

Korea



Korea

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2800.htm>

Fact Sheet

September 22, 2020

U.S.-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS



The United States and Korea's Joseon Dynasty established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, and the first

U.S. diplomatic envoy arrived in Korea in 1883.

U.S.-Korea relations continued until 1905, when Japan assumed direction over Korean foreign affairs. In 1910, Japan began a 35-year period



of colonial rule over Korea. Following Japan's surrender in 1945, at the end of World War II, the Korean Peninsula was divided at the 38th parallel into two occupation zones, with the United States in the South and the Soviet Union in the North. Initial hopes for a unified, independent Korea were not realized, and in 1948 two separate nations were established — the Republic of Korea (ROK) in the South, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the North. In 1949, the United States established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces invaded the ROK. Led by the United States, a United Nations coalition of 16 countries undertook its defense. Following China's entry into the war on behalf of North Korea later that year, a stalemate ensued for the final two years of the conflict until an armistice was concluded on July 27, 1953. A peace treaty has never been signed. In 1953, at the conclusion of the Korean War, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Mutual Defense Treaty, the foundation of a comprehensive alliance that endures today.

In the decades after the war, the ROK experienced political turmoil under autocratic leadership, but developed a vocal civil society that led to strong protests against authoritarian rule. Pro-democracy activities intensified in the 1980s, beginning with the Gwangju Democratization Movement in May 1980, eventually leading to the ROK's transition to what is now a vibrant democracy.

The United States and the ROK share a long history of cooperation based on mutual trust, shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, common strategic interests, and an enduring friendship. The two countries work together to combat regional and global threats and to strengthen their economies. The United States has maintained Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine personnel in the ROK in support of its commitment under the U.S.-ROK Mutual Defense Treaty to help the ROK defend itself against external aggression. In 2020, the two countries commemorated the 67th anniversary of the U.S.-ROK Alliance and the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. A Combined Forces Command coordinates operations between U.S. Forces Korea and ROK armed forces. The United States and the ROK continue to coordinate closely on respective engagements with the DPRK, the implementation of sanctions, and inter-Korean cooperation. As the ROK's economy has developed (it joined the OECD in 1996), trade and investment ties have become an increasingly important aspect of the U.S.-ROK relationship, including through implementation of the amended Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA).

In recent years, the U.S.-ROK Alliance has expanded into a deep, comprehensive global partnership, and the ROK's role as a regional and global leader continues to grow, as evident most recently as a successful model for other countries around the world on COVID-19

response. In the early months of the pandemic, the United States and the ROK collaborated to establish robust travel screening measures to preserve air linkages. The ROK has donated essential medical supplies to the United States, including 2.5 million protective masks, and facilitated the purchase of 750,000 COVID-19 tests. U.S. and ROK experts and policymakers regularly share best practices on fighting COVID-19. In 2019 the ROK committed maritime assets in the Strait of Hormuz and committed to share information with the International Maritime Security Construct. The ROK is a major donor and leader in development efforts, including health security, women's empowerment, and humanitarian assistance. The U.S. and the ROK hold an annual Senior Economic Dialogue, where policymakers from both sides coordinate on economic issues and advance regional economic cooperation under the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy and the ROK's New Southern Policy.

The emergence of the ROK as a global leader has also led to an increasingly dynamic U.S.-ROK Alliance focused on future-oriented partnership opportunities including space, energy, health, climate change, and cyber. The United States and ROK renewed in 2015 the Civil Nuclear "123" Agreement and maintain a High-Level Bilateral Commission to address civil nuclear issues of mutual interest. The two countries signed in 2016 a Civil Space Framework Agreement to increase cooperation in civil space exploration, and we hold biennial cabinet-level Joint Committee Meetings on science and technology. The comprehensive U.S.-ROK Science and Technology Agreement (STA) has facilitated mutually beneficial scientific cooperation. The ROK is an active partner on efforts to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, and has established a World Fisheries University.

People-to-people ties between the United States and the ROK are a central pillar of our multifaceted relationship. The ROK is third in absolute terms (and first per capita) as a source of international students attending U.S. colleges and universities. Educational exchanges include a robust Fulbright exchange program, as well as the Work, English, Study, and Travel (WEST) program that gives a diverse group of Korean students and young leaders the opportunity to learn more about the United States.

Underscoring the strength of the U.S.-ROK Alliance, President Moon's first overseas trip after his May 2017 inauguration was to the United States in June 2017. In November 2017, President Trump became the first U.S. president to make a state visit to the Republic of Korea in 25 years, although previous presidents Obama, Bush, and Clinton all made several non-state visits to the ROK during that period.

U.S. Assistance to the Republic of Korea

The United States provides no development assistance to the ROK. The ROK, once a recipient of U.S. assistance in the years after the Korean War, has become a donor of development aid to other countries.

Bilateral Economic Relations

Over the past several decades, the ROK has achieved a remarkably high level of economic growth and in 2019 was the United States' sixth-largest goods trading partner. Major U.S. firms have long been leading investors and the United States was the ROK's second largest source of foreign direct investment in 2018, according to the International Monetary Fund. U.S. foreign direct investment in the ROK accounted for \$39.1 billion inward FDI stock in 2019. The two countries reached \$168.6 billion in trade in 2019, with large-scale flows of manufactured goods, agricultural products, services, and hi-tech goods. ROK foreign direct investment in the United States continues to grow and has more than tripled since 2011 from \$19.7 billion to \$61.1 billion in 2019 on a historical-cost basis by country of ultimate beneficial owner, making the Republic of Korea the second-largest Asian source of foreign direct investment into the United States. In the last three years, Korean companies have made major investment announcements in automotive components, industrial equipment, consumer electronics, and other sectors. The KORUS FTA entered into force on March 15, 2012, underscoring the depth of bilateral trade ties. The United States and ROK negotiated modifications and amendments to KORUS in 2018, and the updated agreement entered into force on January 1, 2019.

The Republic of Korea's Membership in International Organizations

The ROK and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, G-20, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization. The ROK hosts the Green Climate Fund, an international organization associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The ROK also is a Partner for Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and an observer to the Organization of American States.

Bilateral Representation

Principal Embassy officials are listed in the [Department's Key Officers List](#).

The ROK maintains an **embassy** in the United States at 2450 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008 (tel. 202-939-5600).

More information about South Korea is available from the Department of State and other sources, some of which are listed here:

[CIA World Factbook South Korea Page](#)

[International Travel Information for South Korea](#)

[U.S. Embassy](#)

[U.S. American Presence Post Busan](#)

[Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Washington, DC](#)

[U.S.-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement](#)

[U.S. Forces Korea](#)

[Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Countries Page](#)

[U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Statistics](#)

[Export.gov International Offices Page](#)

[Library of Congress Country Studies](#)

[Travel Information](#)



The Overseas Security Advisory Council's Travel Safety Reference Guide

November 2011

In This Guide:

Introduction	P. 1
Pre-Departure	P. 1
Know Before You Go	P. 1
Packing	P. 1
Health	P. 2
During Your Trip	P. 2
Awareness	P. 2
Personal Conduct	P. 3
Electronics Security	P. 4
Logistics	P. 4
Lodging	P. 5
Preparing for the "what if" scenarios	P. 7
Resources	P. 8
About OSAC	P. 9

Introduction

Globalization has made overseas travel – be it for business, academia, charity, personal, or mission work – quite common. International travelers are exposed to many new experiences and phenomena and among these, certain risks. This guide offers international travelers information, tactics, techniques, and procedures to mitigate risks inherent to international travel.

OSAC acknowledges that every destination is unique and that no one resource can address all eventualities. Therefore, we have developed this reference in coordination with our constituents to inform the private sector of best practices for personnel safety abroad. The risks of international travel are no longer just tied to local or transnational crime. It is our hope that the enclosed recommendations will both encourage individuals to seek overseas opportunities and provide greater comfort and confidence for those traveling internationally.

Pre-Departure

Know Before You Go

- Register with the U.S. State Department's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#).
- Review the U.S. State Department's [country specific information](#) and OSAC's [country crime and safety reports](#).
- Do your homework. Visit country-specific websites for important information on your destination country.
- Understand the laws and currency exchange rates in your destination country.
- Be culturally aware; learn a few common phrases in the local language and the basics of the cultural values and norms.
- Get a map and study it. Identify potential hazards and safe havens; learn several routes to key places you will be staying/living/visiting.

Packing

- Pack your luggage wisely. Make sure to place any prohibited materials (scissors, files, other sharp objects) in your check-in luggage.
- Be sure to pack 2-3 day "survival items" in your carry-on bag. This includes: medicines and toiletries, an extra change of clothes (including undergarments), important documents, drinking water, snacks (e.g., Powerbars), and anything else you may want.
- Do not display company or other identifying logos on luggage. Place your pertinent contact information in a visible place inside each piece of luggage.
- Do not openly display your name tags on your luggage. Include only your name and contact number on your tags, and keep them covered or turn the paper over and write "see other side."
- Get a plain cover for your passport.

- Make out a will.
- Consider a privacy act waiver.
- Leave travel itinerary and contact information with family or friends; do not otherwise disclose.
- Consider getting a telephone calling card and a GSM (tri-band or “world”) cellular phone that allows access to most local cellular systems (and provides a single contact number). Depending on your situation, you may want to purchase a local phone or SIM card in country.
- Take out property insurance on necessary equipment (cameras, binoculars, laptops, etc.).
- Consider securing a new credit card with a low credit limit separate from existing credit cards; in the event of theft, your personal accounts will not be compromised.
- Notify your credit card company of your intent to travel; confirm credit limit and availability.

Health

- Make sure health insurance covers foreign medical providers and medical evacuation expenses.
- Take an extra pair of glasses; depending on the destination, contact lenses can be problematic.
- Visit a travel clinic, inform them of destination(s), and get any needed inoculations and medications.
- Get a dental cleaning and checkup if you had not recently had one.
- Prep and pack a travel med kit; some items you may want to include:
 - Anti-diarrheal medication
 - Antibiotics
 - Anti-malaria (if applicable)
 - Antihistamine and decongestant
 - Antacid and laxative
 - Anti-fungal/anti-bacterial and hydrocortisone cream
 - Anti-bacterial hand wipes/ hand sanitizer
 - Pain reliever/fever reducer, sleep aid
 - Gauze, bandages, and medical tape
 - Insect repellent with DEET 35%
 - Shaving razor, tweezers, manicure kits
 - Sunscreen and aloe
 - Thermometer

During Your Trip

Awareness

Situational Awareness is very important domestically but becomes critically important overseas in unfamiliar environments. Keep your head up, eyes and ears open, and listen to your intuition! Situational awareness can and should be practiced and will improve the more you do so. Focus on seeing and remembering everything around you. It will seem extremely arduous and time-consuming at first but will become increasingly easier as time passes and proficiency is gained. Your goal should be for these efforts to become habitual and completed sub-consciously. Some important practices are:

- Trust your instinct; if a place does not feel right, move to a safer location – immediately.
- Assess your emotional and physical strengths and limitations.
- Be attentive to how others perceive you; behave in an unprovocative manner that discourages unwanted attention.
- Familiarize yourself with your neighborhood and work environment.
- Use common sense. Beware of EVERYONE, including pickpockets, scam artists, etc.
- Remove name tags or convention badges when outside the venue.
- Pay attention to local media for any activities or events that might affect you.
- Be aware of surroundings, including the people, cars, and alleys nearby.

