was worried about my life there. Second issue was the living cost in Korea which is much higher compare with Indonesia. Third issue was the courses in Handong Global University that I got little bit late. However, many people helped me with those problems. I had a friend from the same university with me who became the exchange student in Handong Global University since the previous semester, so I asked her about so many details. She gave me many useful information about what I should have prepared for my academic and non-academic activities, the weather in the city that I would have lived, and many more. That useful information made me not worried about how I live in Korea. Regarding the living cost issues, the international office in my university gave me information about ACUCA and the SMS program. They helped my and my friends to apply for the subsidy program so that I can afford the living cost that I will spend in Korea. Last issue was the offered courses in Handong Global University. Handong has so many courses held in 50% Korean - 50% English, and 100% in English; it also has many fields of study.

In Handong, I have 3 life sides as student. Those are academic life, non-academic life, and spiritual life. My academic life went as common student. However, there were some stuff that I had to adapt, such as: teaching method which was quite different with my school. Besides academic life, I had a various non-academic life. In Handong, I joined some events, such as: Culture Night (performed Indonesian tradisional dance), Festival Day, fellowship events (International students fellowship, Students-parents fellowship, room fellowship, etc.), International Buddy System, etc. 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 Handong Global University is a Christian university. I joined religious club which is held every week, Alpha Course and Chapel. In Alpha Course club, people could understand better about God and Christian.

Generally, being an exchange student by ACUCA program gave me a great experience which is very useful in my daily life now.





