



# Pre-Departure Briefing i-SP to South Korea

Global Relations Office  
Nov 2019



# Who are we?

Global Relations Office (GRO)

## What can we do for you?



# Agenda

1. Highlights of i-SP
2. Preparing for i-SP
3. What to expect at your destination
4. Settling in
5. Homecoming
6. Networking

# What are International Summer/Winter Programmes (i-SP)?

i-SP is an **opportunity** for students to:

1

Spend **3 to 6 weeks** studying/researching at a reputable university and exciting destination

2

Take **unique courses** exclusive to the summer/winter programmes

3

Gain **overseas exposure** without disrupting your rigorous academic schedule

4

Earn **modular credits** to contribute to your course at NUS

5

Transfer a total of **12 modular credits** for free from a maximum of 2 i-SP



# ROAD MAP

- Set personal goals
- Find out about host destinations
- Plan itinerary
- Work out budget

After applying with  
your host university

While waiting for  
your acceptance  
package

- Complete your module mapping
- Attend country briefing & read the [pre-departure guide](#)

- Follow instructions in acceptance package (read carefully & meet deadlines)
- Apply for visa (if required)
- Book accommodation
- Make travel arrangements

Upon receiving your  
acceptance package



# PASSPORT & FLIGHT



- Ensure that passport is valid for 6 months after return date.
- Do **NOT** confirm flight booking until you have received the acceptance from the host university and gotten your visa.
- Arrive a few days before the start of the study period and attend orientation programmes.

# VISA

- Nationals of countries with a [Korean Visa Exemption](#) Agreement (including Singaporeans) may enter Korea without a Visa for short term study, touring etc. within a stipulated period of stay (90 days for Singaporeans\*).

*\*Note: No extension of stay beyond 90 days under the Visa Exemption Agreement.*

- Other nationals must obtain a [D-2-8 short-term study visa](#) before arriving in South Korea.
- Apply for the student visa at the Korean Embassy with the Certificate of Admission (CoA) issued by your host university along with other required documents.
- A NUS supporting letter for visa application can be requested from GRO via the [i-SP Application Guide](#) on the GRO website. Please visit the Global Relations Office with the letter to have it stamped **before** going down to the Korean Embassy.

# Preparing for i-SP

## VISA

Address of Consular Office:

*Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Singapore  
47 Scotts Road #16-03/04, Goldbell Towers, Singapore 228233 (near Newton MRT station)*

*Opening hours for visa application and collection:  
9 am to 11.30 am, Monday to Friday (closed on some Korean & Singapore public holidays)*

*Tel: +65 6256 1188 Fax: +65 6258 3302*

*Email: [consg@mofa.go.kr](mailto:consg@mofa.go.kr) (for visa enquiry)*



# HEALTH & INSURANCE

- Have a comprehensive travel and health insurance coverage for the full duration of your stay abroad, including travelling. *Travel insurance is ≠ health insurance, different insurance covers different things.*
- Read through the coverage from the NUS Students Travel Insurance  
<http://www.nus.edu.sg/finance/InsuranceCoverforOfficialNUSTrips.html>.
- You may need to purchase additional health and/or travel insurance from your preferred agent.
- Bring along the emergency hotline numbers and a copy of your insurance policy.
- Report accident/loss at the earliest possible opportunity.

# HEALTH & INSURANCE

- Before leaving
  - Get professional advice on vaccinations and medications
- If you have chronic health conditions, you may need to work out a health management plan with your doctor:
  - If you are taking medication, please continue
  - Make sure that your medication is available at your destination
  - If you intend to bring your own medication, please ensure that you are allowed to enter the country with the intended quantity

# COST OF LIVING

- The estimated cost of living:
    - S\$1,300 – S\$2,000 per month, including accommodation, food, transport and entertainment
- Currency exchange rate as at 7 Nov 2019:  
KRW1,000 = Approx. S\$1.180
- It is important that you record your expenses to make the most out of your budget and to ensure that your budget will last until the end of your i-SP.
  - Refer to the factsheets on the [GRO website](#) for estimated costs of the individual summer programmes.



# COST OF LIVING

- Tips on saving money:
  - Cook!
  - Look out for student discounts with your student card
  - Source for cheap groceries (supermarket vs wet market vs provision stores)
  - Plan your trips in advance or go on school trips
  - Use apps that give you discounts
  - Source for alternative means of travelling (bus vs train vs flights etc...)