- Keep alert to potential trouble, and choose to avoid when possible. Trust your instincts.
- Educate yourself of any pending events (elections, demonstrations, anniversaries) that may cause civil disturbance, and avoid unnecessary risks.
- Establish a support network among your colleagues and when possible, embassy personnel.
- Inform yourself of the availability and reliability of local support services (police, security, medical, emergency, fire).
- Confirm (with your embassy) the procedures for you and your family in the event of a crisis or evacuation.
- Politely decline offers of food or drink from strangers.
- Accept beverages only in sealed containers; make sure there has been no tampering.

Personal Conduct

You can dress, behave, and move about in a manner that is respectful of local custom, but rest assured, YOU WILL NOT BLEND IN. Remember that whenever you travel anywhere, whether you realize it or not, you are representing yourself, your family, your organization, and your country. Your behavior and actions will be applied as a positive or negative impression of all that you represent. In many cultures, this will essentially make or break your ability to successfully function and interact in another culture. Always keep in mind the following:

- Behave maturely and in a manner befitting your status in the local society; insist on being treated with respect.
- Dress in a manner that is inoffensive to local cultural norms.
- Avoid clothing that shows your nationality or political views.
- Establish personal boundaries and act to protect them.
- Exercise additional caution when carrying and displaying valuable possessions (jewelry, phone, sunglasses, camera, etc.); what may be a simple, even disposable item to you, may be a sign of extreme affluence to another.
- Vary your patterns of life/behavior to be less predictable.
- Divide money among several pockets; if you carry a wallet, carry it in a front pocket.
- If you carry a purse, carry it close to your body. Do not set it down or leave it unattended.
- Take a patient and calm approach to ambiguity and conflict.
- Radiate confidence while walking in public places.
- Do not expect privacy, anywhere.
- Do not discuss personal, professional, or financial issues of your group or yourself; these can be used to exploit you and your group.
- Be cool when facing confrontation; focus on de-escalation and escape.
- Respect local sensitivities to photographing/videotaping, especially at airports, police, and government facilities.
- Carry required official identification with you at all times.
- Report any security incidents to your embassy or consulate (who will advise you of options including reporting to local authorities, prosecution, corrective measures, etc.).
- Maintain a low profile, especially in places where there may be hostility toward foreigners and/or citizens of your country; do not seek publicity.
- Avoid public expressions about local politics, religion, and other sensitive topics.
- Avoid being out alone late at night or after curfew.
- Stay alert.
- Be unpredictable.
- Carry yourself with confidence.
- Be aware of distractions.
- Watch for surveillance. If you see the same person/vehicle twice, it could be surveillance; if you see it three times, it probably is surveillance.

Electronics Security

- First and foremost: if you don't NEED it, don't bring it!
- If you need to bring a laptop and/or phone and have "clean" ones available, use them.
- Back up and then wipe (sanitize) your laptop, phone, and any other electronics to ensure that no sensitive or personal data is on them while [traveling](#).
- Carry laptop in a protective sleeve in a backpack/purse/bag that does not shout "there's a computer in here."
- DO NOT EXPECT PRIVACY, ANYWHERE.
- Do not leave your electronic devices unattended.
- Do not use local computers to connect to your organization's secure network.
- Clear your temporary files, to include your temporary internet files, browser history, caches, and cookies after each use.
- Consider opening a new e-mail account (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL, etc.) for use during your trip.
- Ensure you update your computer's security software (antivirus, firewall, etc.) and download any outstanding security patches for your operating system and key programs.
- Upon return, change all of your passwords for devices and accounts (including voicemail) used while traveling.

Logistics

Air Travel

Air travel can be incredibly convenient and frustrating at the same time. While traveling you are extremely vulnerable and must bear this in mind that a distracted individual is a prime target for all kinds of nefarious actions. You must control what you can and readily adapt to, as well as what you cannot (i.e., flight schedules/delays and time to clear security). Here are some key considerations:

- Wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing.
- Arrive at the airport in plenty of time (1.5 – 2 hours before departure).
- Move through passenger security immediately after ticketing and locate your departure gate.
- Stay with your bags at all times.
- Set your watch to local time at destination upon take off.
- Be careful about how much of your personal/business information you share with fellow passengers; they are still strangers.
- Limit intake of alcohol in flight, and drink plenty of water to counteract "jet lag". This will help limit stress and increase alertness.
- If possible, pre-arrange transport from the airport to your hotel. Consider paying the additional room rate for a hotel that provides shuttle service to and from the airport.
- Have your immigration and customs documents in order and available. A durable folder secured by a buckle or elastic band may be useful.

Ground Travel

Ground travel poses several risks to the traveler. Not only are you more vulnerable, but many places do not have the traffic laws, enforcement, infrastructure, or assistance that you are accustomed to. Be prepared. You will be in an unfamiliar environment and may have to contend with, among other things, dangerous road conditions; untrained or unlicensed drivers; drivers operating under the influence of alcohol and/or narcotics; vehicles that are poorly maintained and therefore hazardous, police and/or criminal checkpoints or roadblocks, and others with malicious intentions. Some recommendations for ground travel are:

- Use a common vehicle model (local taxis may be a good indicator). If you rent, remove any markings that identify vehicle as a rental.
- If you have to drive, always leave a path for escape when you stop (at a light, stop sign, cross-walk, etc.).
- Park in a manner that expedites your departure.
- Carry a cell phone, first aid kit, maps, flashlight, and official documents in your vehicle.
- Keep the vehicle windows rolled up and the doors locked.
- Use the seat belts.
- Be alert to scam artists and carjackers while stopped in traffic.
- Understand the proper local procedures should you be involved in or witness a traffic accident. In some locales, stopping for an accident can put your life at risk.
- Only take official, licensed taxis; note the license plate number of taxi and write it down.
- Avoid getting into a taxi already occupied by others. If necessary, pay extra for a single fare. Negotiate a price before getting in taxi. Have money ready to pay in appropriate denominations.
- Take a seat on a bus or train that allows you to observe fellow passengers but does not preclude options to change seats if necessary.

Lodging

At the Hotel

For most destinations you travel to (in addition to being an obvious foreigner), you will be considered wealthy and a prime target. You should not consider a hotel a complete safe haven, there are still many threats and you are potentially very vulnerable at them. Some important considerations:

- Use reputable hotels, hostels, or boarding houses; your safety is worth any added cost.
- Remind hotel staff to not give out your room number.
- Meet visitors in the lobby; avoid entertaining strangers in your room.
- Take a walk around the hotel facilities to familiarize yourself with your environment. Are hotel personnel located on each floor? Are they in uniform? Do they display any identification? Who else has access to your floor?
- Ensure the phone in your room works. Call the front desk.
- Inspect the room carefully; look under the bed, in the showers and closets.
- Ensure door and window locks are working. Do not forget the sliding glass door, if the room has one.
- Ensure the door has a peephole and chain lock.
- Avoid ground floor rooms at the hotel. Third through fifth floors are normally desirable (harder to break into, but still accessible to firefighting equipment – where available).
- Read the safety instructions in your hotel room. Familiarize yourself with hotel emergency exits and fire extinguishers.
- Count the doors between your room and nearest emergency exit (in case of fire or blackout). Rehearse your escape plan.
- Keep all hotel doors locked with a dead bolt or chain at all times (do not forget the sliding glass door and windows).
- Consider traveling with a rubber door stop, smoke detector, and motion detector.
- Identify your visitor before you open the door.
- If you doubt room delivery, check with the front desk before opening the door.
- If you are out of your room, leave television/radio on at high volume. Place a “do not disturb” sign outside door.
- Do not leave sensitive documents or valuables visible and unattended in the room.
- Keep your laptop out of sight, in a safe, or in a locked suitcase. You may wish to use a laptop cable lock to secure your laptop to a window frame or bathroom plumbing.

- Keep your room number to yourself. If your room key is numbered or has your room number on a key holder, keep it out of sight. If a hotel clerk announces your room number loud enough for others to hear, ask for a new room.
- If you leave the hotel, carry the hotel business card with you; it may come in handy with a taxi driver who does not speak your language.

Residential

When residing overseas, it is critically important to understand the threat environment in which you will be living. Take the time to reach out to the resources available, including security professionals in your organization, the local embassy or consulate, and the appropriate crime and safety reports. Here are some security measures you might want to consider:

- Avoid housing on single-entry streets with a dead end or cul-de-sac.
- Housing near multiple intersections can be beneficial.
- Ensure the sound, secure structure of your residence.
- Strictly control access to and distribution of keys.
- Install adequate lighting, window grilles, alarm systems, and perimeter walls as necessary.
- Establish access procedures for strangers and visitors.
- Hire trained guards and night patrols; periodically check-up on guards.
- Set-up a safe room in your house; consider adding additional locks
- Establish rapport with neighbors. Is there a “neighborhood watch” program?
- Seek guidance from local colleagues or expatriates who have insight into local housing arrangements.
- Ensure adequate communications (telephone, radio, cell phone) with local colleagues, authorities, and your Embassy.
- Install a back-up generator and/or solar panels.
- Set aside emergency supplies (food, water, medicine, fuel, etc.).
- Install smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and carbon monoxide monitors, as appropriate.
- Avoid sleeping with the windows open or unlocked.
- Speak on the phone inside, somewhere that is and away from windows (through which you can be seen and heard).
- Ensure all windows have treatments that can prevent external observation.
- Lock up items, such as ladders and hand-tools, which could be used to facilitate forced entry.
- Store emergency funds in multiple places around the house.
- Keep a “go-bag” with clothes, water, and food (Powerbars, etc.) for three days packed and ready at all times. Keep copies of important documents and some emergency funds with the bag. Keep other necessary items (medications, etc.) in a centralized place for easy placement into bag. Key items include:
 - Documentation
 - Copies of all key documentation
 - Passport and/or national ID
 - Driver’s License
 - Health Insurance Card
 - Communication
 - Mobile phone – including a charger and extra battery
 - Work and emergency contact lists
 - Satellite Phone (if available)
 - GPS devise (if available)
 - Food and water
 - Water bottle
 - Purification tablets
 - Energy bars / dried fruit / nuts

- Other essentials
 - Cash (USD and local currency)
 - Full change of clothing
 - Rain jacket
 - Sweater
 - Walking shoes or boots (with heel and closed toe)
 - Insect repellent
 - Matches (ideally windproof and waterproof)
 - Flashlight (with extra batteries)
 - Medical/first aid kit
 - Sun screen
 - Sunglasses
 - Toiletries
 - Toilet paper
- Extended items
 - Sleeping bag or blanket
 - Mosquito net

Preparation for the “what if” scenarios

If You Become a Victim

Despite all of your efforts to reduce exposure to risks and to avoid threats, you may still become the victim of a crime or critical event. Following are some general response strategies:

- Remain calm and alert.
- Carefully note details of the environment around you (license plate number, distinguishing features, accents, clothing, etc.).
- First, try to defuse the situation. Culturally appropriate greetings or humor may reduce tensions.
- If an assailant demands property, give it up.
- You can create a timely diversion by tossing your wallet, watch, etc. to the ground in the opposite direction you choose to flee.
- Against overwhelming odds (weapons, multiple assailants) try reasoning, cajoling, begging, or any psychological ploy.
- If someone tries to grab you, make a scene and fight; kick, punch, claw, scratch, and grab as if your life depends on it, it very well could.
- If you feel your life is endangered and you decide to physically resist, commit to the decision with every fiber of your being; turn fear into fury.
- Report any incident your embassy.
- Seek support for post-traumatic stress (even if you exhibit no symptoms).

