Korea University and Seoul was a great experience for me. Applying for the school was fairly easy the university emails all of the essential documents. When applying for the visa the process was very easy and I received it within a week of application at the Korean Consulate in Vancouver. As a business student we have the exchange credit database that is helpful. However, getting into courses is very competitive and first come first serve so apply within the first five minutes of course registration period or you will not get the classes you want. Upon arrival the business school advisors will try to help you get into courses if you do not receive the ones you prefer. The summer is very humid and hot, and the winter is very cold so bring a variety of clothes depending on which semester you go. Incheon airport has very good transportation from the metro costing about 5$ and takes around 1.5 hours. Buy a “T-Money” card and load it at the machine accordingly. The T-money card is similar to our compass card. I would bring a credit card and cash; the local area has many international ATMs that have very fair banking fees. I suggest carrying around cash for most purchases especially if you are out with friends as the bill is usually not split.

The school has a very good orientation for both the regular school and the business school. Some of the orientation has a lot of paper work which is time consuming, but attending is mandatory to get a student ID. I suggest living in a goshiwon which is a private dorm style residence. Many of the goshiwon’s are on the main food and entertainment street in Anam, RachelLivingtel and Crimson House are supposed to be the best. Staying in Anam is a must if you go to Korea University as all the events and people live around the area. Many of my friends who lived farther away found it tough to join in on social activities. Cost will be between 400$-800$ a month and make sure you get a room with an outside window. The teaching is very similar to SFU with exams, homework, and quizzes. They do a lot of presentation and some teachers make attendance mandatory. Seoul is very humid and hot during the summer months and fairly cold in the winter as mentioned above. The culture is very respectful and following the rules and respecting others is very important. Busan and Jeju are the two main places to visit besides Seoul. Busan is a nice city with some nice tourist spots and has some nice spots for seafood. Beware of the fish market as they over charge people who don’t speak Korean. Jeju is spectacular it has many natural historical sites and many beautiful beaches. It is similar to Hawaii in climate and surroundings, however, it does get fairly cold in the winter. The west coast has many pleasant small towns with hiking and skiing. The social life in Seoul is very common with many bars and restaurants around Anam the are very fun and open till at least 6am. The club districts are in Itaewon, Gangnam, and Hongdae. Gangnam is quite expense and many of the famous and fancy clubs are there. Itaewon is for internationals and has plenty of foreigners and good foreign food. Hongdae is nice and has plenty of all you drink bars with some clubs. KUBA and KUBS host various dinner and drinking events throughout the week and tourist trips on the weekend. Going to Namsan tower is a must as it overlooks the city. Bukhansan is a very nice hike with a spectacular view. Renting bikes and going along the Han river is a very nice experience.
If you want to travel outside of Korea, you must have already attended your ARC appointment and also have a temporary ARC. The ARC appointment must be booked upon arrival into Korea and I suggest booking it within 48 hours as appointments fill up quick and some people have to wait 2 to 3 months for their appointments. Taipei and Osaka/Kyoto are very cool places to visit. Kyoto is a beautiful city with many world-famous tourist sites. One thing I suggest is going to the monkey park on top of the mountain as it provides beautiful views. Taipei is a beautiful city with great food and many cool night markets. Jiufen is a small town outside of Taipei that is a must see. Many people said good things about Shanghai; however, you will need a visa before going to China.

The first few weeks in Korea were very difficult and it felt like you were on an island and very lonely. However, after the initial shock it was a tremendous place and the school does a very good job for people to feel included. I learned a whole new view on the world and how similar everyone is and how different they are at the same time. One thing that I wish I did was to experience more of the city. I also suggest travelling to different parts and trying the different restaurants as there is plenty of good food throughout the city. I suggest savoring every moment and really value all the friends you make because it all goes by very quick.

Lotte World Tower- On the south side of the Han river with incredible views of the city. Going at sunset is a must to get the daytime and nighttime view of the city.
Gyeongbokgung Palace - Korea is well known for its Palaces and Gyeongbokgung is the most famous of them all. Going during the changing of the guard is a cool experience.

Seongsan Ilchulbong - A volcanic crater on the tropical island of Jeju. This offers a nice hike and a cool dive show.
Gamcheon Culture Village- A very cool cultural village in the southern port city of Busan. This offers very cool views and artwork along a walking path that takes you through the village.