SEOUl, SOUTH KOREA

MAX LIEN

Program: Korea University Exchange, Fall

Max’s Major: Electrical Engineering

Academic Life: I took three engineering classes and a Korean language class. Engineering classes are taught in lecture-only style. Most science classes are instructed in English, but be prepared for lectures in Korean. The vast majority of students in any class are full-time Korean students. The average class size was around sixty people. Any assignments and quizzes are not graded until the end of the term and are not posted online.

Housing: I lived in a homestay. I was hosted by a four-person Korean family. We lived in an apartment next to one of the biggest subway stations, Wangsimni. I had my own room and access to their food, and they would cook a Korean breakfast for me every day.

Most Memorable Moments: One of my most memorable experiences was taking part in cheering at the annual Korea-Yonsei games. The entire stadium is full of students, and each school has a cheerleading team that leads each school in cheers and songs.

Benefits of Study Abroad: My Korean language skills improved by a great margin, and I met many Korean friends that are interested in similar career paths.

New Perspectives: I learned that I really enjoy the culture of having a close-knit group of friends, and that I really enjoy getting around by subway.

Tips for Future Students: Korea University offers a buddy system that offers countless friendships and outings (KUBA). This should be taken into strong consideration. Also, take a Korean class before you leave, or at the very least, learn how to read the alphabet.

“I have become more confident about meeting people and making new friends.”