Hijacking/Kidnapping

- You may be targeted for kidnapping. As discussed previously, when traveling, you represent yourself, your family, your organization, and your homeland (or perceived homeland). You may be targeted due to any of these affiliations, or you may simply just end up in the wrong place at the wrong time. Because abduction situations vary greatly, the following considerations should be applied based on one’s best judgment at the time:
 - Know the “ransom” policy of your government. The United States of America will not pay a ransom.
 - The greatest risk of physical harm exists at the point of capture and during a rescue attempt or upon release.

- If you are going to resist at the point of capture, do so as if your life depends on it; it most probably does.
- Remain calm and alert; exert control on your emotions and behavior.
- Humanize yourself, quickly and continually.
- Be passively cooperative, but maintain your dignity.
- Assume an inconspicuous posture and avoid direct eye contact with captors.
- Avoid resistance, belligerence, or threatening movements.
- Make reasonable, low-key requests for personal comforts (bathroom breaks, a blanket, exercise, books to read, etc.)
- If questioned, keep answers short; volunteer nothing.
- As a captive situation draws out, try to establish some rapport with your captors.
- Avoid discussing contentious issues (politics, religion, ethnicity, etc.)
- Establish a daily regimen to maintain your body physically and mentally.
- Eat what your captors provide. Avoid alcohol.
- Keep a positive, hopeful attitude.
- Attempt to escape only after weighing the risks and when you are certain to succeed.

Resources

U.S. Department of State and OSAC

- Overseas Security Advisory Council: www.osac.gov
 - Country Crime and Safety Reports: www.osac.gov/Pages/ContentReports.aspx?cid=2
- Visit www.travel.state.gov for security advisories and other travel guidance
 - Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): www.travel.state.gov/step
 - Country Specific Information: www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html
 - U.S. State Department's role in a crisis: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1212.html

World Factbook

- CIA World Factbook: www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html

Study Abroad

- To get the latest in education abroad security information and training, go to www.globalscholar.us
- U.S. State Department Students Abroad website: www.studentsabroad.state.gov
- NAFSA (Association of International Educators) and The Forum on Education Abroad: <http://nafsa.org/> <http://www.forumea.org/>

Weather

- Review the climate and weather at your point of destination and/or any layover cities: www.weather.com

Travel Medicine/Health

- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/travel
- World Health Organization: www.who.int/ith

About OSAC

OSAC's Commitment

The Overseas Security Advisory Council is committed to providing the American private sector with customer service of the highest standard. As OSAC is a joint venture with the private sector, we strive to maintain standards equal to or surpassing those provided by private industry. OSAC activities directly correspond to requests from the private sector.

OSAC has received exceptional support for its initiatives from the chief executive officers and corporate security directors of many of the largest international corporations in the United States. The U.S. State Department and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security recognize the need in OSAC's goal to support the U.S. private sector by continuing to develop an effective and cost-efficient security information and communication network that will provide the private sector with the tools needed to cope with security-related issues in the foreign environment. OSAC's unique charter and continued success serve as an example of the benefits of mutual cooperation.

Mission

The U.S. State Department's Overseas Security Advisory Council (Council) is established to promote security cooperation between American private sector interests worldwide (Private Sector) and the U.S. Department of State.

The objectives of the Council, as outlined in its Charter, are:

- To establish continuing liaison and to provide for operational security cooperation between State Department security functions and the Private Sector.
- To provide for regular and timely interchange of information between the Private Sector and the State Department concerning developments in the overseas security environment.
- To recommend methods and provide material for coordinating security planning and implementation of security programs.
- To recommend methods to protect the competitiveness of American businesses operating worldwide.

For more information and to join the Overseas Security Advisory Council, please visit www.osac.gov.

This document is a compilation of constituent and OSAC efforts and is meant to serve as a reference guide for private sector best practices. OSAC wishes to thank all of our constituents who generously provided their input and assistance. A special thank you to Michael O'Neil, Director of Global Safety and Security, Save the Children International, whose contributions were vital and provided the foundation for this reference guide.



www.osac.gov

TRAVEL SAFETY GUIDE FOR STUDY ABROAD

If you become the victim of a crime, seek medical help if necessary, then immediately contact:

- the local police,
- your home nation's diplomacy or consular office
- your International Programs Office Director

If you have a medical emergency, seek immediate care, then contact:

- your host family/program director/international office at host institution
- IPO
- your family

PERSONAL SAFETY

- 🌐 Do - A thorough medical and dental check-up before departure.
- 🌐 Do - Travel with limited cash and one credit card keeping cash in more than one place.
- 🌐 Do - Use official currency outlets and use caution at ATM machines so as not to be a target for thieves. Make sure your card works abroad and notify your bank and credit card companies that you will be out of the country.
- 🌐 Do - Lock personal possessions and valuables in the hotel or room safe or use hotel security.
- 🌐 Do- Use a money belt rather than a purse. If you use a handbag, keep it close to the body. Wear backpacks in front.
- 🌐 Do - Maintain a security awareness of items on your person - i.e.: purse, wallet, keys, money and cell phones
- 🌐 Do - If you are sexually harassed, ignore the proposition and continue on your way.
- 🌐 Do not - Open your hotel room door for anyone not expected or known or does not have an official identification.
- 🌐 Do not - Wear expensive looking jewelry. Remember that thieves may not know the difference between pieces of real and costume jewelry.
- 🌐 Do not - Use ATM machines at night unless the area is open and well lit.
- 🌐 Do not - Walk in low-lighted areas without being surrounded by people and trust your instincts if something seems amiss, return to a safer surrounding, such as a hotel.
- 🌐 Do not - Walk, drive or travel alone and be aware of your surroundings when using public transportation, elevators or restrooms.

Travel Safety Pocket Guide

“Remember that no list can contemplate every possible “do” and “don’t” on safety issues. Every situation is unique. Be careful, don’t rush, think before you act, stay in a group whenever possible, and always use your own best judgment in any given circumstance.”

TRAVEL SAFETY

- 🌐 Do – Leave copy of travel itinerary with two or more known trusted people.
- 🌐 Do – Promise to call or email relatives or friends periodically.
- 🌐 Do – Dress according to the social and cultural norms in each country.
- 🌐 Do – Exclude titles, organization names or unnecessary data on luggage tags.
- 🌐 Do – Keep luggage near by and in view at all times and pack a small flashlight.
- 🌐 Do – Have alternative plans for unexpected events during traveling, keeping necessary items in your carry-on.
- 🌐 Do – Create and have handy detailed maps.
- 🌐 Do – Ask about surrounding and problem areas you may have to travel through. Check these sites:
 - **U.S. State Department: <http://www.state.gov/travel/>**
 - **<https://step.state.gov/>**
 - **<http://www.traveldocs.com/>**
- 🌐 Do – Be aware of your surroundings – not to be lulled with a false sense of security.
- 🌐 Do – Keep advised, via local media, of the current security situations in the area.
- 🌐 Do – Use main entrance of hotels and other buildings.
- 🌐 Do – Use all security locking devices when in your room and keep your room key in your pocket.
- 🌐 Do – Know the emergency number to call where you will be.
- 🌐 Do – Figure out how you will communicate: SIM card? App? Current phone number? What will work in an emergency?
- 🌐 Do – Have a backup plan if relying on your phone for directions or information. Be prepared in case you lose it.
- 🌐 Do – Research and know the laws of your host country. Ignorance is not an excuse.
Be aware of what transportation is official and if using ride shares (Uber/Lyft), verify your ride and driver before entering car.
- 🌐 Do – Consider buying RFID blockers to protect cards from identity theft.

FIRE SAFETY

- **www.firesafetyfoundation.org**
- 🌐 Do – Acquaint yourself with all hotel/residence hall/ etc. emergency procedures and locate all emergency exits nearest you.
- 🌐 Do – Ask about safety measures such as, fire alarms, evacuation procedures and if windows will open.
- 🌐 Do – Call fire department direct if fire occurs then call hotel/residence hall management.
- 🌐 Do – Feel door with palm of hand, if hot don’t open if not try to escape to nearest stairway exit-not elevator.
- 🌐 Do – Stay in room and wait for help when in doubt on what to do and DO NOT PANIC or DO NOT JUMP.
- 🌐 Do – Keep everything wet if you stay in room stuffing door cracks with wet sheets and towels.
- 🌐 Do – Fill the tub with water and douse the door and walls if you stay in room.

LINFIELD UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IDST 031 SYLLABUS; 2024-25 Academic Year

IDST 031: Intercultural Communication: Pre-Departure, Experiences Abroad, and Re-entry (S/U; 1 credit)

Note: *Students do not register for this course. It will appear on your transcript after you return from your program and attend the re-entry session. IPO then submits the grades to the Registrar to post. Please read the information below which explains the details.*

Course Objective:

This three-part course, required of all semester abroad participants, is designed to prepare you for your semester abroad program, reflect on your experiences while you are abroad and challenge you to think about your encounter with your own culture/country upon returning home. Studies have shown that students who undergo a well-designed orientation program tend to have a higher probability of success when they encounter a cross-cultural conflict or difficulty or experience culture shock. This applies both to international students who study in the United States and American students preparing to study abroad. Some may think that the term “culture shock” is overplayed in some circles, but rest assured that just about everyone will face some level of stress and anxiety when placed in a cultural environment different than their own. The objective is to be able to identify and recognize the symptoms and be ready to cope with the stress so that the experience abroad will turn out to be a rewarding one.

The International Programs Office (IPO) will provide you with cross-cultural material, specific assignments and readings in order to satisfactorily fulfill this one-credit course.

This companion course to the actual on-site study will allow you to identify, examine and explore your personal objectives for undertaking the study. Linfield University has also identified some of the objectives and learning outcomes expected of all students who study abroad.

LEARNING OUTCOMES EXPECTED OF SEMESTER/YEAR ABROAD PARTICIPANTS:

At the end of the semester or year of participation in a Linfield-administered program, participants must be able to demonstrate the following:

- Language acquisition: participants must meet a desired level of proficiency in their language of study. This will be determined through a pre and post test instrument specifically designed and administered by the Global Languages & Cultural Studies. In some cases, the GLCS faculty will also conduct mid-year evaluations of language proficiency for their majors.
- Ability to adapt and be successful in a culturally (and systemically) different educational environment.
- Ability to see and articulate similarities and differences between your own country/culture and the culture of your host country
- Ability to recognize, synthesize and articulate the cultural differences, norms, mores, habits and lifestyles of families in your host country compared with your own.

- Ability to utilize experiences abroad for (international) career building: participants should be able to write a succinct paragraph to this effect to be included in their revised resume.
- Have the skills to be more self-confident, more tolerant and flexible and less reliant on others.

Assessment tools:

- Pre and post language tests, as well as mid-year evaluations **for year-long language majors.**
- Coursework and final grades
- Mid-Semester assignment
- Returnee questionnaire and evaluation
- Re-entry discussion and assignment

1. Pre-Departure Preparation:

A pre and a post orientation assignment will accompany a day and a half of cross-cultural orientation session (normally held in mid-March of each year), required of all participants. The pre-orientation assignment will be emailed to you after you have been accepted into the program and 1-2 weeks before orientation. It will be due the first day of orientation. The mandatory day and a half orientation session will include general discussion and presentation of various cross-cultural topics as well as information about the specific country of your destination. A post orientation assignment will allow you to summarize your thoughts about what you have gained from the sessions.

2. Your Experiences Abroad:

While you are abroad, we will send you a mid-semester assignment that is designed to reflect on your experience and to make comparisons across cultures, your own as well as the one you are experiencing in the host country. You are required to submit your reactions via email to ipo@linfield.edu. In completing this on-site mid-semester assessment, you should be aware that IPO will post select entries on the Linfield website so that others in the community would also benefit from your experience abroad.