# ACCOMMODATION

- Make sure you have applied for accommodation as it may be separate from the programme application.
- You may be allowed to check-in only during office hours, so do find out prior to arrival.
- For off-campus housing, other than the facade (external & internal), do check out for additional charges. Ensure that the location is safe. Avoid signing any contract until you are agreeable to all the terms.
- Have the name and address of the accommodation written in Korean so that you can ask for directions / take a taxi there easily.

## Preparing for i-SP

# CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO BRING – DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Valid passport and visa if required
- ☐ Proof of acceptance by PU / documents from PU
- ☐ Receipts of payments made (housing, admin fees, etc.)
- ☐ Confirmed flight ticket
- ☐ List of emergency contacts
- ☐ Medical records (including vaccinations)
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Forms of identification (ISIC youth card, driving license, etc.)
- ☐ Bank draft/ credit card (activate for overseas usage)/ cash

**Please remember to make a copy of all important documents.** Keep separate sets in different places. You might also like to leave a set at home, so that these documents can be easily sent to you in the event that you lose those with you.



## Preparing for i-SP

# CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO BRING – NECESSITIES

- ☐ Appropriate clothing
- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Medication
- ☐ Adaptors/ chargers/ LAN cable
- ☐ Umbrella/ raincoat
- ☐ Appropriate footwear
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Hairdryer
- ☐ Digital camera
- ☐ Photos and souvenirs of home/ Singapore
- ☐ Foodstuff
- ☐ Passport photos



# DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER WITH MFA!

- Singaporeans/PRs should register themselves with Singapore MFA at [https://eregister.mfa.gov.sg/eregisterportal/common/pr\\_eLoginEregisterView.action](https://eregister.mfa.gov.sg/eregisterportal/common/pr_eLoginEregisterView.action).
- NS men must notify MINDEF of their trip and apply for the Exit Permit if required at [www.ns.sg](http://www.ns.sg).
- International students should contact their country's diplomatic missions.

### 3 Simple Steps on how to eRegister



**Step 1:** Decide if eRegistering for individual or group



**Step 2:** Proceed to eRegister



**Step 3:** Receive email/SMS acknowledgement

# PACK IT RIGHT FOR YOUR FLIGHT

The unauthorised carriage of dangerous or prohibited items by air may pose a risk to aviation safety. These items may seem harmless but can be a safety hazard when brought on board an aircraft. It is therefore important to comply with the regulations on the carriage of items and ensure that you pack it right for your flight.

Food?

Medicine?

Toiletries?

Cash?

Laptop?

Power bank?

PROHIBITED ITEMS Items not allowed on an aircraft	CHECKED BAGGAGE Items that must be checked in	HAND CARRY BAGGAGE Items that passengers can carry on board an aircraft
		
EXAMPLES*		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Explosive, flammable, corrosive or poisonous items</li><li>▶ Firearms and weapons</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Sharp objects</li><li>▶ Bulky items</li><li>▶ Liquids, aerosols and gels of more than 100ml</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Liquids, aerosols and gels kept in containers of not more than 100ml each<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All must fit into a transparent, re-sealable plastic bag with maximum capacity of 1 litre that is completely closed</li></ul></li><li>▶ Up to 2 spare lithium batteries for portable electronic devices (including power banks)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Packed individually to prevent short circuits</li><li>• Must be hand carried, cannot be checked in</li></ul></li></ul>
		



\*Please note that the items listed above are not exhaustive. For more information or additional restrictions, please check with your airline or visit [www.caas.gov.sg/carriage\\_of\\_items](http://www.caas.gov.sg/carriage_of_items).

