

# **An Unforgettable Study Abroad Experience at Korea University**

**~2025 spring and fall semester~**

## **Introduction**

Before studying abroad, I was interested in the growing connections within Asia. Economic cooperation and cross-border exchanges have been expanding rapidly in recent years. However, I felt that mutual understanding among people from different countries might not be developing at the same pace.

Even when students from different countries gather in the same environment, they often tend to stay within their own national groups. As a result, opportunities for interaction exist, but relationships sometimes remain superficial. I became interested in understanding what is necessary for students in Asia to build deeper relationships and stronger mutual trust. With this question in mind, I decided to participate in the CAMPUS Asia program.

## **Experiences and Discoveries During life in Korea**

During my study abroad experience in Korea, I had many opportunities to interact with students from various countries through activities in KUBA. Through daily conversations and shared activities, I was able to learn about different cultures, perspectives, and ways of thinking. These experiences allowed me to build friendships with people from around the world, which became one of the most memorable parts of my time abroad.

In addition to participating in international student activities, I also joined a tennis circle at Korea University and had the opportunity to compete in several tournaments. Through practicing and competing together with Korean students, I was able to build friendships beyond language and cultural differences. Sports became a natural way to communicate and connect with others, even when our backgrounds were different.

One of the most impressive experiences for me was the cheering culture at Korean universities. During sports events, many students gathered and passionately supported their university through songs and chants. Seeing students unite with such enthusiasm made me realize how strong their sense of belonging to their university community was. I felt that this shared spirit created a powerful sense of unity among students.

In addition, as part of the CAMPUS Asia program, I had the opportunity to participate in the Jeju Forum and the Beijing Forum. At these forums, I was able to listen to discussions by experts and researchers on various political, economic, and social issues facing Asia. These experiences helped me deepen my understanding of the importance of international cooperation and sustainable development in the region.

The fieldwork associated with these forums also allowed me to directly experience local cultures and societies. By observing and engaging with different communities, I was able to appreciate the diversity that exists across Asia.

## **Change in My Perspective**

Through these experiences, I began to realize that many of the challenges in Asia are not only related to institutions or economic systems, but also to the relationships between people. Building trust and mutual understanding among individuals from different cultural backgrounds plays an essential role in strengthening regional cooperation.

My experiences in KUBA and my observations of Korean university culture showed me how a shared sense of community can connect people and encourage collaboration. At the same time, the discussions at the Jeju Forum and the Beijing Forum highlighted the importance of dialogue and cooperation across countries and cultures.

## **Conclusion and Future prospects**

Participating in the CAMPUS Asia program gave me valuable opportunities to work with people who have diverse perspectives and cultural backgrounds. Through these interactions, I learned the importance of understanding others' viewpoints while building relationships based on trust.

In the future, I hope to pursue a career that connects people and creates value across borders. By facilitating collaboration among people and organizations from different regions, I would like to contribute to building stronger international relationships, particularly within Asia. The experiences and networks I gained through CAMPUS Asia will serve as an important foundation for my future career.