Mid-Semester Assessment

Please respond to the question/assignment below, with 2-3 thoughtful paragraphs.

- Identify someone from your host country (such as a roommate, a classmate, a member of your host family, a clerk at a local store, a program assistant at the study center, someone you met at the study center) and conduct an interview. Write 2-3 paragraphs to report your findings on these salient points (*make up your own questions to address these points*):
 - What surprised you the most about the lifestyles, mores, norms and habits of the person you interviewed compared to yours or people you encounter with back home?
 - What are (cultural) similarities and differences you observed or learned (their preferences, tastes, outlook, values) between the person you interviewed and you?
 - How did the interview experience and what you learned changed your initial perceptions of the host country?

- At the end of your report, include the name(first name only) of the person you interviewed, who they are and the date of the interview.

At the conclusion of your study abroad program, you will be asked to complete a “study abroad returnee” assessment of your learning experiences.

3. *Returning home:*

Studies have shown (and the Linfield experience has confirmed) that study abroad returnees often experience some level of anxiety about returning home and getting back to their normal routine after spending some time (semester or year) living in another culture. Most feel the value of sharing these feelings with fellow students who have had similar experiences. Hence, we have developed a re-entry workshop to provide for this discussion. For the final part of this course, you will be required to attend one re-entry session held each term. The estimated dates for this session are provided below, along with information about the class meeting.

Grading:

You will receive a passing grade for this course once you have satisfactorily completed all assignments associated with the three segments to this course: pre-departure, experience abroad, returning home.

Mandatory Semester Abroad Orientation

- ↗ Attend the **mandatory** study abroad orientation sessions listed below. **Absences for any reason are not allowed. For all students:**
 - Friday, March 15, 2024 (from 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm); Jonasson Hall
 - Saturday, March 16, 2024 (from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm); Jonasson Hall
 - Country specific sessions, various locations, will be arranged separately

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Due Dates</u> <u>Fall 2024 Programs</u>	<u>Due Dates</u> <u>Spring 2025 Programs</u>
Pre-orientation Assignments	March 15, 2024	March 15, 2024
Post-orientation Review	March 22, 2024	March 22, 2024
Mid-semester assignment: Experiences Abroad	Questions sent by our office for responses. Select entries will be posted on the IPO website and Linfield’s Digital Commons website.	
Returnee Assessment/Questionnaire	Within 2 weeks of the end of your program.	
Reentry Class	Feb./March, 2025	Sept./Oct, 2025

Relevant texts:

These reference materials are available in Nicholson Library. Use these materials as a background to complete your assignments for this course.

Culture Shock publication for all destinations, published by Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company, Portland Oregon. Similar publications are also available through Lonely Planet Publications.

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodation, who have any emergency medical information of which IPO should be informed, or require special arrangements in order to **fully** participate in the abroad program or in the event of a necessary evacuation from the study abroad site, should meet with a staff member in IPO as early in the process as possible, no later than a week after receiving the acceptance letter.

Students who have been accepted to participate in a semester/year study abroad program are expected to adhere to the college policy on academic honesty, as published in the Linfield College catalogue, in fulfilling the requirements of this course and in all the courses they would be taking while abroad.

2/24

Mar 13 – Apr 6

CLASSES BEGIN

Mar 31

LAST DAY TO ADD A COURSE ONLINE WITHOUT DEPARTMENT APPROVAL

Apr 6

LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE (100% TUITION REFUND)

Apr 6

LAST DAY TO AUDIT A COURSE

Apr 7 – Apr 11 by 5 pm

LAST DAY TO ADD A COURSE ONLINE WITH DEPARTMENT APPROVAL

Apr 13

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE (50% TUITION REFUND)

Apr 20

LAST DAY TO CHANGE THE GRADING BASIS OF A COURSE

May 16 by 5 pm

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE (NO REFUNDS AVAILABLE)

May 16

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM TERM

Jun 6

LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR GRADUATION (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Jun 6

CLASSES END

Jun 6

FINALS WEEK

Jun 9 – Jun 13

SPRING TERM ENDS

Jun 13

GRADES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Jun 18

STUDENT BUDGET – YONSEI UNIVERSITY 24-25

The following figures are estimates based on students' budgets from last year. They are only estimates and vary widely according to the individual. It is important to remember that not all expenses are included! Be prepared for some additional small expenses (i.e. photographs, photocopies) that will be necessary for various reasons.

Be aware of the exchange rate while you are there. Currently, 1 US Dollar = 1,316.95 South Korean Won (as of March 2024).

Rent/Housing	\$1600
*Food	\$2000
Local transportation	\$200
*Independent travel	\$1000
Books & Supplies	\$100
Postage	\$0 (not used frequently)
Phone	\$90
*Gifts	\$500
*Entertainment	\$400
Total estimated cost:	\$7000

*If you are on a tight budget, these items can be reduced considerably by concentrating on local travel and taking care with discretionary expenditures.

BANKING:

Plan to exchange \$100 USD into your country's currency, preferably at the airport of departure or you can exchange currency at most airports of arrival, but often arrival is a hectic time plus you might be experiencing jet-lag.

The easiest method for obtaining funds is to use an internationally recognized ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) card – such as PLUS or CIRRUS –for cash withdrawals. You will need to get a pin number from your bank, and you will probably be able to withdraw money only from checking accounts, not savings accounts. **Be sure to check with your bank here at home. Have a back-up plan in case your card does not work. ATM's are not always available outside of cities.**

Another practical solution to international banking is a VISA credit card. You can use the card to charge expenses in most stores, restaurants, and hotels throughout Western Europe. You can also get cash advances at exchange windows of many banks. Be aware, however, that there is often a fee for the advance plus interest charges that begin immediately after withdrawal.

It is also advisable to photocopy the backs of all your ATM/credit cards and keep that with a photocopy of your passport. If you lose any of your cards, you will have the phone numbers to call the companies.

LINFIELD COLLEGE STUDENT GUIDE FOR YONSEI UNIVERSITY, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

KOREA SEMESTER ABROAD
REV Jan 2013 by Dana Hellie
REV Mar 2018 by Jasmine Schmit
REV 2024 by Kayley Dombrignes

YONSEI UNIVERSITY [연세 대학교]

A good source of information about Yonsei University is the English portion of their website:
http://www.yonsei.ac.kr/en_sc/.

You can find the Yonsei catalog [here](#). However you must use internet explorer to access the catalog (with some bugs, it can also work in Chrome, but internet explorer is the best option). First select Course Catalog and Syllabus (this should open another window) > Select Undergraduate Programs > Study Abroad Course > Undergraduate with the semester you will be attending to find the tentative study abroad courses listed. There are also non-study abroad English classes offered. The easiest way to find major specific classes is by first searching the major in the search engine and then afterwards marking the box "English Course Only." Some classes will have the syllabus already posted for those trying to transfer credits from the University (if not, you can look back a semester or year and use that syllabus for the registrar until you can get a hold of the current syllabus).

BEFORE YOU GO

Some research before your departure for Korea can help you have a much more enjoyable and productive trip. It's recommended that you read about the history of Korea and their relationships with the United States and their neighbors in Asia. Newspapers and magazines are also excellent sources of information. [The Korea Herald](#) and [The Korea Times](#), are two Korean newspapers.

Be sure to locate your year's study abroad facebook for Yonsei University to get connected with individuals who are already at Yonsei; you will likely find people who are willing to pick you up at the airport to reduce your stress upon your arrival. Or if you get connected with club leaders, you may find someone willing to pick you up as well.

Information about what you may or may not bring back to the United States is available in the "Know Before You Go" publication on the web [here](#). Another helpful travel site:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>.

If you have proof of immunity to Pulmonary Tuberculosis (TB), be sure to bring a copy of that proof with you in order to complete dorm check-ins; otherwise you will have one week in order to complete this task by going to the local clinic to get an x-ray for 5,000 KRW (2013 data). It takes about 3 days to process but the process is fairly simple.

Although it is generally recommended to exchange currency before you arrive in South Korea, it is actually cheaper to buy Korean Won at Incheon International Airport upon arriving. Make sure to bring enough U.S. Dollars to exchange at the airport prior to your departure. A rough estimation of U.S. Dollars to Korean Won would be \$1.00 (USD) = ₩1,000 (KRW).

It is not necessary to know the Korean language; however basic reading of Hangul (Korean alphabet) and simple phrases (“Hello”[안녕하세요/ahn-nyeong-ha-seh-yo], “Thank You”[감사합니다]/kam-sa-ham-ni-da], and “Where is...?”[...어디예요?/...o-di-yeh-yo?]) are useful.

STUDENT VISA

Once you’ve obtained your passport, you should apply for your student visa for Korea as soon as you are allowed to. The consulate for Oregon is: [Korean Consulate of Seattle](#) (phone: 206-441-1011, email: seattle0404@mofa.go.kr). If you are in a different state, you may be under the jurisdiction of a different consulate. I was able to submit my application (and required documents) via mail and receive my student visa via mail in return. I had some confusion with the required documents list they had online, so I called the consulate directly (I highly recommend doing this! It’ll give you the most up-to-date information). The list I was given to mail in for a South Korea D-2 Exchange Student Visa (2017) was: current valid passport (the visa will be issued on a page of your passport), Certificate of Admission (sent in Yonsei University’s acceptance package you’ll receive from the IPO), filled visa application (downloaded from site-needs one passport photo), money order*/cash for \$45 application fee, and a prepaid envelope* to receive my visa/passport back. It took about a week to receive my passport/visa in the mail after I sent it to the consulate.

*If you use a money order, the address is: Korean Consulate of Seattle, 2033 6th Avenue, Suite #1125, Seattle, WA 98121, check the website for any updates. My money order through USPS cost \$1.20, for a total of \$46.20. The prepaid tracking envelope cost \$31.76 through UPS (including shipping out my application packet).

ARRIVAL IN KOREA

Upon arrival at the airport in Incheon, Korea, be sure to exchange currency. From the airport you have three options to arrive at Yonsei University. Depending on the time of day, some ways are easier than others.

Subway: This is the cheapest way to travel to Yonsei University, costing about 3,600KRW. You will follow the signs saying airport railway (it will be located on the bottom floor

of the airport), passing the shops, movie theater, and ice rink. The left entrance is where you will want to go in order to purchase a subway pass. There will be machines that have English as an option. You will select your destination as Sinchon (line 2, green line). There will be one transfer point at Hongdae (“Hongik University”) and Sinchon will be one stop from Hongdae (all stops are spoken in English, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, so you won’t miss your stop). Once arriving at Sinchon, you can take the elevator up to the street level or go to exit 3. There will be a McDonalds on the corner where you exit, flag down a taxi and tell them to go to Yonsei East Gate [“연세대 동문 (정류장)“/Yon-se-dae dong-mun (jeong-nyu-jang)] or Ewha Womans Univ. Back Gate [“이대 후문 (정류장)“/ee-dae hu-mun (jeong-nyu-jang)] - (I recommend you have this written down on a sheet of paper and put “좀 가세요“/ jom ka-seh-yo after whichever destination you choose to ask them to go to – it means “please go ...”); this should cost less than 5,000 KRW. You will find the dorms down the staircase after entering the gate (it will be the first buildings you see upon going through the gate). If you take the taxi to Ewha Womans Univ. Back Gate, the links in the next paragraph will help you find your way from the bus stop to the international dorms. You can also arrange to have someone pick you up at Sinchon Subway Station to direct you (it is about a 10 minute walk). This website is useful to understand the subway: <http://www.smrt.co.kr/program/cyberStation/main2.jsp?lang=e> (you may need a VPN set to Korea for this website). Other helpful subway links: https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRP/TP_ENG_6.jsp and <http://www.seoulmetro.co.kr/en/cyberStation.do?menuIdx=337>.

