My major in SFU is Interactive Arts and Technology. I went to Korea University (KU) of South Korea for exchange from June 24 to August 2, 2019.

**Preparation for exchange**
https://isc.korea.ac.kr:5002/all/src/program/course.php
This is the website for Korea University International Summer Campus. You can get all the information that you would want to know about this program.

**Course Selection**
Since I needed to take an upper-level B-Hum course and an upper-level elective, I did a little research on the courses in Korea University and found that “Mass Media and Popular Culture in Korea” and “Korean Literature and Culture” are equivalent to those I needed.

**What to Bring**
Besides clothes and daily items, you also need to bring bedding including the duvet cover, the pillowcase and the sheet if you are going to live in the dormitory (pillows are provided in CJ House). One or two adapters are also needed since Korean outlet and Canadian are different. If you are going to live on-campus, remember to bring a hair dryer since it is not provided.

**Travel and Transportation**
The earlier you buy the flight ticket, the less you will spend, but please make sure that you do it after getting your visa. After arriving at Incheon International Airport, you can take either the subway or the taxi to the campus; or you can meet with the KU volunteer and take the free shuttle bus with other exchange students.

**Financial Details**
I recommend you prepare at least 200000 Korean Won before leaving, and do the currency exchange at Myeongdong or other places for further needs after arriving. Visa Card is accepted in Seoul. Cost of living is similar to Vancouver.

**During Exchange**
**Arrival and Orientation & Accommodation and Living**
I arrived on 24 June and took the free shuttle bus with other exchange students to the campus. I lived in CJ International House, a cozy and neat dormitory. My room is a single room with a bed, a desk, a chair, a wardrobe and a cabinet, and I share the bathroom with two other roommates who lived in the same suite with me but in another double room. The orientation was hold at Incheon Memorial Hall of Korea University on 25 June.

**Academic Details**
Unlike the schedule in SFU, we had the lecture 4 times a week from Monday to Thursday and 1 hour and 40 minutes per class. There was no class on Friday; instead, we had cultural activities that were hold by the school – we went to Lotte World and SM Town, and we had K-Pop flashmob, soccer game, cooking class and Taekwondo class, which provided opportunities for us to learn Korean culture and make new friends. The grading scale is also different from SFU: 95-100 is A+, 90-94 is A, 85-89 is B+, 80-84 is B, 75-79 is C+, 70-74 is C, 65-69 is D+, 60-64 is D, 0-59 is F.

**Culture & Weather**
Summer in Seoul is hotter than in Vancouver, with Celsius from around 25 degrees to 32 degrees. Most of the young Koreans speak English while most of the elders do not.

**Places to Visit**
There are a lot of places that I recommend you to visit. For example, Myeongdong, where all the visitors go; Gwangjang Market, where local people get snacks and food; Lotte World, a very popular and beautiful amusement park; Han River, at where you can enjoy the night view; Bukchon Hanok Village, at where you can see houses in traditional Korean style and experience hanbok, the traditional Korean clothing; Sinsa-dong Garosu-gil, where young people go for shopping.

**Reflection After Exchange**

**What you've learned and the challenges you faced**
I learned to respect and enjoy other culture. Korean food is very different from food in Canada. The most common dishes in Korea are tofu soup, fried chicken, topokki (rice cake), bibimbap (rice mixed with vegetable or/and meat), budae jjigae (similar to hot pot), jajangmyeon (a kind of noodle), bulgogi (Korean barbeque), naengmyeon (cold noodle), kimchi (pickled cabbage), gimbap (similar to sushi), samgye-tang (chicken soup), etc. You might not get use to them immediately at your first try, but once you accept Korean food culture, you will find them incredibly delicious.

The challenge I faced is the language. I only knew a couple of Korean words and phrases and did not speak Korean very well. When I went to some small restaurants or stores at where the waiters or the staffs do not speak English, I could not communicate with them. I could only use the translation app and body language to explain, which was very inconvenient.

**What you wish you knew before you left**
I wish I knew that English is not a prevalent language in Korea and I should have studied Korean very hard before leaving.

**Advice/tips for other students**
You can get the SIM card at the airport, but it is much more expensive than other carriers in the city. You can do currency exchange at the airport, but the exchange rate there is not as good as other stores in the city.

There are two must-have apps that I would recommend you to download on your phone. The first one is Papago. This is the most convenient and accurate translation app for you to translate Korean into English. The second one is Naver Map. In Korea, Naver Map is much more accurate than Google Map.
Gwangjang Market

Han River
Lotte World
Graduation Ceremony