**CAAS**  
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore



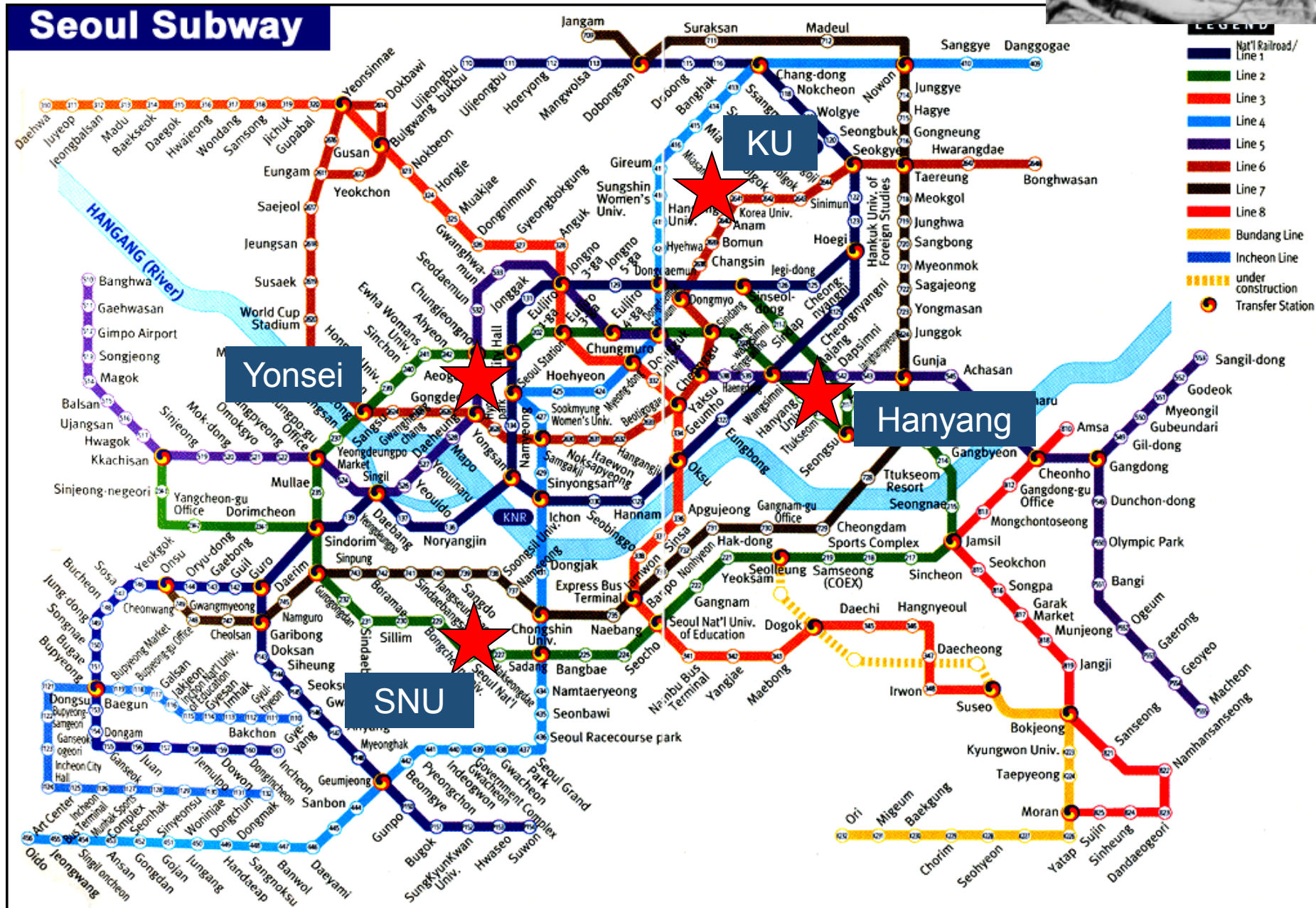
# What to Expect at Your Destination





# What to Expect at Your Destination

# SOUTH KOREA



# What to Expect at Your Destination



Lotte World Tower  
Photo credit: <http://english.visitseoul.net>

## SOUTH KOREA

- A densely populated, fast-paced, culturally rich country
- Mix of new and old from modern skyscrapers and neon lights to traditional Buddhist temples, palaces and pagodas.
- Extremely technologically advanced country
- Vibrant cities with lots of festivals and events
- Varied and thriving nightlife – “station system” (restaurant, bars, pubs, karaoke, and more food and drinks); night market, themed café, gaming center etc.
- Generally a safe place to live and study
- Winter programme period:  
Mid/End Dec to Early/Mid Jan



# What to Expect at Your Destination

## UNIVERSITY CAMPUS





# What to Expect at Your Destination

## FUN TIME





# What to Expect at Your Destination

## WEATHER (WINTER)

- Winter in Korea is usually between Nov - Mar.
- The weather is typically very cold and dry. Day temperature ranges from  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Put on lots of moisturiser and lip balm, and cover up with appropriate winter wear – winter clothing is likely to be more affordable in your host country.
- Dress in layers and prepare a good jacket and a pair of good shoes (consider insulated and waterproof shoes) – ice can be very slippery and wet. Protect yourself against the cold with gloves, beanies, earmuffs and scarves as well.