Airport Bus: This is the easiest way to get to the international dorms at Yonsei University. Ask the information desk which bus to take to Sinchon or Yonsei University. It will be 10,000 KRW to take this bus that will take you to the nearest bus stop to the dorms which will be two stops after Yonsei Main Gate. Once getting off, cross the street toward the restaurants (away from Ewha Womans University) and take a right. Take a left when you see Paris Baguette on the corner, then take a right at the next block. You should pass a Mini Stop. At the next block take a left up the hill passing Lord Sandwich. The dorms will be at the top of the slight hill. This blog and YouTube video also have useful directions: [Airport to SK Global House - Blog Version](#) and [Airport to SK Global House - YouTube](#) (the restaurants have changed across from the bus stop, but the brown restaurant on the corner and Lord Sandwich are still there as of early 2018).

Taxi: This is the most expensive option. Also, be aware that taxis traveling long distances don’t know Yonsei campus as well and tend to get lost when finding the dorms. Be sure to have specific directions in Korean for them to take you to the right building. Taking a taxi will be 50,000+ KRW.

Check in: Depending on which dorms you have been placed in (either SK Global House or International House), you will have different check in points. If you arrive during the day, the front desk attendants are capable of speaking in English to direct you; otherwise you will be communicating with the security guards who don’t speak English. Although it make take some to communicate with them, it is not impossible. You will sign a form outlining the rules of the

dorm, and a checklist for things that should be in your room and their condition, and you will receive bedding (including a pillow), and a dorm key card that will scan you into your room.

Alien Registration Card (ARC): One other thing you will need to be concerned about upon arrival (which will be discussed in the orientation) is your Alien Registration Card (ARC). Although you have a student visa to get in the country, Korea uses a different system, the ARC, as your visa. You will have 90 days to obtain your ARC. It will cost around 10,000-40,000 KRW. You can avoid the trouble of going to the Immigration Office, if you listen for an announcement about on-campus applications (this is something they should talk about in orientation). The Office of International Affairs (OIA) hosts the Immigration Office in order to prevent long lines at the regional office. You will need to have your student identification, acceptance letter, enrollment form, your passport, 2 passport photos, ARC application, and cash. The OIA can help direct you to the Immigration Office if you miss the school registration. It should be noted you will need to make a reservation at the Seoul Immigration Office, as walk-ins are not accepted. In 2017, it cost 33,000 KRW for the entire process – including shipping (3,000 KRW) the ARC to the dorm. There are people at the [Seoul Immigration Office](#) who can help you if you need it. You cannot complete the application online, but you can reserve an appointment online (some students had issues with this, and you may want to find someone to call them instead). Also, you will have to return your ARC when you start the process of boarding your return flight home.

Another helpful thing (if you've downloaded KakaoTalk) is to join the exchange student group (ask around if you haven't heard of it) on KakaoTalk. You can set the notifications to silent or for it not to alert you (as many people will use it for things you may not care about), but it can come in handy for learning about events, a place to ask questions, or even to find new friends if you want to go somewhere but all your other friends are busy.

USEFUL APPS

Map/Navigation	
	Naver Map
	KakaoMap
Food	
	Yogiyo* [요기요] – a delivery food app (*requires Korean phone#)
Dictionary	
	Naver Dictionary – Eng/Kor dictionary with a translator option!
Social	
	KakaoTalk – uses Wi-Fi for messaging/calls/video calls
	WeChat
	WhatsApp

PRICES

The following are prices for some items in Seoul, keep in mind that prices are subject to change. Depending on how conservative you are in your spending habits, you should be able to eat, travel, play, and shop comfortably on 600,000KRW (about \$600.00) a month.

Subway	1,350 KRW for basic fare Save ~8% with T-Money Card (Transportation card you can buy at convenience stores around Seoul. The card costs 2,500+ KRW.) More Info: https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRP/TP_ENG_6.jsp
Bus	1,200 KRW
Bottled Water	500-800 KRW
Korean Food (on campus)	2,500-7,000 KRW
Korean Food (off campus)	3,000-13,000 KRW
Books (study-abroad classes)	10,000-15,000 KRW each
Books (non-study abroad classes)	20,000-80,000 KRW depending on subject
Korean Books	100,000 KRW for all 4 books
Phone Cards	10,000 KRW
Phone	60,000-80,000 KRW initially for the phone and charger (pre-paid) but about 10,000-20,000 KRW/month afterwards
Coffee	3,000-8,000 KRW
School Events	5,000-30,000 KRW
Street Shop Clothing	5,000-40,000 KRW
Karaoke (Noraebang, NRB)	10,000-30,000 KRW per hour (with friends it would be like 3,000+ KRW per hour) Or 250-500 won per song in Coin Noraebang
Billiards (Pool)	10,000 KRW per hour (soda/tea included)
Printing	50-100 KRW per page
Laundry	1,800 KRW (900 KRW to wash and 900 KRW to dry one load)
Haircut (on campus)	10,000 KRW
Haircut (off campus)	20,000+ KRW
Hanbok Rental (traditional Korean clothing)	10,000+ KRW per hour

LESSONS FOR LIVING IN SEOUL

1. Don't be afraid to be aggressive when getting on buses and subways, it is sometimes necessary. There is no need to say "sorry" for pushing or bumping individuals.
2. Be aware of recent changes in sidewalk rules. In the past it was keep left on the sidewalk, but it is now keep right. Many Koreans are still not familiarized with this so it is pretty much just walk wherever.
3. Vehicles usually take right of way over pedestrians, so always be aware of your surroundings. Be aware of scooters/motorcycles on the sidewalks as well.
4. If you are a vegetarian, vegan (or something of that sort), or not tolerant of spicy food it will be very difficult for you to find food to eat. Most food in Korea has some sort of meat (beef or chicken) with an array of kimchi vegetables with different levels of spice.
5. Only drink purified or bottled water. There are many water stations, so a water bottle is very handy.
6. Staring is not rude in Korean culture. You can look for as long as you feel comfortable to do so however be a bit conservative as you are a foreigner and don't get quite as much freedom with the rule.
7. Everyone (male and female) are very conscious of self-image and tend to look in mirrors, cameras, etc. to check their hair and make-up.
8. Most everyone has a smart phone as Wi-Fi is easily accessed. If you can bring one, I would highly recommend it. Kakao, a Wi-Fi messaging application, is an essential form of communication. Don't be alarmed when you see Koreans of all ages playing Kakao games while on the bus/subway/waiting in line.
9. Know that elderly people find English to be very annoying and disruptive. Be cautious of your volume when in the presence of elders, especially in the PM.
10. Using Korean, even super basic Korean, may gain you friendlier service/interactions.
11. Taxis will not take you short distances even if it is illegal to refuse service. You have to get in the taxi before telling them your destination to avoid this complication (they can't refuse once you are in the car).
12. Take advantage of student discounts! You can get discounts for being a student at Yonsei. Severance Hospital has an amazing food court which accepts your student ID card to give you a 10% discount.

FOOD

Depending on how much you want to integrate into society you can find different menu options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Breakfast: The cafeteria on campus serves Korean style breakfasts ranging from 2,500-3,000 KRW. They are generally a soup, rice, and side dishes. If you want a more American breakfast,

you can find yogurt (700 KRW each) and fruit (500-1,500 KRW each) at the convenience store (GS25), open 24/7, on the main level of the dorm building.

Lunch: Is the best time to try new restaurants and cafeterias. There are about 10 cafeterias on campus (in different department buildings). The three major cafeterias can be found in the Student Union (next to Global Lounge, where the OIA is located). There is also a cafeteria next to the international dorms in the Jejung Dorm. Down the street from the dorms is Lord Sandwich (6,000-10,000 KRW) and Dalgigol (known as Strawberry restaurant to many exchange students), past the Mini Stop, which serves Korean food, mostly under 5,000 KRW (non-spicy options include bulgogi, ddeokmanduguk (rice cake dumpling soup), mandu (dumplings), and you can ask for less/no spice on some of the other options).

Dinner: Some common dinner items you can find just outside of campus are: Jjigae's of all varieties (5,000 KRW), Seolleongtang (7,500-12,000 KRW), Gogi Buffet (8,000-10,000 KRW), kimbap (1,500 KRW), Naengmyeon (7,000 KRW), Yale Town which are gourmet burgers and poutines(8,000-12,000 KRW), Dos Tacos (6,500-9,000 KRW), Noodle Box (6,000-8,000 KRW), Isaac Toast (2,500-4,000 KRW), Jajangmyeon (6,000 KRW), Pizza (5,000-12,000 KRW depending on brand) and much, much more.

Again, be aware of food limitations for those with dietary restrictions

Street food is best around evening time and is usually under 5,000 KRW.

Foods that you might miss, are hard to find, or very expensive: peanut butter (8,000 KRW), limited selection of chocolate, apple sauce, apple cider, most processed foods (boxed dinners, such as macaroni and cheese, and canned soups), dairy products (cheeses especially are expensive, milk is more pasteurized (further cooked) and has an acquired taste), specific coffee preferences, teas (especially chai), oatmeal and other hot breakfast cereals, dried fruits and nuts (4,000 KRW for a small package), and limited varieties of cereal (4,000-7,000 KRW per box).

TELEPHONES

Pre-paid phones can be purchased on the main floor (B2) at the easygoing travel agency office. You can purchase a refurbished phone (60,000-80,000 KRW), be aware that part of the initial fee includes purchase of a charger. Once the phone is purchased, it is about 10,000-20,000 KRW per month. At the end of your study abroad you are allowed to keep your phone. If you have made relationships with individuals already in Korea, you may be able to find a phone left behind by students in previous semesters that you can use. You may also bring your own phone, and buy a sim card (~50,000 KRW) and then recharge data (without calling) for 10,000 to 15,000 KRW; calling is an additional charge if you wish to recharge it. A cell phone number has 11 total digits (xxx) xxxx-xxxx.

Calling cards can be purchased in the travel office on B2 (the main floor of the dorm building). They generally go for about 10,000 KRW per card. You can find phones in the lobby.

Alternative options: free international calling through Wi-Fi such as Kakao, Viber, Skype, and Google hangouts.

MAIL

International mail takes about one week to travel in either direction (Korea to the U.S and U.S. to Korea). You can deliver mail either through the post office on the basement floor of the student union, or if packages are small enough at the convenience store on B2.

You can receive mail directly at your dorm. SK Global residences receive mail in their mailbox and bigger packages on a table in the lobby. International house residences receive mail in their mailbox and bigger packages at the front desk.

Your mailing address in Korea will look like this:

YOUR NAME
SK GLOBAL HOUSE OR INTERNATIONAL HOUSE RM. #
YONSEI UNIVERSITY, 50 YONSEI-RO, SEODAEMUN-GU,
SEOUL 03722, KOREA

There are usually no problems in receiving international packages.

BANK

On campus is a bank called, Woori Bank. This is the most common bank to be used by foreigners and can be found on campus on the basement floor of the student union (the same location as the post office). You will need to bring your passport, ID card, and money you would like to deposit into the account. You may also have to provide proof of enrollment unless you already have your ARC. Woori Bank ATM's can be found all around campus for easy access and can be used at all places accepting cards, however cash is very important when street shopping and having to pay as a big group (they do not like splitting a check). With your Woori Bank card, you can get discounts at some venues such as Lotte World (which will only cost 10,000 KRW after 4pm using a Woori Bank Card) (2013 data).

