



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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

Dear Colleagues:

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

We are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish an undergraduate student exchange program with Seoul National University (SNU). Initially, this will be a bilateral exchange with Fall, Spring, and Year-long options, commencing Fall 2018. Further information about SNU can be reviewed at <http://www.useoul.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 SNU and reviewed its facilities in December 2013. Dr. Miles and Lindsay Heiser, previous Asia Programs Director, visited the campus again in January 2015 to make further arrangements for the exchange.

Seoul National University

SNU was founded in 1946 as the first national university in the Republic of Korea. Currently, there are approximately 16,500 undergraduate and 12,000 graduate students, and over 2,600 full-time faculty members. At SNU, there are 16 colleges with 82 departments for undergraduate students, one graduate school and ten professional schools. Colleges include: Humanities, Natural Sciences Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, Social Sciences, Fine Arts, Human Ecology, Liberal Studies, Music Pharmacy, Business Administration, and Agriculture and Life Sciences. The institution was ranked 10th in the 2016 QS Asian University Rankings and 35th in the 2017 QS World University Rankings.

Program Rationale

At present, this exchange is a needed addition to our existing offerings in the Republic of Korea: exchange partnerships with Yonsei University and with Korea University (both in Seoul) which may grow out of balance due to increasing interest from UNC-Chapel Hill students in semester and year-long exchange in South 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 2017, we sent 4-5 students per semester. UNC-CH added the Korea University exchange program in 2015 and five students have studied abroad via that exchange to date.

Study Abroad numbers reflect the recent and steady increase in Korean language course enrollment within Asian Studies. In 2010-11, 130 enrolled in Korean courses; 141 enrolled in 2011-12, 165 enrolled in 2012-13, and an all time high of 214 enrolled in 2016-2017. At present, 29 students are declared in the Korean minor. Furthermore, UNC-CH just

received a grant from The Korea Foundation, which will help fund a tenured professorship in Korean and lead to the creation of a Korean major. This will generate even more interest in study abroad in South Korea. Given current levels of interest and the limited numbers we are able to accommodate with our two current exchange partners, a third exchange program in Korea is justified in order to ensure we are able to offer exchange spots to all interested qualified students. Furthermore, dividing UNC-CH students among three campuses in Korea would encourage greater immersion.

SNU 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 a variety of levels each semester, and so are a variety of advanced language electives. There are 700-800 courses offered in English per semester, most of which would be available to our students, including courses in Asian History, Biology and Biotechnology, Economics, Chemistry, Linguistics, Music, English Literature, Sociology, Communication, Environmental Science, Political Science, Public Policy, 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, level of student support offered by SNU's Office of International Affairs, and unique location of the SNU campus relative to our other exchange programs make a clear rationale for adding SNU as an exchange partner, particularly for our students who wish to spend a semester or year advancing their Korean language skills in a part of Seoul that is outside of the central university districts. SNU is nestled in the relatively quiet southern hills of the city, but is an easy bus or metro ride into central Seoul, a vibrant and accessible international city that is a great location for students to put their language study into action.

Enrollment in Korean summer programs has also climbed steadily, starting with 3 average per summer from 2005-2009 to Yonsei International Summer School. Summer 2017 saw 20 students studying abroad, divided between Yonsei and Korea University International Summer Campus. However, as we can send an unlimited number of students to Yonsei and Korea University each summer as visiting students, an additional summer option is not a priority, which is why SNU's summer program is not included in this proposal.

Academic Requirements and Credit

The SNU fall semester is from early September to mid December and the spring semester from early March to mid-June. Our students could stay at SNU 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 3.0 (required by SNU) and at least sophomore status when abroad. The exchange will be primarily for undergraduates but graduate students may apply. 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 SNU coursework. The program will be offered on an exchange-only basis as many of SNU's Office of International Affairs services are offered to exchange but not to visiting students.

Housing and Activities

SNU's Gwanak Residence Halls are a group of 18 residence buildings housing over 3,600 students. While on-campus housing is not guaranteed, it is likely where exchange students will be housed. Off-campus options are plentiful if students desire an alternate option or do not receive on-campus housing placement.

SNU offers a myriad of student organizations that welcome international student participation. The SNU Buddy program is a volunteering group that pairs international visiting and exchange students with local students to provide assistance in navigating an unfamiliar culture and to build personal bonds.

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." The Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development (OECD) lists Korea as the 6th most wired country in the world and the United Nations Human Development Index ranks Korea in 18th.

While tensions on the Korean peninsula continue to wax and wane, 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.

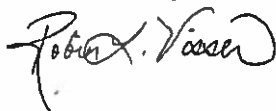
Seoul has many hospitals and health care facilities that are suitable for expatriates residing in Seoul. The US Department of State maintains a list of clinics/hospitals and dentists that operate in English. Seoul National University Hospital (SNUH) is a general and teaching hospital of SNU’s College of Medicine and is one of the largest and oldest hospitals in Seoul. UNC students studying abroad are also required to obtain international travel health insurance through GeoBlue, which covers hospital and doctor visits, medical evacuation, repatriation, and other services as necessary.

Seoul National University Support Services

Our students will receive support from SNU’s Office of International Affairs. Support includes placement assistance in Gwanak dormitories, pre-departure and visa information, international student orientation and activities, and the full range of services provided to regular undergraduates on campus. SNU’s Gwanak dormitories have a health clinic specifically to serve Gwanak residents with check-ups, immunizations, and prescription medication. There is a central health clinic that serves the SNU campus and that clinic liaises with nearby hospitals as needed to provide comprehensive health care for students.

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

Yours sincerely:



Dr. Robin Visser
Chair, Department of Asian Studies



Bob Miles
Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges