

## **Getting Ready for Soonchunhyang University and Korea Spring 2022**

**\*\*\*This document contains important information you will need before and during your Study Abroad at Soonchunhyang University.**

**Please read it carefully and print it for future reference. \*\*\***

There are many things you need to know about getting ready for your study abroad in Korea and what to expect for your arrival. You will be receiving additional information in the coming weeks and here is the list you need to start working on.

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## 1. Passport & Student VISA

If you do not have a passport, apply for one immediately. You cannot travel to Korea without a passport. Instructions for how to apply for a passport is available at all home countries online. **If you have a passport, double check the passport expiration date and it has to be valid during your stay.**

If you have uploaded your passport when you applied, you will receive your official "Certificate of Admission" soon. The Certificate will be sent to you by email so **please print it out in color** and use it as a supporting document when applying for a student VISA.

For those who have not submitted or submitted expired passport along with their online application, please send a scanned copy of your passport(personal information page) to [astudies@sch.ac.kr](mailto:astudies@sch.ac.kr) as soon as possible.

Once you receive your "Certificate of Admission", please make sure all your information (name, date of birth, nationality, intended study period, etc.) on the certificate is correct.

The next step is to apply for a Student VISA. You must obtain a Student VISA to study in Korea. It is very important that you contact your nearest Korean embassy or consulate to find out exactly what documents you need to get a student VISA. Many Korean embassies have their own slight variations. A couple of documents (copy of Business Registration and Certificate of Business Registration of the university) that you likely need when you apply for your VISA are sent to you by email. Some Korean consulates and embassies require them and some don't. Many consulates and embassies allow you to apply for a VISA in person or by mail.

The following is your VISA sponsor information:

Name – Mr. Kim, Wijong	Title- Study Abroad Coordinator
Date of Birth- Aug 7th, 1991	Email- <a href="mailto:astudies@sch.ac.kr">astudies@sch.ac.kr</a>
Phone- +82 41 530 1383	Cell +82 10 3530 1370

If you currently have other types of visa to travel to Korea or are now already in Korea, please contact [astudies@sch.ac.kr](mailto:astudies@sch.ac.kr) to receive further instructions.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\* Your student visa is a SINGLE ENTRY visa.** While you may enter Korea before the semester starts, it means you can only enter Korea **ONCE** with the visa. If you leave Korea before you issue your Alien Registration Card, you cannot enter again with your student visa. You would have to repeat the whole visa process again. Since you cannot get a student visa in Korea, you would have to go back to your home country to get a new student visa.

## 2. Important Dates

<b>Dorm Open &amp; Official Arrival Dates</b>	TBA
<b>International Student Orientation</b>	TBA
<b>Fall Semester Classes Begins</b>	Feb 28, 2022
<b>Mid Term Exam Period</b>	April 18-22,2022
<b>Final Term Exam Period</b>	June 6-10, 2022
<b>Make-up Week*</b>	June 13-17, 2022
<b>Fall Semester Ends</b>	June 17, 2022
<b>Dorm Close</b>	June 19, 2022

*\* Any classes that were missed during the semester due to national or local holidays, unexpected reasons are to be made-up during this week.*

*\*These dates are subject to change*

### **Arriving in Korea**

The official **ARRIVAL** dates will be announced later and I will let you know by email. During the official arrival dates and times, you will meet the SCH representative who will provide transportation to the University at the airport. Detailed instructions on where to meet the SCH representative at the airport will be emailed to you at a later date.

**\*\*\* You CANNOT arrive at Korea other than the official arrival date, please make sure to know that you could be quarantined and pay the fees during the quarantine period.**

An airport pickup online survey form will be sent to you later when we have the exact schedule. Please fill it out with your COMPLETE travel itinerary that includes airline, flight number, day, date, and time of arrival.

### **International Students Orientation**

Attendance at orientation is **mandatory** for all incoming international students – both returning and first-time students. The following is a brief schedule for orientation:

- Welcoming Session
- Opening a Korean bank account & Taking ID Photo
- Fingerprint registration (For Dorm Access)
- Campus Stamp Tour
- Laws and Life in Korea
- Insurance & Hospital
- Finalizing Course Registration
- Dorm Rules & Regulations
- Meeting with returning students

### 3. Health Insurance and Health Clearance Requirements

#### Health Insurance

Any international students staying in Korea without health insurance is subject to the mandatory subscription to the National health insurance of Korea from March 1, 2021.

