

**Award-winning Experience Report on [Voyage of Discovery Scholarship:
Uncover New Frontiers] for Study Abroad from National Kaohsiung University
of Hospitality and Tourism**

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Name of report	Discovering South Korea: An unforgettable journey of learning and connection.
Department, Graduate Institute and Grade	3 rd year students in International Culinary Arts, National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism
Chinese Name	陳厚銘
Foreign country for study (including city)	Daejeon, South Korea
Foreign university for study	Woosong University

1. Self Introduction

Hello, my name is Reinardus Tanujaya and my Chinese name is 陳厚銘. I am an international student at the National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism majoring in the International Program of Culinary Art. This year is my third year of study, and I got a big opportunity to do one semester of study exchange at Woosong University in Daejeon, South Korea. I joined the SICA department here (Sol International Culinary Arts).

My educational background is rooted in the Culinary field. Since I was in elementary school, I have cultivated a deep understanding of culinary starting from a hobby to a passion. Since my passion is cooking, I joined a vocational/hospitality-based school in my high school year. I have always dreamed of going to school abroad and studying as high as I can. Studying in Taiwan and Korea is a part of my dream that happened in my life. I am grateful that my parents and family supported me in realizing my dream.

I chose South Korea for my study exchange because I enjoyed Korean culture for a long time ago, especially K-food, K-drama, and K-pop. I feel like I am welcome to come to Korea. I am grateful for this program so that I can visit Korea for the first time.

After finishing my exchange period I will continue to gain skills during the internship period. I hope everything that I learned can be useful for my future.

Since I wrote this report in my last month in South Korea, I wanted to share my study exchange experience and my daily life in Korea through this report.

2. **Introduction to Institution**

Woosong University located in Daejeon, South Korea was founded in 1955. Since that time, the university has developed into a comprehensive institution offering a wide range of academic programs across a variety of disciplines. With a friendly and inclusive atmosphere, Woosong University welcomes students from various backgrounds, it can be seen that a lot of international students from 84 different countries enrolled in Woosong University. This university is renowned for its commitment to cultivating a global perspective among its students. The university has established partnerships with many institutions around the world including NKUHT. Woosong University has a variety of majors such as Global Hotel Management, Computer Science and Engineering, AI and Big Data, Hospitality Management, and many more including my major Culinary Arts. The university is highly respected for its excellence in majors such as hospitality, culinary arts, business, and health care. The campus is equipped with modern facilities and technology, creating a dynamic environment for students to learn and develop their skills. The university is committed to always following global education trends, ensuring its students are ready to face the challenges of the modern world. The dedication from Woosong University makes it one of the top private universities in South Korea.

3. Overseas Study Experience

Studying abroad in South Korea is an unforgettable experience in the world of cooking and creativity. I took 4 practical classes during my exchange period, which were modern Korean cuisine and desserts, styling and plating, baking techniques, and pastry techniques. The first class is Modern Korean Cuisine and Desserts, which focuses on modern Korean cooking, especially Tteok (rice cakes). What made this experience even more special was the unique “Modern Korean Cuisine and Desserts” course in my department. It is available exclusively in Korea and taught by a Korean professor, offering authentic insight into local culinary traditions and flavors.

Similar to my practical class in Taiwan, the professors use the same method of teaching, they show us how to cook through demonstrations, and then we try it ourselves by hands-on cooking sessions. The baking class was a highlight, teaching us the science behind making perfect bread from scratch. It's not just about recipes, we learn the magic that happens in the oven. Pastry technique classes, held in superb international standard kitchens, include hands-on experience with croissant machines, making learning practical and fun. Decorating cakes and pastries has become an art, and what adds a unique flavor to the experience is that our cake-making techniques are taught by a French professor, and most delicious cakes mostly come from France.

Styling and plating courses are also unique to me. A professional photographer was brought in to capture our final photo presentation. This added a touch of real-world professionalism and showed us how to make our dishes not only delicious but also visually appealing.

Collaboration with photographers makes our final exhibition a showcase of our extraordinary culinary achievements.

Complete facilities, including a professional photography area, make for the best learning experience. Practical sessions in a well-equipped international kitchen helped us put into practice what we learned in class. In the Kitchen, we can learn about Korean local ingredients and cooking methods to enrich my understanding of Korean cuisine. Not only culinary skills, but I can also improve my communication skills through classmates from different backgrounds and countries allowing me to exchange our cultures and languages.

In conclusion, my time studying in South Korea deepened my passion for cooking. The combination of traditional and modern techniques, as well as exposure to international standards, collaboration with photographers, and the unique expertise of Korean and French professors, have shaped me into a more skilled and versatile chef. This experience not only enhanced my culinary skills but also prepared me for a global culinary journey.

4. Overseas Study and Life Experience

Studying abroad is like opening the door to a new world. Imagine walking into a place where everything from the food to the language is different. It was a bit tiring at first, but it turned out to be a great adventure.

One of the most interesting parts is meeting people from all over the world. We share our unique traditions and learn from each other. It was like taking a crash course in world culture. We discuss ideas and work on projects together, bringing together different perspectives and making each task a global collaboration.

Living in a new country also taught me a lot. From understanding the bus system to buying groceries, buying food, sending packages, and every activity where I need to speak a new language. every day is a little adventure. I learned to be independent and face all kinds of challenges by myself. Sometimes it's hard, but the experience makes me grow stronger and stronger every day.

