



國立臺灣科技大學海外研習心得

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Semester :

2023 / Spring



Host country &



Language : Korea



Exchange period :

2023/02/20~2023/06/26

The report shall contain the following sections
(at least 2000 words):

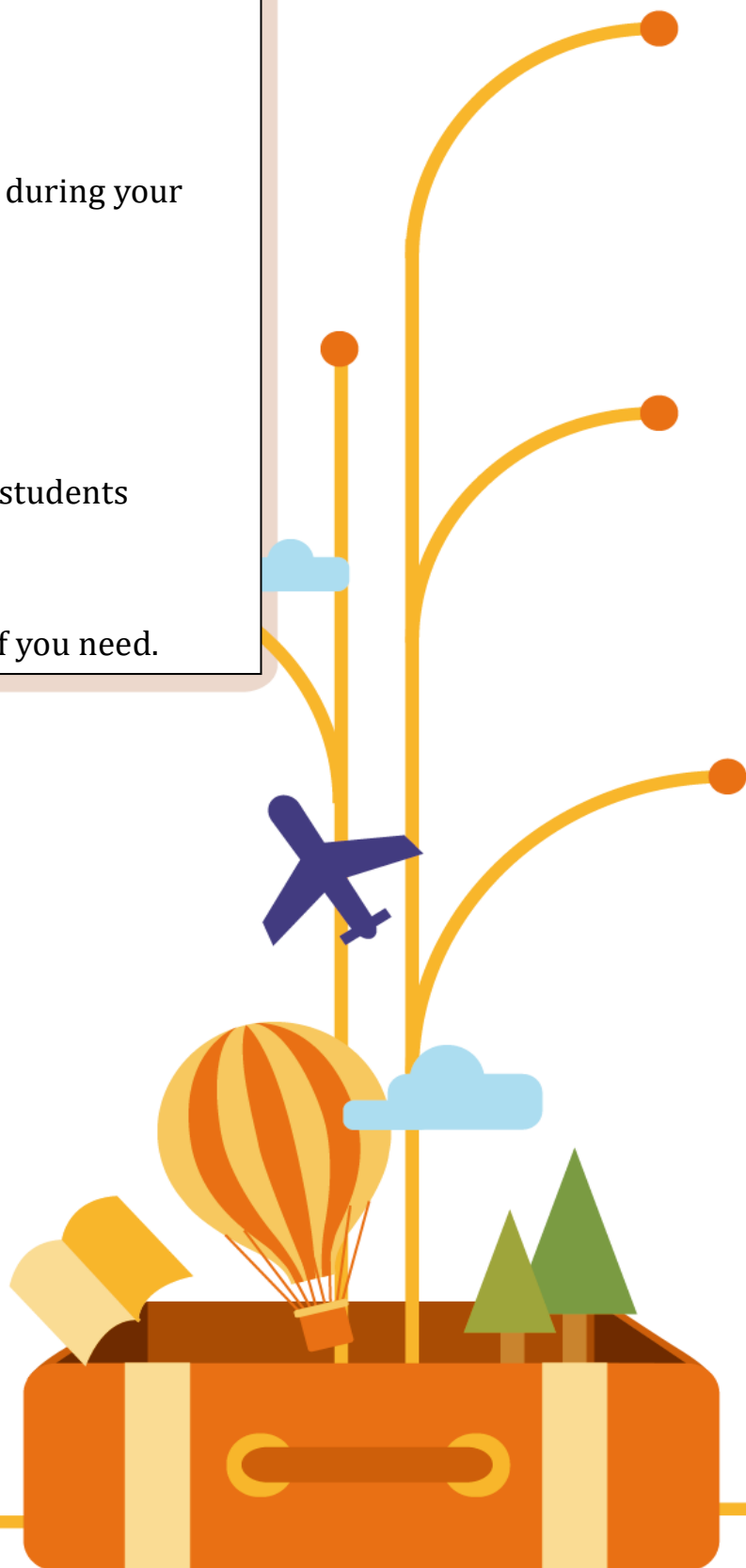
Part A (At least 1500 Words)

1. Preparation before departure
2. Courses take at host universities
3. Difficulties and solutions you have during your exchange stay

Part B (200~500 Words)

4. Experiences learned and sharing
5. Suggestions to potential exchange students
6. Picture * 12

✧ You are free to add more page if you need.



Part A (At least 1500 Words)

Preparation, Courses and Difficulties you faced

Report:

A. Preparation

1. Photo

I took a photo at a photo studio and had the digital file ready according to the rules. The rules were 3x4 cm with white background. You will need this photo for your visa, for Konkuk University student card, and for your ARC (Alien Residence Card). Many of my friends' photo was rejected when we applied for our ARC and had to take their photo again in a studio in Korea. Pay attention to the rules, and you won't have any problems.