You can find more details at <http://sgee.sch.ac.kr/inter/inter0207.php>

#### Health Clearance Requirements

To live in the dorms, a tuberculin skin test or chest x-ray dated WITHIN 1 MONTH of the starting date of the dorm move-in dates is required. If tuberculin skin test result is positive, a chest X-ray is required. The test results must be turned in before entering the dorm by email at [astudies@sch.ac.kr](mailto:astudies@sch.ac.kr). Otherwise, **you are not allowed to move into a dorm**. When you send the test results by email, please **put your name on the result file name and translate the result in English if the result is not in English**.

### 4. Alien Registration

If you are staying in Korea for more than 90 days, you have to register as a foreigner at the immigration office and you have to register your finger print. International office will assist you with this alien registration process.

#### **ID Photos**

You will need to have your ID photo taken for Immigration. Your photo will be taken at SCH during orientation. It costs 5,000 won (~\$4 USD) and this is mandatory.

### 5. International Studies Program

- From Fall 2019 semester, the name of the study program has changed from Asian studies to International studies, but the course offerings will be the same as before.
- In January, we will announce to new incoming students about the online course registration. We will do our best to match your course registration preference, but please be aware that course registration will be first come first serve. If there are any closed courses, we will adjust and find you another class during the orientation.
- At SCH, international exchange students must take minimum 16 credits and maximum 18 credits for one semester.

#### Available Courses for International Students

A complete list of courses can be found at: (click on the course categories on the left side for a description of each course) <http://sgee.sch.ac.kr/acad/acad0403.php>

You will finalize your course registration during the international students' orientation

session and the schedule will be announced later.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- ❖ Not all of these courses will be offered in **Spring 2022**.
- ❖ If a class has less than 10 students registered, it will be cancelled.
- ❖ A list of available courses for **Spring 2022** will be posted on the website in the mid of January. Please check the website for updated information. Since we do not have big changes on the course list, you could check the list of available courses from the last semester.
- ❖ Due to COVID-19 outbreak, the course will be taught both online and face-to-face lecture. We will let you know once we get more information regarding **Spring 2022** lecture teaching method.
- ❖ The complete course syllabus for the Fall 2021 semester is available at <http://sgee.sch.ac.kr/acad/acad0403.php> Simply click “Download Documents” and the syllabus will open. The course syllabus for the **Spring 2022** semester will be ready soon.
- ❖ Grading Scale: 4.5 scale  
Cultural Internship Discussion (6 credits) & Cultural Courses (1 credit): Pass or Fail

All the other International Studies courses adhere to the government mandated grading policy:

Grade	Score	GPA	Grading Curve
A+	95-100	4.5	0-30%
A	90-94	4.0	
B+	85-89	3.5	0-65% (A, B accumulate)
B	80-84	3.0	
C+	75-79	2.5	More than 35%
C	70-74	2.0	
D+	65-69	1.5	
D	60-64	1.0	
F	0-59	N/A	

- ❖ Each semester consists of 16 weeks including 1 make-up week at the end of each semester. The total class hour for 3 credits course is 45 hours (3 hours/week x 15 weeks = 45 class hours) and this includes mid-term and final exam hour.

## 6. On Campus Housing

All international students will live in **Global Village Dormitory** – see this webpage for more details. <http://sgee.sch.ac.kr/inter/inter020101.php>

In Global Village, you will be living with 11 other students in one suite. Each suite has 6 rooms, 2 bath rooms and living room. You would have to share your room with other student. Please be aware that every dormitory in SCH is single gender dormitory. It means you cannot enter opposite sex gender suite.

Students who are wishing to stay in the dorms during the summer or winter breaks need to pay for a dorm room. The cost is approximately 9,000 won per day and the minimum numbers of days is 10.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION – READ THIS**

Dormitory rules and regulations in Korea differ considerably from those in many other countries. The most significant differences are:

1. Entering the dormitory or the suite of the opposite gender is prohibited at all time.
2. There is a required 10:30 pm curfew. All residents (men and women) must return to the dormitory by this time.
3. Smoking in dorm is not permitted.
4. Consuming alcohol in the dorm is not permitted.
5. Meals are not provided.
6. Cooking is not permitted in the dorm rooms.
7. Food is allowed in the designated dorm area. Convenience stores and cafeterias are close by. There are two kitchens that have induction cookers and dining lounges along with microwaves, toasters and large coolers/refrigerators in Global Village.
8. None resident cannot enter the dormitory. We will help you register your finger print for dormitory access at the beginning of the semester.

