



UNC  
GLOBAL

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

FedEx GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER  
CAMPUS BOX 3130  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3130

T 919.962-7002  
F 919.962-2262  
studyabroad.unc.edu

September 1, 2014

Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Office of General Education  
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues:

### **Student Exchange Program with Korea University, Seoul (Republic of Korea)**

We are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish an undergraduate student exchange program with Korea University (KU). Initially, this will be a bilateral exchange with Fall, Spring, and Year-long options, commencing spring 2015. A summer school option may be added subsequently. Further information about KU can be reviewed at <http://www.korea.edu/>.

Dr. Bob Miles, Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges, and Katie Bowler-Young, Director of Global Relations, visited with faculty and staff of Korea University and reviewed its facilities in December 2013. Dr. Miles is slated to visit the campus again in January 2015 to make further arrangements for the exchange.

### **Korea University**

KU was originally founded in 1905 as Bosung College; the college was renamed Korea University in 1946. Currently, there are over 35,500 students at KU, including approximately 25,700 undergraduates. At KU, there are 17 colleges and divisions, 52 departments, and 17 graduate schools. Colleges and divisions include: Liberal Arts, Life Sciences and Biotechnology, Political Science and Economics, Science, Information and Communication, Art and Design, Media and Communication, International Studies, Information Security, Health Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Education, Nursing, Business, Law, and Interdisciplinary Studies. The East Asiatic Research Center and the Korean Cultural Research Center are just two of KU's numerous research centers housed between its Anam (main) and Sejong campuses and three auxiliary hospitals. The institution is ranked fifth overall in the Republic of Korea in both the 2013-14 *Times Higher Education* University Rankings and 2013 Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities.

### **Program Rationale**

A KU exchange is a needed addition to our existing offerings in the Republic of Korea: namely, a single exchange partnership with Yonsei University, also in Seoul, which is presently out of balance due to growing interest from UNC-Chapel Hill students in semester and year-long exchange in Korea. Between

Fall 2004 and Spring 2008, UNC-CH sent approximately 1-2 students per semester to Yonsei University. Between Fall 2008 and Spring 2012, numbers grew to 2-3 students per semester. Between Fall 2012 and Spring 2014, we sent 3-4 students per semester, then Fall 2014 showed a steep increase with 6 students attending Yonsei in that semester alone. Study Abroad numbers reflect the recent increase in Korean language course enrollment within Asian Studies. In 2010-11, 130 enrolled in Korean courses; in 2011-12, 141 enrolled, in 2012-13, 165 enrolled, in 2013-14, 174 enrolled, and the fall 2014 semester alone already sees 122 students enrolled in Korean courses, predicting a steep increase for 2014-15. An exchange balance with a single university in the Republic of Korea is not sustainable given current levels of interest. Furthermore, dividing UNC-CH students among two campuses in Korea would encourage greater immersion.

KU would offer our students the opportunity to immerse with local students in regular undergraduate life, with a wide range of academic choices in both English and Korean. Korean language courses are available at six levels for 6 credits (100 contact hours) per semester, as well as a variety of advanced language electives. There are around 500 courses offered in English each year that would be available to our students, including courses in East Asian History, Biology and Biotechnology, Economics including Food and Resource Economics, Chemistry, Linguistics, English Literature, English Language Education, Sociology, Communication, Environmental Science, Political Science, Public Policy, Engineering, Business, and more. In addition, students with advanced language skills can take content courses in Korean.

This variety of academic choice, combined with the quality of academics and level of student support offered by KU's Office of International Affairs, make a clear rationale for adding KU as an exchange partner, particularly for our students who wish to spend a semester or year advancing their Korean language skills. Culture courses and activities are offered through KU's Korean Language and Culture Center. Additionally, KU offers over 100 student organizations that welcome international student participation, and eight dormitories at the Anam campus, including the International House and Global House that cater specifically to international students and local students with international interest. Seoul is a vibrant and exciting international city that is a great location for students to explore and put their language study into action.

Enrollment in Yonsei's summer program has also climbed steadily, with an average of 3 students per summer attending 2005-2009, 7 students per summer from 2010-2012, 9 students in 2013 and 10 students in 2014. However, as we can send an unlimited number of students to Yonsei each summer, and the majority of students enrolled in the summer program are Korean nationals returning home from UNC-CH, an additional summer option is a less urgent concern than a new semester and year-long exchange. Approval of KU's summer program may be added to the KU exchange agreement in upcoming terms.

### **Academic Requirements and Credit**

The KU fall semester is from September to December and the spring semester from March to June. Our students could stay at KU for a fall or spring semester or an academic year, and would take a full course load of 12-18 credit hours per semester. To be eligible to apply, UNC-Chapel Hill students must have a minimum GPA of 2.75 and at least sophomore status when abroad. There will be no language prerequisite, but students will be required to study Korean throughout their program. This exchange will convey UNC-CH transfer credit (TREQ) to students who successfully earn a C or better in their KU coursework.

### **Safety and Security**

The US Department of State travel site states that the Republic of Korea is a “highly developed, stable, democratic republic . . . a modern economy where tourist facilities are widely available.” While tensions continue between Seoul and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea “maintains a high level of readiness to respond to any military threats from the DPRK.” There are no Department of State Travel Warnings or Travel Alerts currently in place for the Republic of Korea. The American Citizens Services Unit of the Embassy of the United States in the Republic of Korea in Seoul provides services to U.S. citizens facing emergency and other crisis situations. Additionally, in Seoul, the Metropolitan Government operates the Seoul Global Center to assist foreigners from any nation with a variety of services.

### **Korea University Support Services**

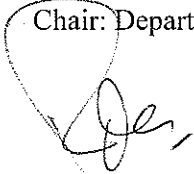
Our students will receive support from the Student Exchange Program Division of KU’s Office of International Affairs. Support includes placement assistance in KU dormitories, predeparture information, international student orientation and activities, and the full range of services provided to regular undergraduates on campus.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Dr. Nadia Yaqub  
Chair: Department of Asian Studies



Bob Miles  
Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges