



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Seoul National University Program
Academic Year 2012
Program Guide

Seoul University Program
<http://useoul.edu/>

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students should prepare themselves by learning about their host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with: www.economist.com/countries or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: <http://www.newspapers24.com>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. Students may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before they leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html> Customs and traditions in the host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions, students may want to visit the following website: www.hthstudents.com
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to departure, students will meet with their International Study Advisor at an orientation to help them further prepare for their study abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

- **Ms. Moon-kyung Baik**
Student Exchange Program Coordinator
Email: exch_america@snu.ac.kr

Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own flight arrangements into the Incheon International Airport. All students will be met by Seoul National University representatives. More information will be provided with the acceptance materials.
- **Visa Information:** A student visa (D-2) is required to study in Korea if a student does not have Korean nationality. In most cases, exchange students can acquire their D-2 visa easily when they submit their Certificates of Admission issued by SNU along with other required documents at the Korean Embassy in their home country. Please contact your nearest Korean Embassy or consulate for more detailed information on the visa application process.

Academics

Program dates and Academic calendar	
Spring 2012	Fall 2012
Arrival:	Arrival:
Orientation:	Orientation:
March 2: Semester Starts	Semester Starts: September 1
Break:	Break:
Exams:	Exams:
Mid-June: Semester Ends	Semester Ends: Mid December
Departure:	Departure:

- Check in at: <http://oia.snu.ac.kr/> for updated dates and information.
- For course selection information, please refer to: <http://sugang.snu.ac.kr>
- Course approval information will be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing and Living

- Limited on-campus housing is available for exchange students. Exchange students may apply for the Gwanaksa dormitory, but housing is not guaranteed due to increasing number of students applying.
- Off-campus housing is available around the campus. SNU does not provide an assistance to find off-campus housing and it is students' own responsibility to find accommodation off-campus.
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at:
- **Local Transportation:**
SNU provides free shuttle service around campus. There are also many local buses that go by the university. Refer to the pdf for more information:
<http://www.useoul.edu/news/news0501.jsp>

Korea has an extremely well-developed transportation network. Seoul is extensively connected with other cities and countries via air, land and sea routes, and getting around

within the city is pleasurable thanks to a well-organized network of subways, buses and taxis. Furthermore, a new transportation fare system offers incredible discounts when transferring between buses as well as between subway and buses. Please visit: <http://topis.seoul.go.kr/eng/> for more information of local buses.

- **Sponsored Activities:**

SNU offers variety of student activities and sports clubs. Students clubs include musical bands, choir, orchestra, dance, painting, photography, traditional Korean music, travel clubs and SNU International Students Association. Sports clubs include fencing, golf, basketball, rugby, snowboard, horse riding, baseball, yacht, judo, kendo, soccer, taekwondo, tennis, etc. Exchange students can also apply for the SNU Buddy Program as well.

Meals:

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- Students are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. Students will have a smoother transition by making sure that they prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
BC emergency contact information:
OIP (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
BCPD (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. Students are subject to the laws of their host country, so if students choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about their host country's laws by visiting:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:
http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2011-2012_estimated_student_budget_w_housing_June_2011.pdf
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards/Scholarship_Opportunities.html

Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation.
- Mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting oiexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting the International Study Advisor, Christina Dimitrova at dimitroc@bc.edu
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock. The following may help students transition back to home:
<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

References

- **Useful websites:**
<http://www.roughguides.com/> travel guidebook
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>