All international exchange students will be required to sign an agreement stating they understand dormitory rules, regulations and the penalties for violation. Penalties include possible expulsion from the SCH International Studies Program.

## **7. What to Bring**

### **Packing**

Be sure to check with the airline regulations for international travel weight limits. Don't pack too much.

Closet space is limited so please pack conservatively. You'll be here for only 4 months and incidentals can all be purchased here, as you need them. Larger size clothing (for both men and women) is difficult to find in Korea and a shopping trip to a larger city is required.

Korea has four traditional seasons – hot summer, cool fall, cold winter and warm spring. Look on the Internet for average temperatures during the months you will be here. Korea uses the **Centigrade** temperature scale.

Casual dress is fine on campus but you might want to bring one 'dressy' outfit just in case.

### **Personal items that are hard to find here:**

- ❖ Full size bath towels.
- ❖ Tampons (Feminine napkins are readily available).
- ❖ Deodorant / Antiperspirant

### **Prescription medication**

- ❖ We recommend bringing prescription medication that can last the duration of the program. If this is not possible, bring a typed prescription form from your doctor for refillable prescription medications.

### **Bedding and Towels**

Bedding and Towels are available for purchase at larger department stores. The average cost is 40,000 won (\$ 35 USD) and includes a sheet, comforter/blanket, pillow and pillow case.

### **Laptop/Netbook Computers**

If you have one, it is strongly advised for you to bring it. If you don't have one, and want one, it is suggested that you buy one before coming to Korea as they will generally be more expensive here. There are some computer labs in some campus areas (free for student use) and PC rooms (nominal cost) near campus. The dorm rooms are internet ready with Ethernet connections.

### **Campus WIFI**

We have free Wi-Fi on campus. You can simply log-in with your student ID and Date of Birth

### Telephones

Your cell phone from your home country MAY NOT WORK HERE. Smartphones may work but it will probably be very expensive to make and receive calls. Check with your service provider about if your phone will work in Korea and the cost of usage.

### Electronic and Electrical Goods

**The voltage system in Korea is 220V.** A 110V item (used in many countries – US, Canada, Mexico and others) will burn out as soon as you turn it on (especially video game consoles). Laptops and some other electronic/electrical products can be used around the world with a [proper plug adapter](#). Plug adapters can be purchased very cheaply here. Buying a full transformer is unnecessary, however if need one you can purchase it in Korea for about \$50.

### Masks and hand sanitizer

Due to the COVID-19, it could be difficult to buy masks and hand sanitizers. We recommend you to bring enough supplies for your safety.

## 8. **Finances, Money & Jobs**

Everybody has different spending habits so it's hard to tell you how much you'll need. It is suggested you have access to additional funds for off-campus activities such as travel, shopping, and personal expenses/entertainment.

### How much money to bring with you

The good news is food is inexpensive in Korea. Meals in campus cafeterias cost between \$4 - \$5 and from \$5 – \$10 at restaurants near campus.

- ❖ It is suggested that you **initially bring** between \$1,000 (USD) with you to Korea – some of this amount in cash and the rest available in your home bank account. Money for photos, student ID card, alien registration card etc. will be collected during orientation. Please make sure you enough Korean won to pay for everything.

### Exchanging Money

- ❖ You can exchange your home currency into Korean WON before you leave home or at Incheon Airport. US dollars and other common international currencies can be exchanged at most banks in Korea including the bank on campus.

### Banking

- ❖ All international students will open a bank account at a Korean bank that has a branch office conveniently located on the SCH campus.

All expats need to fill out a FATCA/CRS Self-Certification Form. **As part of this, U.S. citizens must provide their social security number (SSN), and non-U.S. citizens need to**



**provide their country's Taxpayer ID number (TIN).** This form is required under Article 21 of the Act for Coordination of International Tax Affairs and Article 47 of the Enforcement Decree of the same act in connection with a tax treaty for periodic, reciprocal exchange of financial information. By gathering the above details in advance, you'll save lots of time when filling out the bank application forms.

- ❖ Funds can be withdrawn by visiting the bank in person or using your ATM card. You will receive your Korean ATM card several weeks after opening your account.

