



SUMMER PRGM

# THE TESOL PRACTICUM: A VETERAN'S GUIDE

## Teaching Internship in South Korea!

Learning how to teach is a journey, and what could be better than learning to do so in a completely different country! South Korea is a unique and lovable country located in East Asia that will give you the experience of a lifetime. You will meet many unforgettable people and grow as a person and as a teacher. Look forward to it!!!!



BY: Chelsea Morris (ALL PHOTOS ARE MINE)

Gwangju, South  
Korea

Kyunghwa Girls'  
High School

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with Wonderful  
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Internship: May-June 4wk  
OR May-July 6wk w/  
scholarship

# A QUICKIE ABOUT ME:

; ) While I could make this formal and ridiculously boring, this guide is meant to help all students considering going on this program and I can't tell you everything if you're falling asleep! Soooo, I'll do my best to be my wonderful, sassy self. Be prepared.

## T-SOLE? TESOL? HELP, WHAAAAT?:

Okay, FIRST~!

TESOL stands for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, (Self-explanatory, right?) and it is this specific field of teaching covered in the TESOL Practicum.

The program is a 4-week study abroad experience centered in Gwangju, South Korea (the small one, not the big one) at Kyunghwa Girls' High School. While there KU students get the chance to interact with Korean high school students, learn about TESOL and its methods, and teach actual classes. (For those it applies to, this practicum covers a requirement for those getting their TESOL certification.)

For those who apply and are rewarded the FREEMAN Scholarship, the program will turn into a 6-week program and only entails a longer stay in South Korea and a longer period of time available to stay at Kyunghwa.

[For all the innocent cinnamon rolls who have yet to travel outside the United States:

**DON'T WORRY!**

You'll do fine. ☺ I'm here to help.]



## ABOUT SOUTH KOREA:

South Korea, home to the fastest internet in the world, and a wonderful place for people who like spicy food.

Whilst many people only know Korea for its Kpop or plastic surgery scandals, Korea has a lot more to offer than that. The culture, food, atmosphere, and scenery are all beautiful and unique. You can learn a lot from visiting and talking to the people there.

10/10 would recommend

## Recommended readings:

To make it a little easier, here are some links!  
Yay!

[www.talktomeinkorean.com](http://www.talktomeinkorean.com)

[www.youtube.com/user/davetehdave](http://www.youtube.com/user/davetehdave)

[www.youtube.com/user/ChoNunMigookSaram](http://www.youtube.com/user/ChoNunMigookSaram)

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g294197-](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g294197-s409/Seoul:South-)  
[s409/Seoul:South-](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g294197-s409/Seoul:South-)

[Korea:First.Time.Visitors.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g294197-s409/Seoul:South-Korea:First.Time.Visitors.html)

# LEARNING KOREAN:

## Korean majors vs.

## Teaching/English majors:

While the point of going to Korea is to teach English, there is still one tiny caveat: the whole country speaks Korean. Now, if you are one of the many people who don't know a lick of Korean then it would best to at least learn how to say Hello.

The people will appreciate it, it will make them smile, and it will make your life easier.

Being a Korean major myself I know that being able to communicate enriches the whole experience. So while I struggled more in the beginning with the teaching aspect, I was able to get around Korea by myself the rest of the time.

Sooo, my point is: learn some Korean, mmmkay? You won't regret it! It's a wonderful language. ☺

Those like me who are also Korean majors, rejoice. Those who are not, I envy your knowledge in the field of English, Teaching, or

what-have-you because you will be the foundation of this trip for people like me who had no idea how to write a lesson plan or handle a classroom full of energetic teenagers.

## FOR NON-KOREAN

## SPEAKERS:

### Key phrases you should know-

1. Hello: annyeonghaseyo 안녕하세요
2. Thank you: gamsahamnida 감사합니다
3. How much is that: eolma-e-yo 얼마예요?
4. Yes/No: ne/aniyo 네/아니요
5. It's nice to meet you: mannaseo banggapseumnida 만나서 반갑습니다

# BEFORE THE PROGRAM PREPARATION!!:

Alrighty, so before embarking on this magical journey of intrigue and adventure there are several things you must do.

1. Find a magical sword named Eustice
2. Eat a canary egg
3. Sing the Abc's backwards 3 times

There. That's it. Simple, right?

I'm just kidding. Kind of. What you should really do is quite simple. First, make sure to prepare enough business appropriate clothing for *at least* a week. Clothes that can be mix-and-matched are perfect. Arriving in May shouldn't be too hot, but it will get crazy later, so make sure to pack clothes you won't suffer in. No sweaters unless you're like me and love 90's and humid!~



Don't forget to get adaptors and converters for electronics if you need them. The plugins and voltage are different in Korea, don't want to fry your new hi-tech hair dryer, right?

If you need to, also remember to talk to your phone company to get your phone unlocked. ☺  
Can't live without that wi-fi!

Also, NOTIFY YOUR BANK...or your card will get frozen. If you don't have a card...get one for emergencies.

Deodorant, portable tissues, good walking shoes, ibuprofen (or Tylenol. Whatever you



prefer), and some sort of comfort item are all good things to bring. I strooongly urge (I'm threatening) you to bring them (on pain of death). You'll thank me later.

# LIVING AT KYUNGHWA:

## **Dorm-**

This applies only for the girls. Let me say that again GIRLS ONLY~ It's not a big deal though. Guys just get a separate building altogether. Lucky-butts and their separate washing machine...