# What to Expect at Your Destination

## LIFESTYLE

### South Korea

- With a population of over 25 million, there is not much room for personal space in Seoul. Pushing and shoving is a norm, and not seen as rude gestures. So if you are being elbowed in the subway or pushed while waiting in the queue, don't take it personally (but be aware and careful!).
- It is considered impolite to address a Korean with his or her given name (especially for your seniors). Address using their professional titles, or Mr, Ms, Mrs etc., until you are told to do so.
- Koreans may not like being touched by someone unfamiliar. Avoid touching, patting or back slapping a Korean until you have a closer relationship with the person.
- Koreans are generous people and enjoy giving gifts. Accept the gifts with both hands but never open the gift immediately. You may wish to prepare a gift in return.
- Always remove your shoes before entering a Korean home – follow the lead of your host if unsure.



# What to Expect at Your Destination

## LIFESTYLE

### South Korea

- Food and dining are important parts of Korean culture and are used to build relationships. Koreans generally enjoy drinking but do not feel pressured and know your limit! Read up on the Korean Drinking Etiquette.
- Korean food are usually spicy. Traditional Korean meals are noted for the large number of side dishes (banchan) that accompany steam-cooked short-grain rice. The most prominent dish is "Kimchi" as it is the must-have dish in every meal.
- Korean is the main language of communication in the country. Be prepared that most of the local including the vendors do not speak English. Learn some basic Korean language and local lingo as it will help you better settle into lives there.
- Communication can be a little complicated in South Korea due to an emphasis on politeness and face. Discussions can be prolonged due to the avoidance of direct declining or refusing.
- <https://www.commisceo-global.com/resources/country-guides/south-korea-guide>

# What to Expect at Your Destination

## SAFETY

- Safety should be the priority in all that you do.
- Assess the risk of what you are about to do and try to minimise and even avoid unnecessary risk.
- If confronted, give up your valuables and do not resist as your safety is the most important.
- Ask locals about any dangerous areas or locations that should be avoided.





# What to Expect at Your Destination

## SAFETY



In the rare event of a **FIREARMS** or **WEAPONS** attack

**RUN » HIDE » TELL**



**RUN** away from danger. Do not surrender or attempt to negotiate.



If escape is not possible, **HIDE**. Find cover and stay out of sight. Be very quiet and switch your phone to silent mode.



When it is safe to do so, **TELL** the Police. Call 999 or SMS 71999 if it is not safe to talk. Provide details on your location and the attackers. You may also use the SGSecure app to provide information to the authorities.



# What to Expect at Your Destination

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT...

- Climate and time difference
- Exchange rate and cost of living
- Regional map and local transportation
- Local data/mobile plan
- Cultural similarities and differences
- Health and safety
- Airport pick up services / Buddy Programme
- Basic Korean Language (for getting around the city)
- Expectation and academic assessment at host university
- Activities for exchange students at host university





## Settling In

# MITIGATING CULTURE SHOCK



- Recognise feelings of surprise, disorientation, confusion, etc. is normal and okay
  1. Honeymoon phase
  2. Negotiation phase
  3. Adaption phase
- Talk to other students about how you feel about your host culture and hear from them
- Push yourself to make local friends
- Keep in regular contact with friends and family back home
- Join university and community activities
- Talk to a counselor if needed

## Settling In

# MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR STAY ABROAD

- Don't just stick to Singaporeans! Make an effort to meet different people and be open-minded about differences.
- Even while having fun, make sure you are aware of any important academic dates and not miss any deadlines!
- Lessons are usually conducted from Monday to Thursday. Do note that **class attendance will be administered (usually very strict!)**. Students are expected to attend most of the classes.
- Join the excursions and cultural activities organised by the school for a complete winter experience and the opportunity to network with other programme participants.
- Activate the email account given by your host university to receive important notices and announcements. Check both host university and NUS email frequently.
- Always stay in touch with your family and friends back home.
- If a problem arises, try to resolve it. However, if you are unable to, ask for help.

## Settling In

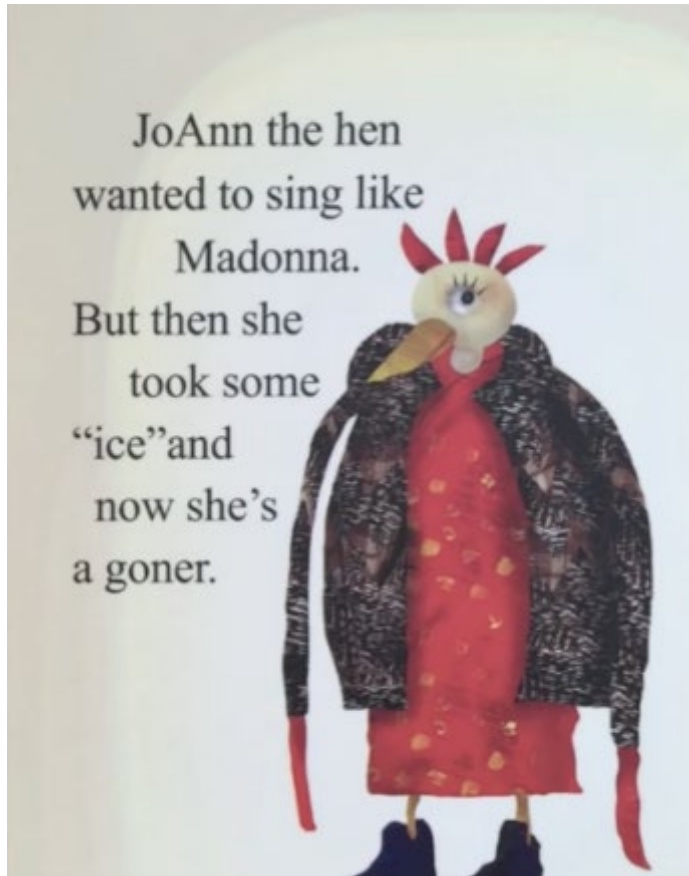
# EXPECTED CONDUCT

- Respect others and behave respectably too.
- You are representing yourself, your school and your country.
- Obey laws and regulations of host country, host university, Singapore and NUS.
- Read rules and regulations at host university and ensure that you do not violate them. (e.g. rules on plagiarism and cheating)
- Do not be pressured into anything. Just because everyone is doing it, doesn't make it right. Be comfortable being your own person.



## Settling In

# EXPECTED CONDUCT



- It is not true if someone tells you that it is not an offence to consume illegal drugs overseas. You can be arrested and face the same penalties as if the offence has been committed in Singapore.

### FACT:

All Singaporeans and Permanent Residents found to have consumed illegal substances even outside Singapore will face the penalty if imprisonment of up to 10 years, fine not exceeding S\$20,000 or both.

*Anti-drugs campaign by Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB)*

Hotline for Central Narcotics Bureau: 1800-325-6666 | Website: [www.cnb.gov.sg](http://www.cnb.gov.sg)



# USEFUL CONTACTS

- Make your own list of emergency contacts
  1. Embassies/ High Commissions
  2. Local emergencies numbers
  3. Credit card and bank telephone numbers
  4. Insurance hotlines
  5. i-SOS App – emergency call option in the app (24 hours)  
– non-emergency email contact [Singapore@internationalsos.com](mailto:Singapore@internationalsos.com)
  6. NUS Emergency contact: +65 6874 1616 (24 hours)

**Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Duty Office (24 hours)**

*Web: [www.mfa.gov.sg](http://www.mfa.gov.sg)*

*Tel: +65 6379 8800 / +65 6379 8855*

*Email: [mfa\\_duty\\_officer@mfa.gov.sg](mailto:mfa_duty_officer@mfa.gov.sg)*

# USEFUL CONTACTS – SOUTH KOREA

- Singapore Embassy in Seoul

Address: 28<sup>th</sup> Floor, Seoul Finance Centre, 136 Sejong-daero, Jung-gu, Seoul 04520

Phone: +82 (2) 774 2464-7

Email: [singemb\\_seo@mfa.gov.sg](mailto:singemb_seo@mfa.gov.sg)

- Public Emergency Service

Call **112** for the police (dial 02-112 if dialing from a mobile phone)

Call **119** for fire or ambulance service (dial 02-119 if dialing from a mobile phone)

- Information about transportation, restaurants, travelling etc.