You don't have to use Woori Bank, but be aware it's more useful than using your bank if your bank has foreign transaction fees and/or won't reimburse ATM fees while abroad.

HOUSING

There are two international dorms on campus: SK Global House (SK) and the International House (I-House). Each has their own front desk with RA's and security guards. However these two dorms are on a first come first serve basis, so you must register for housing as soon as you

get the notification to do so. Otherwise you will be placed on a waitlist and must look for housing off campus in the surrounding area (which is quite difficult for non-Korean speakers). Please make sure to put a heavy priority in finishing your housing application and paying the housing fees.

SK Global House: Is an eight floor building with 3 floors of basement. B2 is considered the main level; it will be the access point into the dorms. It houses the main lounge area with the front desk, mailboxes, and a package delivery area. It also has access to bathrooms and the entrance to the commercial area in the dorms. Additionally, B2 provides a women's laundry room and a men's laundry room (washers are 900KRW and dryers are 900KRW), a dry clean window (who you can also pay to do your laundry, if you would like), small fitness gym (some machines do not work), and a computer lab (with a printing station). B3 provides a giant kitchen space (with refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, a TV [that can connect laptops or game systems to be played], soda machines, cabinets for kitchen supplies, lockers for storing food, and seating), a conference room with a projector that can be reserved for movies or other events, two music rooms that can be reserved, and bathrooms. Floors are gender specific in SK Global (1-3 for men, 4-7 for women), however, before 11pm, the other gender may be admitted onto your floor lounge area. There are single and double-room dorms, each including: a bathroom and shower (which must be cleaned by yourself), a bed (with bedding provided at check in), shelves, desk, desk light, room phone (that can be called to but can only be used to call people within the building), patio; some also have clothes drying racks and some rooms have a mini-fridge. On each floor you will find: one lounge equipped with a sink, microwave, refrigerator, TV, vacuum (for communal use) and seating, and two study rooms.

International House: Is a five floor building, four of which are dorms. In 2017, I-House was a female-only dorm. I-House is filled with only double dorms, each including: a bed (with bedding provided at check in), a desk, desk light, shelves, room phone (that can be called to but can only be used to call people within the building), refrigerator, and trash can. Each dorm-floor provides communal bathrooms and showering rooms that are cleaned every weekday, and a lounge (with kitchen, TV, refrigerator, couches, and a table). The basement in I-House has washers and dryers and a study room. The washers and dryers are industrial sized and can fit many clothes. The washer is 1,000 KRW and the dryer is 500 KRW a load (2013 data). There is an elevator that travels from the first floor to the fifth floor, but stairs have to be taken to get to the basement. On the first floor you will find the front desk (which will provide visitor cards if you are inviting a friend over, vacuum cleaner, and packaged mail), your mailbox, two computers with internet, change making machine (for laundry), soda machines, and a conference room which you can reserve if you need to. 2013: At the ends of most hallways, you will find an access point to the SK Global dorms. You are allowed to use the facilities provided at SK using these doors. 2017: Travel between SK Global and I-House through the back hallways on each floor has been changed; it is now disallowed and if you want to visit friends in SK Global, you must get a visitor's pass from the front desk with the friend you are visiting, otherwise it's best to meet them in the main lounge or the commercial area (this is still open to anyone on Yonsei campus). Anyone not staying in SK Global does not have use of the gym, laundry rooms, and computer lab on B2 (or any of the lounges on the floors above).

Commercial area (SK Global House – B2): can be accessed by all students. The SK Global Lobby is open to all students as well, and has an international calling station, phone to call people within the building, bathrooms, and the housing office. Around the corner (without leaving the building) is one entrance to the commercial area, which has: a convenience store, restaurants, a flower shop, a travel agency (which also provides phones), and coffee shops. The set-up of the stores in this area may change, but the travel agency and the convenience store seem pretty set. From this space you can also access the Korean Language Institute (KLI) where your Korean classes will be held (cafeteria on the basement floor and ATM on the first floor) and New Millennium Hall (NMH) which is where most of your study abroad classes will be located (cafeteria on the basement floor and ATM on the first floor).

The website for both international dorms: <https://ih.yonsei.ac.kr/?code=0101>.

Host Family: You can apply to stay with a host family for a weekend or on a month to month basis through the OIA. Not all homes are close to campus, some can take up to one hour to commute.

TRANSPORTATION

A t-money card is the best way to travel in Korea. You can purchase this card at most convenience stores and at the subway ticket machines, where they can also be recharged (recharging is by cash only, no matter where you recharge). By using a t-money card you save money on transportation fares, with discounted prices and transfers to buses for free.

Depending on how much you travel and where you are traveling to, I would estimate about 10,000 KRW per week. Subways are ~1,240 KRW per ride (including subway transfers, depending on distance) and bus rides are ~1,200 KRW per ride (with unlimited transfers, depending on distance). Transfers last about 40 minutes until you must pay the transportation fee again.

Taxis are a viable option depending on where you are going and how many people are accompanying you. If you have four people and are traveling to Myeong-dong, it will actually be about ~3,000 KRW per person, which isn't much more than taking the subway and is twice as fast.

For subway information, this site will be the best at directing you to your location: <http://www.smrt.co.kr/program/cyberStation/main2.jsp?lang=e> (may only work in Korea or with a VPN set for Korea). Or https://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/TRP/TP_ENG_6.jsp and <http://www.seoulmetro.co.kr/en/cyberStation.do?menuIdx=337> may be useful. All subway stops are spoken in English so you don't need to worry about missing your stop for that reason.

The fastest way to Itaewon (the foreigner district, because it is next to Yongsan Military Base) is by bus. Once on the main street outside of the dorms, take the 750 A or B heading away from Yonsei Main Gate. At Sookmyung Women's University (about 15 minutes) you will transfer to bus 421 which will take you to the main street of Itaewon (about another 15 minutes). To return, you will ride the same buses in the reverse order.

However, if walking distance is less than 20 minutes, people tend to just walk and explore the scenery and all the small shops that you would miss on a bus.

On campus transportation is also available; it has various stops on campus with the final stop at the Sinchon Subway station. This bus comes about every 20 minutes but does not go to the international dorms after 1pm. Thus walking is usually the alternative.

INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Depending on which semester you study abroad there will be varying amounts of holidays that will allow time for travelling. I recommend looking into the Korean holidays and pre-planning the weekends that you will travel outside of Seoul in order to prevent missing too many classes. *Attendance is very important and can make or break your grade.*

Holidays to keep in mind: Independence Movement Day [삼일절/sam-il-jeol], Children's Day, Gaecheonjeol [개천절] (Foundation Day), Buddha's Birthday, and Chuseok [추석] (Harvest Moon Festival). These are some of the major holidays that will have school days off.

If you want to travel to other parts of Korea, such as Busan or Daegu, you can usually find a train ticket for between 30,000-60,000KRW per round trip ticket. You can also fly out of the country for 50,000-300,000 KRW (estimates made for East to South Asia) depending on where you choose to fly and with whom you want to fly with. [EastarJet](#) is an airline for cheap tickets to Jeju Island; you can get there and back on about 70,000KRW. The travel agency on B2 is a good resource and charge 20,000 KRW for their services and use of their credit card (if need be). 2017: I used the travel agency on SK Global's B2 floor, and bought 3 flight tickets (one from Gimpo airport [near Seoul] to Busan, one from Busan to Jeju, and one from Jeju back to Gimpo) for 146,600 KRW (including the service fee). There were many factors, such as time of the flight, when the flight was, and where I wanted to fly to, that affected the cost of the tickets. Each flight came to about 40,000 KRW.

If you have the ability (finance and time-wise), going early or staying after your semester may also be a good time to travel to places outside Seoul and take the stress away from feeling like you need to travel during school time.

THINGS TO DO AND PLACES TO GO IN SEOUL

Orientation: you will have the opportunity to participate in a city tour, palace outings, and company tours. Based on what you are interested in you can sign up for many cultural experiences at the beginning of the semester.

Club Fair: is a great way to get involved and be able to join a community that goes on outings. Emmaus Campus Ministries plans many outings to the vintage markets, Everland, China town, and races across town (as made famous by Running Man, a popular TV show). Some clubs go on MT retreats that last about 3 days and are usually filled with outdoor activities, games and drinking.

Taekwondo, Hiking, Bouldering, and other outdoor activities are very popular in Korea. You can contact Master Kim in the Physical Education Department for discounts and the best places to go. He also provides trips that you can go on as well. You should meet him at Orientation, as there is generally a taekwondo performance (for the semester of Fall 2017, there wasn't a Taekwondo performance at orientation).

63 Building: aquarium, sky art, wax museum, and roof top (tallest building in Korea)	15,000 KRW
Yongsan Cherry Blossoms	Free
Everland (outside the city amusement park, bus stop in Gangnam)	30,000 KRW (if you go on Korean holidays, foreigners get a discount with ARC)
Lotte World (in city amusement park)	10,000-15,000 KRW
NamSang Tower (the locks of love)	7,000 KRW
Trick Eye Museum	15,000 KRW
Nanta	40,000-60,000 KRW
Lantern Festival (November)	Free
Itaewon: underground shopping [이태원]	Food and Shopping
Han Gang River: ride bikes on the river	Free - 3,000 KRW
Edae shopping (EWA front gate, 10 minute walk) [이대]	Street Shopping (mostly for women)
Myeong-dong [명동]	Department store shopping/street food!
Dongdaemun [동대문]	Booths, and Night Market
Insadong [인사동]	Souvenirs and traditional Korean items
Samchungdong	Café street, President's house, beautiful scenery
Gangnam [강남]	Subway Underground shopping Many famous people go here to shop and eat
Sinsa	Many famous people go here to shop and eat

Anguk	Palace, Royal Cuisine Institute, Historical site (traditional Korean housing)
Sindorim	D-cube shopping
Mullae	E-mart and Time Square (shopping mall)
Yeongdeungpo-gu Office	Closest stop to the nearest Costco (remember to bring your Costco Card)
Seoul Station	Biggest subway station with KTX (gets you to Busan) and Lotte Mart
Daiso [다이소]	A dollar store where you can find most of your basic needs (pots/pan, utensils, tissues, pens, etc.)
Fish Market	try some alive octopus (san nachu)
Noraebang [노래방]	Karaoke! There are traditional noraebang (paid by hour, usually 20,000-40,000 KRW) and coin noraebang (for 1-4 people, paid by song or minute amount, usually 250-500 KRW by song or 1,000 KRW for lowest amount of minutes to 10,000 for highest). These are everywhere!
Gyeongbokgung [경복궁]	Main palace of Joseon's Dynasty (old Seoul) Entrance fee: 3,000 KRW
Changdeokgung [창덕궁]	Beautiful palace with a secret garden (most recently lived in palace by the last of the royal family). Entrance fee 3,000 KRW The garden has a separate entrance fee. (I'm unsure of the amount due to visiting through a class field trip).
Ansan/Bukhansan [안산/북한산]	The mountain behind Yonsei University that you can hike. Free!
Bukchon Hanok Village [북촌 한옥마을]	Traditional Korean homes
Dog/Cat/etc. Cafés	Usually ~ 8,000+ KRW and include 1 drink
National Gugak Center [국립국악원]	Traditional Korean Music center, it has traditional Korean music performances and museum of traditional Korean music. National Gugak Center
Hongdae [홍대]	Many restaurants and shops. Live performances (bands, vocal, magicians, etc.) down the main street.
Deoksugung [덕수궁]	Another palace (you can walk in the throne room!) Entrance fee: 1,000 KRW
Seodaemun Prison [서대문 형무소 역사관]	History of Korean Independence Fighters. Entrance fee: 3,000 KRW

A helpful website for information and finding places to visit:

<http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/index.jsp>.