Anyway, while at Kyunghwa you'll likely be living in the dorm with the girls. This will be one of the most fun things ever because it allows you to really get close to the students at Kyunghwa. Each and every one of them is genuine and special. Treat them well, for me?

## **Girls-**

The girls in the dorm will want to come and talk to you when they aren't busy studying. Please, humor them. They're adorable, sweet girls who just want to get to know you. But don't force yourself either. If you're tired they'll understand. ☺ But, keep in mind that if they come to talk to you, your pajamas can't just be an oversized t-shirt. You have an image to live up to now \*wink wink\* \*nudge nudge\*.

## **Boys-**

Don't go in the girls' dorm. EVER. Or you'll regret it.

That is all.

## **Food:**

You will be provided with 3 free meals a day every day of the week except Saturdays where school is not in session. FREE FOOD!  
People...we're poor college students. Take advantage of this. It is cafeteria food though.

But in comparison to American cafeteria food, this food is the bomb! (I'm not kidding this time.)

However, if you're a picky eater then keep in mind you don't get to choose the food that is served, only what you eat of it. Take this time to expand your horizons and enjoy the delicious Korean food. If you really don't think you'll be able to handle it, but still really want to come to Korea then prepare extra funds for your food. The program can't go out of its way to accommodate you. I'm sorry for that.

### **Expectations of the Staff:**

The teaching staff at Kyunghwa, plus the principals and owner of the schools will expect much from you. If you will be on-campus during the day you will need to be in teacher-appropriate clothing. Short-shorts and muscle tanks are no-no's. I apologize again. I know you are the embodiment of sex appeal, but please, not in front of the kids? ;P

### **Expectations of our Professor:**

Just like in any KU class you will be expected to turn in your homework on time and attend all class sessions. Your workload will be larger so the professor may or may not be stricter with deadlines. All they are looking to do is help you learn, so treat them nicely and sincerely.

### **Relationship with the students:**

The students will want to be your friend. This is good. However, you are their teacher. Not just their friend. You'll need to create boundaries that neither you, nor they, can cross. You absolutely cannot stay up till 4am gossiping with them about boys. The more unprofessional you are OUT of class, the less

the students may take you seriously will IN class. Feel free to be friendly, but exchanging kakao IDs before the program is over is kind of a no-no (You should definitely do it after the program though! Staying in contact is important!).

Finally,

**This is a class, not a vacation.**

Let me repeat.

**THIS IS A  
CLASS NOT A  
VACATION 😊**

Right. Now that that's out of the way. Our professor will expect your utmost effort in learning the material we cover during class sessions. These sessions can occur before or after YOUR classes, the ones you will be teaching. Be prepared to be busy.

These sessions will be just like a normal class at KU, except they won't be in a KU classroom. The workload will be slightly larger as well. This program is rather short after all. But don't worry. As long as you focus and work with your fellow intership-ee's it won't be very difficult to get everything done.

### **Chapel:**

Kyunghwa is a Christian, private school, keep this in mind. Every Thursday before classes begin there will be a service called Chapel that will occur. In this hour, you will sit with the rest of your teacher-group and watch. Make sure to pay attention (at the very least try to look like you are, as a courtesy).

I know that personally this was not the most interesting part of the week for me, because I'm Agnostic. However, my friends of the Christian faith enjoyed it immensely. And, despite the fact I could not immerse myself in it as they did, there were still moments in every service that I could take something from, or enjoy.

## **Free Saturdays:**

While I was at Kyunghwa they had a regular system of, one Saturday being a half-day of classes and then the next Saturday being a break (all Sunday's are no school). On the Saturday's when school is not in session at all you will likely be on an excursion with the group. The other days, the half-days, you will be privileged to be kicked out until school is out of session for the day. Baaaasically, find some to do from around 7am to 1pm. I'm sure this won't be much of a hardship because you'll be in the wonderful and glorious Korea. You will not have enough time to explore so take advantage of this, but also be aware this is a good time to go to a café and work on homework as well.

## **GWANGJU:**

Gwangju is the city where Kyunghwa is located. To the girl's this would be considered a country-ish area, but for most of us, we could consider this a small city. Because of that there are many shops for clothes you can visit as well as plenty of restaurants.

If you need any basic items (such as shampoo and conditioner, a toothbrush, your dignity...) then there is a store called E-Mart, you'll know the building when you see it. The huge sign will help.



There is a really nice park as well, a lot of people are always there until late at night and it's located next to a small river.

As for something you have to eat in Gwangju, my personal favorite is a place called Pongdang Waffle. It's not a place for dinner, but – you guessed it – waffles! But they're not normal waffles, these are special. This place serves Belgian waffles in sandwich form. In the delicious middle is Nutella and ice-cream/fresh cream, topped with these wonderful lotus rainbow crunchies. They are delicious! Please, pleeeeeease go visit. The workers there are always nice too!



## TRIP TO SEOUL:

Finally, while on this trip you will go on a short excursion to Seoul, the capital of South Korea. There will be planned activities and tons of free time in the afternoon/evenings.

While you might visit them with everyone here is a list of my recommendations.

1. Myeong-dong
2. Hongdae
3. Namdaemun
4. Dongdaemun
5. Namsan Tower
6. Cheonggyecheon River
7. Gyeongbokgung
8. Bukchon Hanok Village
9. Insadong
10. Itaewon (if you like foreign food. Aka: American food)

I hope you have a fantastic trip!!!!!!

MY FINAL  
WARNING:  
BEWARE  
THE HILL  
OF  
DEATH ;)

Seriously, though.

Mountainous country = steep hills.