Call **1330** (24 hours service in English)

[http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRV/TV\\_ENG\\_3\\_5.jsp](http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRV/TV_ENG_3_5.jsp) for a list of useful e-guides

## Homecoming

# BEFORE LEAVING YOUR HOST UNIVERSITY

- Say your goodbyes and 'thank you's.
- Settle outstanding payments.
- Complete ex-matriculation process at host university (if required).
- Make sure your room is in a presentable state before leaving.
- The official transcripts will be mailed directly to you by your host university. Ensure that you have indicated the correct **home** address.





## Homecoming

# THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU RETURN

1. Share your winter experience with future participants by submitting a post-programme report
2. Join the Welcome Back Session (briefing on re-entry and network with other returning students)
3. Complete the i-SP Evaluation Survey
4. Join the Peer Advising Programme
  - Advising Programme seeks to build a community of Peer Advisors (PAs) consisting of students who have been on i-SP/SEP and are keen to contribute.
  - Link up with our Peer Advising Leaders (PALs) to find out more:



[peeradvising@nus.edu.sg](mailto:peeradvising@nus.edu.sg)



<https://www.facebook.com/NUSPeerAdvising/>



[@NUSPeerAdvisors](https://twitter.com/NUSPeerAdvisors)



<http://www.nus.edu.sg/gro/student-exchange.php>

5. Help out at i-SP outreach activities and help your juniors prepare for their i-SP journey ahead

## Tips & Advice

# Contributed by Returning Students

Learn some basic language of the host country before going, especially money, directions and food.

As you are having fun, taking care of your belongings, and most importantly – health.

Plan and schedule the activities that you want to do in Korea so that you will not end up missing the opportunity to do them. Some sports activities are only available during certain seasons, or are not available during winter as it is too cold.

Do prepare multiple copies of important documents such as travel insurance policies, passport photographs, photocopies of passport etc. as some procedures require them.

Bring a travel adapter. An extension plug would be useful as well.

Cherish all opportunities of making new friends . . .

China Eastern Airlines is cheap and provides meals and in-flight entertainment (subject to the plane you are on). The most irresistible part is that it offers 2x23kg of luggage, compared to only 23kg on most other airlines.

Try to pack light, especially for clothing as luggage space will be an issue. Almost all of my friends, including me, had to send things back beforehand as we had too much luggage.

## Tips & Advice

# Contributed by Returning Students

Be wary of the difference in power rating for electronics in South Korea and Singapore electrical appliances. Always check if your electrical appliance's power rating matches that of the socket to prevent damage to your electrical appliance.

It is good to bring along a recyclable bag/plastic bag for grocery shopping when going out, as Korean supermarkets tend to charge for plastic bags. However, they do provide carton boxes for packaging, but it can be quite bulky when carrying.

If you are living outside of school, it is beneficial to learn about garbage disposal in South Korea prior to the trip, to understand how to sort out the garbage to prevent getting fines.

Record your spending and budget carefully.

Create a list of all the places you want to visit and food you want to eat. Make sure to clear everything on your to-do list. Try to do as much as possible at the start of the semester as that's when you have the most time and have the most amount of money.

Keep a diary. Pictures can tell a thousand words but it can't articulate a whole story.

If you are planning to travel to parts of Korea which requires plane rides (e.g. Jeju) , it will be good to plan and schedule the activities in advance as prices will be cheaper and there will be more options available for accommodations.



## Tips & Advice

# Contributed by Returning Students

### Useful Applications



Subway



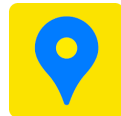
Bus Tago



고속버스 모바일



KaKaoTalk



KaKaoMap



Naver Dictionary



Meetup



Trazy



Papago

### Telecom

- EG Sim Card
- KT Olleh
- Data passport



### Banking

- Apply through school to get a local bank (need to incur transaction fee but ATM can be found anywhere)
- Citibank (no fee but limited ATM)
- T-money card (for public transport)



# WELCOME TO YOUR BIG ADVENTURE!

THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER – GO OUT THERE AND OWN IT!