WEATHER

From summer to winter, Korea gets both extremes (25-110 degrees Fahrenheit). The weather is hot and humid during August, and there is a lot of rain. September and October are warm and not humid. November and December are much cooler with a little rain. In January and February, it is very windy and continues to be very cold. By the time March and April come around, the weather starts to warm up again and can hit the 70's by the end of April. May to July is known for extremely hot and humid climates.

BOOKS

Books can be found at the Yonsei bookstore on the basement of the Student Union. Most of the English written textbooks are international copies that can't be purchased before arriving in Korea. However, even if you are able to purchase them, the bookstore generally sells the books for the lowest prices. If your textbook is a compilation of essays and papers that the professor has created, you can find the printed version at the end of your classroom halls printing shop and purchase your books there. There is also a possibility that you can find copies in the library that you can borrow for the semester. If you have a Yonsei printed paper textbook, you may be able to find older versions of the book in the I-House study room on the shelves (people leave textbooks that they cannot pack for future students). Lastly, you can ask around and see if students who have taken the course in previous years have the textbook for you to borrow/rent.

CLASSES AT YONSEI

Every department has at least one class taught in English, so you have a variety of classes that you can take. Prior to registration you are allowed to make a wish list of courses you would be willing to take and to have a swift registration process on the portal website. Be aware that there are many UIC listed courses that you are generally not allowed to take even though they are in English. Those classes are reserved for UIC students (Underwood International College). You are allotted 18 credits in a semester with 12 credits being the minimum you have to take to be a full student. Besides Korean Language courses which are 6 credits, all other classes are 3 credits each. If you decide to take the Korean Language course, you will have placement testing at the beginning of your stay in Korea and will have classes Monday through Friday from 4:00-6:00PM. Classes vary in size from ten to 60 students.

2017: Class registration uses a point-bidding system. You'll get a set number of points to bid on classes. You bid the most points for the class you want the most. I chose a mostly even split of my points to the classes I wanted, with a little extra on one class I really wanted. I believe the KLI (Korean Language) class is guaranteed, so you can put a lower amount of points in that class, or even put it off until the second round registration (or so said one of the sources of

information I researched before registering for classes, I just put a lower amount of points in for that class).

KOREAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Korean is said to be the easiest language to learn as it doesn't have as many exceptions to the rule as most countries do and there is only one basic alphabet that doesn't change. Once you have mastered the alphabet, you can read anything in Korean (understanding/pronouncing are other issues).

KLI has levels 1-6. Although it is on the Yonsei campus it is actually a separate language school that offers a language graduate certificate for those who master level 6. The first month in the program will seem very slow if you are in the beginner 1 class, as the teachers ensure you have understood the alphabet and correct pronunciation of the characters. I would recommend learning the alphabet before going to Korea so you have more time to explore and adjust to living in Korea.

Classes are about 10-15 students in size with two teachers. The Monday-Wednesday-Friday teacher is the main teacher that teaches you reading and grammar, whereas the Tuesday-Thursday teacher teaches writing and speaking.

WHAT TO BRING

Prescription drugs that you need during your stay (may need doctor's note)
Medicine/Vitamins: Advil, cough syrup, etc. (either non-existent or over priced in Korea)
Deodorant (not found, or only in travel sizes for the cost of a regular size in America)
Passport with student visa
Identification Card (need a way to cross-reference your passport)
Copy of your immunizations (specifically TB)
Insect repellent (usually not that big of a problem but good for precautions)
Coffee and/or tea
Alarm clock
Favorite game (monopoly deal, bang, a deck of cards, etc.)
Backpack (school and travelling)
Camera and back up memory cards/battery
Korean Dictionary
Towels (you can only find small towels in Korea)
Travelers checks (also a reminder to inform your bank you will be out of the country)
Sunscreen (only sold in small sizes for double the price)
Music device
*Specific skin care products/make-up
Cotton Swabs (smaller with less cotton in Korea)
Chocolate
Comfort Food (keep in mind there are only microwave ovens, no ovens)

Souvenirs for friends and host family (if you decide to have one)

Flashlight (useful for early morning hikes to watch the sunrise)

Clothing: jacket, warm clothes, scarf, gloves, thick socks, boots, water-proof shoes, face mask/handkerchief (during the sand storm), a set of nice clothes, summer clothes, light jacket, walking shoes***, work-out wear, pajamas (Be prepared for the season you are going abroad. Also be aware of what's acceptable in Korean culture clothing-wise, for instance-as a female, showing shoulders and cleavage is seen as too sexy.)

Friends/Family pictures (magnets or tape, doors are magnetic)

*Umbrella

Electronic devices (flat iron, cell phone, laptop, etc.)

Convertors/adapters (8,000 KRW) [Wonpro Travel Adapter](#) – I liked this one! (2017)

Power strip (just needs one adapter for many things!)

Toiletries (Korean toothpaste doesn't foam, razors are expensive or hard to find)

Tampons (if you need them/don't want to hunt or pay extra; pads are not expensive in Korea)

*Tissues/Toilet Paper

Soap/Hand Sanitizer

*You can find these in Korea, and are not necessarily expensive. Regarding skincare and make-up, if you have something you prefer to use, bring it. If you are open to new products, explore once you get to Korea. Keep in mind if you have a super-light or darker skin tone, you may not find much make-up wise in Korea.

***You will walk a lot while you are in Korea, so bring a good pair of walking shoes. Also, don't bring all your shoes; they just add weight to your suitcase and you may not end up wearing more than one or two pairs.

For anything you feel you've missed once you arrive, you can check out [GMarket](#)! They will cost you less in shipping than anything from home.

***** Its recommend to pack only one suitcase full of items and bringing a second empty suitcase for things you will want to purchase abroad *****

4 Ways People Steal Your Passport

by [Katherine LaGrave](#)

Beware of these four occurrences when traveling with a passport.

Sometimes, a bump, nudge, or distraction is all it takes.

The stolen passport market is huge: There are more than 40 million passports listed as missing on a database created by Interpol in 2002, and according to the U.S. Department of State, more than 300,000 American passports are lost or stolen in the U.S. each year. And given that these are the most common ways thieves have been known to pilfer a passport, it pays to be aware.

The set-down

It's easy enough to make a mistake with your documents when traveling—after all, how natural is it to put your passport on the table at a restaurant as you pull out a chair, or rest it on top of your suitcase as you check the departure board at an airport? I've done it, and I'm guessing you have, too. But take your eye off the document for a moment, and you open yourself up to the possibility of someone bumping your table (or bag) as a distraction—and walking away with your passport. Another one of the most common places for thieves to grab a passport is in a place where we actually need to produce it: checking in at a hotel overseas. Be wary of putting it to the left or right of you as you shuffle for your confirmation number or booking details, as someone could come along and create a distraction—think returning a key, or asking a question—and slip away with your document. Instead, place your passport on the counter in front of you, and immediately return it to its secure location after it is passed back to you.

The spill

It sounds slightly out of a Charlie Chaplin movie: seemingly innocent passers-by "spilling" anything from ice cream to juice on people they

pass. Yet there are worldwide reports of such instances, wherein a distraction is created, and in the process of aiding and cleaning the hapless victim, the "spillers"—or their associates—lift a passport. If you have the misfortune of being spilled on, refuse attendance and instead, avoid contact with the offender by quickly walking away.

[5 Ways to Keep Your Passport Safe When Traveling](#)

The pocket

It's obvious, sure, but one of the easiest ways for people to snatch your passport is if it's carried in your pockets: All it takes is a crowded train and a nudge—or a coat that's been draped over the back of a chair, and a sleight of hand. If you need to carry your passport with you, look for a flat money belt, which can be worn around your waist and neck and concealed under your clothing. If you're in the market for something a bit more comfortable, try a travel wallet or passport cover. Both conceal your passport (and nationality), and the travel wallet also has room for other valuables, including credit cards and emergency cash. Avoid carrying your passport and spending money together if you can, as taking out cash will alert potential thieves.

The authorities

In countries around the world, you'll most often be asked to produce your original passport at hotels and airports, or when crossing borders. Travelers have also reported instances in which policemen, plain-clothed or uniformed, approach them and ask to see their passports. Sometimes, the officials are actually as they say they are—numerous countries have plain-clothed officers asking for passports in order to catch illegal immigrants—but it's better to be safe than sorry. Signs that it probably isn't a scam: everyone else in your surrounding area is also being checked, security badges and patches are visible on the officer's uniform, and officials are not asking for anything but photo ID. If you feel you are being singled out and are still uncomfortable, agree to show your passport in the nearest police station or hotel lobby, where you can confirm with a clerk who speaks the native language.

TRAVEL TIPS

How to Make Sure You Travel with Medication Legally

Traveling with medication — even prescription drugs — isn't as simple as packing it. Here's how to stay on the right side of the law, anywhere you go.



By Tanya Mohn

Jan. 19, 2018

Travelers often pack medications when they go abroad, but some popular prescription and over-the-counter ones Americans use for things like pain relief, better sleep, allergies and even the common cold are illegal in some countries.

The United Arab Emirates and Japan, for example, are among the most restrictive nations, but many ban or restrict importing narcotics, sedatives, amphetamines and other common over-the-counter medications.

Most travelers won't run into problems for carrying small amounts for personal use, said Katherine L. Harmon, who oversees health analysis for [iJET International](#), a travel risk management company. But noncompliance can result in confiscation, (which could, in turn, have severe medical consequences), deportation, jail time, and even the death penalty. "Does it happen a lot? No. Could it? Yes," Ms. Harmon said. "Consumers need to understand this and how it might adversely impact them *before* they book that awesome trip to an exotic location."

She shared a few tips to keep you on the right side of the law, whatever you take and wherever you roam.

Plan Ahead

Laws vary by country and there is no central, up-to date repository, so Ms. Harmon suggests consulting your physician, travel medical insurance company, or local pharmacist four to six weeks before traveling. "When you inquire about your shots, ask about medications. Odds are they may not know off the top of their head, but they have the resources to find out."

She also suggests checking with the embassy of your destination country. The [State Department](#) website lists foreign [embassies](#) in the United States, and their contact information. It also lists [insurance providers](#) that offer overseas health coverage. Comparison websites [Insure My Trip](#) and [SquareMouth](#) can help assess those insurance plans, if they're necessary.

Label and Pack Your Medication Properly

Carry all of your medication — even vitamins and supplements — in their original, clearly marked containers or packaging in a clear plastic bag in carry on luggage. Make sure the name on the prescription, the medicine container and your passport (or one for the recipient of the medication) all match. If you lost the product information insert, ask the pharmacist to print a new one for you.

Times travel coverage. When our writers review a destination, they do not accept free or discounted services or, in most cases, reveal that they work for The Times. We want their experience to be what you can expect.

[Here's more on our standards and practices.](#)

Also, check [the Transportation Security Administration's website](#) for up-to-date rules and regulations on packing and carrying your medication when you depart. The standard rules

for liquid carry-ons don't apply to medications in liquid or gel form, but you need to inform the T.S.A. when you pass through security so they don't confiscate it.