### **Using Foreign Credit or Debit Cards**

- ❖ Generally foreign credit and debit cards can be used to make purchases or withdraw cash from your home bank account. HOWEVER, to avoid surprises, it is best to check with your credit card companies and home bank about using your cards in Korea and what fees may apply. Different types of ATM's in Korea accept different types of debit cards.
- ❖ Western Union is widely available here and is faster, and often a cheaper way to receive money from home rather than bank transfers.

### **Part time Jobs**

Exchange Students can legally work up to 20 hours a week if they meet the language requirements and get proper permission from the immigration. However, it is ILLEGAL to teach any languages or work in the entertainment industry. There are different visas for those types of jobs. Although, students can legally work, it is very difficult to find a job simply because of the language barrier. Employees usually need to be fairly fluent in Korean. During the summer and winter breaks, students have found jobs in Seoul but our office is not equipped to help students find employment.

## **9. Additional Information about Korea and Campus Life at SCH**

### **Safety**

Korea has a much lower crime rate than the US and violent/sexual crimes aimed at foreigners are rare. That doesn't mean that they don't happen. Common sense is the key. Walking alone at night in a foreign country where you do not know the neighborhood is not practicing common sense.

### **Dietary Restrictions or Preferences**

Being a vegetarian or vegan having food allergies, or having dietary restrictions in Korea can be challenging. It is rare to find a restaurant that labels the ingredients in their dishes. All ingredient labels on food packaging are listed in Korean which can make determining ingredients difficult as well. Be ready to face some difficulties in your diet. You will be able to find things to eat but it may be challenging at first, so please be prepared for that. Global Village has a cooking room and break room with refrigerators and microwaves that

students can use, so this may help ease dietary challenges. The international office staffs will always do what we can to help assist you in any way possible.

### **Books & Supplies**

Books are affordable here in Korea. Most students spend around \$100 per semester. Depending on what classes you take, there will be some additional fees such as buying a Taekwondo or Folk Music uniform (about 50,000 won / \$50 US). There are many stationary stores around campus that sell notebooks, pens, folders and whatever other types of stationary products you need.

### **Things to help share your culture with Korean students**

- ❖ Photos and souvenir of your family and hometown
- ❖ A few magazines that you can share your interests with
- ❖ Souvenir from your home university (you will make many friends and may want to give them something down the road, university t-shirts are great)
- ❖ Things that highlight your culture (for SCH Global Day is an international event that is hold at the SCH).

## **10. Initial Costs and Fees**

There will be some initial fees and costs during orientation and within the first couple of weeks. Some are mandatory and some are optional. Please have enough Korean won to pay for your required costs.

1. Room key deposit - 10,000 won  
(Paid on the day you arrive. Reimbursed when you check out of the dorms)
2. Alien card registration - 30,000 won
3. ID Photo for immigration purpose – 5,000 won
4. Health insurance – approximately 40,000 Won per month
5. Student ID card – 5,000 won
6. Bedding - 40,000(optional)

## **11. Your First Few Days at SCH**

You will be living in the city of Asan. Asan is a huge administrative area divided into many smaller parts. SCH is located in Shinchang which is a part of Asan. The downtown area of Asan is called Onyang-Oncheon (or just Onyang).

### **Where to Eat:**

1. Cafeterias – There will be available Cafeterias before the start of the semester.
  - Just outside each cafeteria, there is a display case showing the food they are serving

that day. The price is also displayed. Decide what you want to eat and remember the price.

- Near the display will be the kiosk. Push the corresponding price button and insert your money. Your change (if any) and ticket will pop out.
- Take your ticket into the cafeteria. Pick up a tray and utensils and proceed to the big, long counter and find the specific spot that they are serving the food you would like. The food names are written above the counter. Give the servers your ticket and wait for your food.
- Once you are finished eating, return your own tray.

2. Convenience Stores – There are many convenience stores located around campus. They sell kimbap, ramen, sandwiches and microwavable food. There are three microwaves in the one of the lounges in Global Village.

3. Restaurants – There are many restaurants in Shinchang. Some have menus with photos, some don't.

#### **Banking / Exchanging Money:**

1. There is a Shinhan bank on campus. It's in the brick building with the clock. They will exchange money and traveller's cheques there. You will need your passport.

2. There are also many banks in Onyang (downtown Asan). There are also international ATMs there (in KB bank and Nonghyup Bank).

## **12. COVID 19 Quarantine**

The Korean Government is requiring quarantine after entering from overseas. Anyone who were vaccinated from overseas must go through the 10 days quarantine. If you got vaccines from Korea, then you don't need to do the quarantine. We will give you more details of quarantine.