On weekends, it's all about exploring. Try local food, visit famous places, visit famous café, and catch concerts there too. Because South Korea is my dream country, I have many things to do here and also many new experiences here. From trying octopus sashimi directly, watching my favorite singer's concert, to enjoying the first snow in my life. Sometimes, I also

buy a lot of K-fashion and K-pop items because the prices are much cheaper than in my country or Taiwan.

Because the weather here is much colder than in Taiwan, I need to wear lots of layers. Living in cold air below 0°C is also a new experience for me. At first, I found it difficult to adapt to cold weather, but as time went by I tried to like it more than hot weather. As a child living in a tropical country always wondered what it would be like to live in a cold country. Thanks to this opportunity, I can finally experience it

Looking back, studying abroad was like a new chapter full of ups and downs. It's not just about getting good grades, it's about discovering who I am and making friends from all over the world. The things I learned and the friends I made along the way still influence my life today, making it one of the best experiences of my life.

5. Specific Benefit of Overseas Study

Study exchange is not only about the study, but it has a lot of benefits for me and my future career. These are the benefits that I got from this opportunity. There are some kind of differences between NKUHT and Woosong University in the educational system.

- **Cultural Exposure:** Living in a new country introduced me to new cultures, traditions, and ways of life. This practical experience broadens my perspective and promotes cultural awareness. Taiwan and Korea have significant differences in social life. In South Korea, we have several language levels, such as casual and formal. We need to use formal ways to talk with strangers or someone older than us. But if we are already close to them, and they allow us to speak casually then it will be fine. In Taiwan, there are no boundaries as long as it is still in a polite way.
- **Language Proficiency and Learning:** Placing myself in a new place with a new language will speed up the language learning process. Chinese and Korean are difficult for me. But talking and hearing from local people is very helpful to improve our language skills. Communicating with local people is more effective than in a traditional classroom. Korean is more complicated because there are several levels of language that we need to pay attention to. For text, I prefer Korean because hangeul is easier to read than Chinese words.
- **Personal Growth:** Adapting to different environments and facing new challenges will encourage my personal growth. I have become more independent, resilient, and open-minded when facing new and unfamiliar situations. It's always difficult to adapt to a new environment for the first time, but the longer I try, the easier it gets.

- **Global Network:** Developing and building relationships with individuals around the world will expand my social network. These relationships can be beneficial for my future projects, job prospects, careers, and personal relationships. There are students from 84 different countries at Woosong University, I can have cultural exchanges with them and establish social relationships with them.
- **Academic Enrichment:** Studying in different education systems exposes me to a variety of learning methods and different points of view. It expands my education by allowing me to study topics that are not available at my home university. For example here in Woosong's culinary department, Korean cuisine class is available while not available in Taiwan. Every country has its distinct major that is only available there.

Here at Woosong University, the schedule is based on which block you chose during the course registration period. Each block contains 3 weeks of intensive practical learning. While NKUHT doesn't use this system.

- **Career Opportunities:** International experience is highly valued by employers. Studying abroad improves adaptability, foreign language proficiency, and willingness to face challenges. Those are some sort of skills that are highly needed in today's global job market
- **Memorable Experiences:** Living abroad gives me the chance to have one-of-a-kind and unforgettable experiences. From exploring new famous places to making lifelong friends, these memories contribute to a rich and satisfying life.

6. Reflection and Suggestions

Taking part in a study exchange abroad is an unforgettable experience that offers multiple benefits. Looking at these opportunities, it becomes clear that exposure to diverse cultures and academic environments pushes personal and intellectual growth. Studying abroad is like going on a big adventure. Imagine meeting people from all over the world, experiencing a whole new environment, and learning in a variety of methods.

It could be a little challenging at first to adjust to the differences, but I quickly see that this opportunity is exciting because of the variations in how people live and study. I can adopt a fresh viewpoint and form a friendship with classmates who think and act differently than I do.

Being able to learn a new language in the origin country is such a good opportunity for me. Buying groceries, buying food, and going to the local market have improved my Korean language skills.

This program also can broaden my career opportunities in the future, because from this

program I am not just an individual who is academically and practically skilled but also has good language skills. These abilities will accommodate me in the future.

In the end, studying exchange is not just about studying, classes, and exams. It's more like writing my own story about making friendships, exploring new places, and realizing how big the world is. This study exchange isn't just about where I am going, it's about who I will become.

Many thanks to NKUHT who helped me to pursue my childhood dream to study abroad in South Korea. This experience will be such a memorable part of my life. I hope Woosong University's study exchange program endures in the future and that the participant quota rises to give chances to more students who are sincere about participating in it. 'm hoping that a lot of students will also have this wonderful experience.

7. Photos of study activities



Photos taken with Indonesian classmates and Professor Hyejin Kim.



Photos taken with classmates during Modern Korean Cuisine and Desserts class.



Photo of Hanbit Tower taken by me at Daejeon Expo Park.



Photo of me taken in Haeundae Beach in Busan City, South Korea.



Photo taken by me at Blackpink's concert in Gocheok Skydome, Seoul.



Photo taken at Halloween night with Indonesian students in Woosong University.



Photo of me in front of Woosong University logo at the universities main entrance.



Description of content of Photo 2:



Photo taken by professional photographer during Styling and plating class for final exhibiton.



Photo taken by me at Woosong University East Campus.



Photo of me taken during Bakery Techniques class.



Photo by me at famous spot for BTS music video at Pohang City, South Korea.