Obtain and Carry Necessary Documentation

Keep copies of your original prescriptions, if you can. Better yet, obtain a letter on official letterhead from your physician that lists the medicines you need and why they were prescribed. Ideally, you would get this translated to the language of your destination country, so it's easy to read.

For some medication and specialized equipment used to administer them, some countries require documents to be submitted to government officials well in advance of your arrival. Ms. Harmon, for example, was questioned at the Singapore airport once for entering with an EpiPen, but she had prior authorization allowing its transport.

Know the Names and Amounts of Active Ingredients

The documentation you carry should also indicate the generic and chemical names of the active ingredients, which determines permissibility, not brand names.

For example, the active ingredient in Benadryl, diphenhydramine, is banned in Zambia in over-the-counter products. In Japan, it is allowed only if the amount in a tablet or injection is limited. However, a typical 25 milligram tablet of Tylenol PM in the United States exceeds the 10 milligram maximum amount in a tablet you can bring into Japan. Some countries restrict the overall total amount of an active ingredient an individual traveler can legally import, which may impact longer stays.

Reduce or Substitute Medication

In countries where a medication is allowed, but its amount is capped, reducing your dosage or switching to another available medication is the best way to stay compliant. Allow enough time beforehand to ensure the smaller dose or new medicine works effectively, and consider making the switch before your trip to give yourself time to adjust.

Some medications can be used for several diagnoses. Hormones used for birth control may also be used to treat excessive menstrual bleeding, Ms. Harmon said. "Doctors need to get creative sometimes. Substitutions can allow authorities to accept the drug as a medical need rather than going against the country's religious or moral code."

Reassess Your Travel Plans

Parents with a child doing well on Adderall for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder who prefer not to make adjustments on the fly, or a student with bipolar disorder may want to

consider vacation or study abroad locations where the medications they rely on for mental health are not banned or restricted.

“Viewpoints on treatment and diagnoses can vary widely,” Ms. Harmon said. “Western Europe and North America understand that brain chemistry is often at the root of these problems. But some countries, like Russia, do not consider mental health challenges as medical problems and often treat them criminally.”



Surviving a Protest

Product of the Research & Information Support Center (RISC)

The following report is based on open source reporting.

August 7, 2014

Introduction

Travelers are regularly cautioned about protest activity when visiting a foreign country. The U.S. Department of State, for example, consistently encourages citizens to “avoid all demonstrations, since even peaceful gatherings can quickly turn violent” – a phrase common to many Consular messages. However, a deeper understanding of what motivates protest activity, and who or what the intended targets are, can be useful tools for educating travelers.

The Nature of a Protest

According to a 2013 [report](#) by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, a German non-profit organization that promotes democracy and political education, the global number of protests has increased every year from 2006 (59) through the first half of 2013 (112). [Note: these were protests covered in online news media. The countries analyzed represent 92 percent of the world’s population] While protests take place throughout the world, where

Protests by Region – 2006-2013

	Total	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
High-Income (Region)	304	17	25	25	35	44	57	60	41
Latin America/Caribbean	141	14	12	15	12	21	22	25	20
East Asia/ Pacific	83	3	9	10	9	12	20	11	9
Sub-Saharan Africa	78	7	6	8	8	5	18	15	11
Middle East/North Africa	77	3	11	6	7	11	18	15	6
Global	70	7	5	8	8	8	10	14	10
Europe/Central Asia	47	3	4	4	4	7	6	11	8
South Asia	43	5	5	4	4	8	2	9	6
World Total	843	59	77	80	87	116	153	160	111

Data provided by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
* As of July 2013

they occur is not always a good indicator of how they will proceed. A country with a peaceful tradition of rallying can experience violence, while another with a more acrimonious style can experience no incidents at all. For example, in Cambodia, generally known for a peaceful tradition, demonstrators and police have recently come to blows over anti-government sentiment as well as a demand for a higher minimum wage among garment workers. In South Africa, known as the “[protest capital of the world](#)” and where violence is not a rarity, most demonstrations end peacefully and without incident. Demonstrations can also take place in countries not known for having any protest tradition at all, such as in Iran during the 2009 Green Movement, or in Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, and Libya during the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

By their nature, protests also attract attention. They can be exciting events, and for a foreigner, provide an up-close look at a country’s political landscape. But the advice to avoid them is not dispensed arbitrarily. An overzealous demonstrator can incite a crowd; individuals with ulterior motives can infiltrate an otherwise peaceful rally; a heavy-handed police response can provoke an aggressive reaction from gatherers. When this happens, onlookers can pay the price. This past May, a bystander was killed by a stray bullet during an anti-government protest in Istanbul, Turkey. Authorities in southern China acknowledged that police “may have accidentally injured...bystanders” during an April protest against a chemical plant in Guangdong province. During Egyptian riots in June 2013, an American college student was stabbed to death as he took photographs of the unfolding violence. What starts as simple curiosity can easily turn into a fight to stay out of harm’s way.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.

Indicators Can Help

There are indicators, however, that can be helpful to any traveler when assessing the probability for protests, and how they will play out. Anti-government protests, for instance, may not be as likely to target foreigners as they would police officers or nearby property (although the death of the American student referenced above shows this is not always true). Destroying property can be a way of not only displaying intense dissatisfaction with conditions in the country, but also attempting to undermine the government. This was the case in Thailand in 2010, when anti-government protesters targeted not only government buildings, but also commercial facilities. The same was true for 2010 anti-government/-austerity protests in Greece. In both cases, foreigners were not directly targeted, and in Thailand, they were actually greeted warmly if they happened to pass by the event.

A protest against another country, on the other hand, might not result in widespread violence, but particular people and properties could be vulnerable. This past May, [anti-Chinese protests in Vietnam](#) targeted what were perceived to be Chinese-affiliated companies and factories following a maritime dispute between the two countries. In July, [anti-Israeli protests in Germany and France](#) led to the attack of synagogues and Jewish businesses in those countries.

There are also a number of issues that seem to bring protesters to the street regardless of location. For example, citizens accustomed to government subsidies (fuel, transportation, etc.) can quickly mobilize if their entitlements are threatened in any way; violent clashes in the streets of Jakarta in 2013 following a reduction of fuel subsidies are a prime example. The suspicion of electoral fraud is another key catalyst, as was evident during protests in Russia following disputed 2011 legislative elections. Another major indicator pertains to infringements-- real or perceived-- on basic democratic rights. Residents of Hong Kong, for example, regularly take to the streets to demand greater democratic freedom.

The Likeliest Scenario

More than likely, the biggest impact to travelers during a demonstration will be transportation difficulties, including blocked roads, crowded public transportation, and congested traffic. A lot of protests advertise in advance where and when they will take place, which makes a traveler's job of planning to get around them easier. Even for the ones that do not, it should become pretty clear what area(s) to avoid as numbers amass. Social media can be a great tool for collecting information; organizers and participants are likely to tweet about the event or post pictures to Facebook, Instagram, or a popular local social network (such as VKontakte in Russia). During past protests, OSAC constituents have allowed employees to work remotely or even take the day off when demonstration activity encroaches on work sites or precludes safe commuting. Over periods of sustained protest activity, employers have deferred travel, and in some cases, removed personnel from the city or country entirely. Each organization is responsible for its own plan, but understanding the fundamentals is a good start to making one.

Additional Information

For recent OSAC analysis on other regional protests, please see the below reports:

[Middle East Conflict Fuels Europe Protests](#)
[Haiti Opposition Protests](#)
[Northern Ireland Orangemen Parade Volatility](#)
[Royal Thai Army Invokes Martial Law](#)
[May Day](#)

For Further Information

Please direct any questions regarding this report to OSAC's [Cross Regional Analyst](#).

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.

Don't Go Soft on Study Abroad: a Call for Academic Rigor

*The following is a guest post by **William G. Moseley**, chair and professor of geography at Macalester College. He has worked and conducted research in Africa for 25 years.*

Study abroad can be a powerful experience for many students. A student's trip overseas can be one of those transformative educational periods after which a young person will never look at the world the same way again. Yet many students, faculty members, and college administrators don't take this education as seriously as they should.



Study-abroad students bird watching in Botswana's Okavango Delta.

Let's be frank, some students view study abroad as a vacation or at least a time when normal academic standards ought to be relaxed. But as an instructor and director on two different study-abroad programs for undergraduates in South Africa and Botswana, I have sought to expose participants to new cultures and provide academically rigorous courses.

Many students initially chafed at the large amount of reading and writing, in addition to original fieldwork, that I assigned during these programs. Not only did some start

the program with an educational holiday in mind, but they saw students in other study-abroad programs not working as hard. Knowing my interest in having them have cross-cultural experiences, my students would couch their concerns about the workload in terms of not having sufficient time to travel and interact with the local population. How could I deny them exploring southern Africa?, they asked.

Occasionally, a class of students confronts me directly about the workload. This happened a little over halfway through the term in my most recent study-abroad teaching experience in Botswana. Students asked me point-blank how my courses compared in difficulty to those I teach at my home institution. I indicated that the classes I offered in Africa were actually a little less challenging as I was trying to account for the added stress of unfamiliar surroundings and less reliable infrastructure. Their collective gasp was audible; they shook their heads in disbelief. However, in explaining why the academic requirements of the program could not be relaxed, we had one of the more interesting discussions of the term.

I shared my view that a successful study-abroad experience often means at least two things: 1) getting outside of your own cultural head space (that is, coming to understand that other cultures may have very different, yet equally valid, approaches to life); and 2) knowing enough background information about a place, its history, and connections to other parts of the world to really understand what you are seeing. Of course the two criteria are often linked; you can't set aside your own cultural prejudices until you understand why other people do things the way they do. Furthermore, learning enough to get a handle on what you are seeing requires hard work. That is, it means critically reading the academic publications about a place, discussing those insights with your peers, and synthesizing your understanding by writing.

Over time, my students began to value the rigor with which we explored this new area of the world, and the nuanced insights and deeper personal growth that it eventually yielded. For example, these students lived in a rural home for a time in the second half of the semester. This experience produced some beautiful reflections on what it meant to be with a local family. Gone were the shallow complaints about inefficient bureaucracy, the slow pace of life, or bad food from earlier in the term. Instead, the students showed a better ability to contextualize poverty, a greater appreciation for taking the time to get to know someone, or understanding Botswana on its own terms and in relation to the region, rather than just comparing it with American norms and practices.

Could we have done better? Yes, certainly. But I am also aware of the fact that we could have done a lot worse. It is expensive to have someone like me, a scholar of western and southern Africa, to relocate for a term (with his family no less) to teach a

course or two. It is far cheaper to subcontract study abroad to third-party providers. While many such organizations are excellent, some may be tempted to hire less-than-qualified teachers who were never (or are no longer) active scholars, and succumb to student pressure for less academic rigor because their business model demands it.

The reality is that the study-abroad experiences can be orchestrated quite poorly, potentially leaving students with a highly superficial, if not deeply flawed, understanding of another area of the world, not to mention a false sense of regional expertise.

So my hard advice is this: If you are a student looking for a study-abroad “vacation,” then either think about this opportunity anew and look for a rigorous program, or don’t go at all. If you are a faculty member looking to take a group of students overseas, get the necessary training and make sure you have the place-relevant research background to be a competent study-abroad instructor.

Finally, if you are an administrator that oversees study-abroad programs, then please treat this semester the same as you would the rest of an undergraduate’s career. If you are unwilling to compromise quality and provide education on the cheap at home, then a semester abroad should be no different.

[Photo courtesy of William G. Moseley]