2. Visa

Because I'm a foreigner in Taiwan, I followed different visa requirements compare to Taiwanese. The required documents can be found in https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/tw-zh/brd/m_20387/view.do?seq=7&page=2. I was required to collect all documents from number 1 to number 8. If you're confused and don't know how to fill in some parts of the form, just leave it empty. The staff will help you. I paid 1.800 NTD for the visa. After it's finish, I went to the embassy again to take back my passport. You can find your finished visa in https://www.visa.go.kr/openPage.do?MENU_ID=10301 and print it. Bring this with you on the day of departure.

3. Plane Ticket

After I had the visa, I bought my ticket. You can directly buy the Seoul – Taipei ticket too, but I didn't. I only bought Taipei – Seoul ticket, because I was not sure whether I want to explore Korea after the semester ended or not. That's why I purposely didn't buy the Seoul – Taipei ticket. I bought the ticket back to Taipei around May 2023. It's recommended to book for flights that arrive in Seoul in the morning or early in the afternoon in order to check in to the accommodation of your choice especially if you are planning to live in the on-campus dormitory.



4. University Dormitory

I stayed at Konkuk University dorm. To apply, Konkuk will send you forms to fill. Everything's pretty easy, simple, and straightforward so you don't have to worry and just wait. I paid 2,023,000 KRW for the dorm. I transfer the fee through E.SUN Bank. In USD, it was around 1700 USD. The transfer took time so pay attention to the deadline. There's a 200,000 KRW deposit that will be given back after the semester ends that's why everyone needs to make a Korean bank account. It's recommended to make Shinhan bank account because there's Shinhan in Konkuk University.

5. Insurance

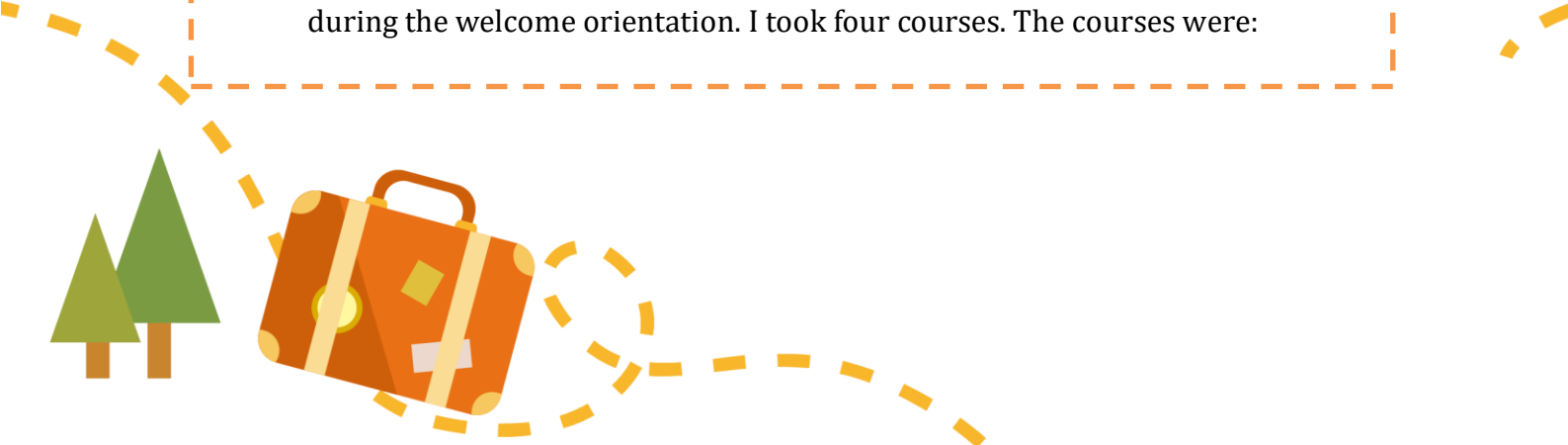
Although it is mandatory to subscribe to Korean NHIS (National Health Insurance), you still need to buy insurance from Taiwan for at least 90 days. All exchange students must have insurance purchased from their home country in order to cover their exchange period prior to entering Korea. I bought mine in 富邦人壽. I asked them to send the insurance documents in English too.

6. TB Test

I received an email from Konkuk that I must take Tuberculosis(TB) test and hand in the result (a confirmation saying there is no abnormality after receiving X-RAY) to dormitory office before the check-in. The TB test can be taken in Korea or Taiwan. The dormitory office accepts confirmation written in both Korean and English. I did mine in Taiwan and ask for the document to be written in English.

B. Courses

In NTUST, I'm studying Applied Foreign Languages. Naturally, in Konkuk University, I'm in the Department of English Language and Literature. Konkuk online course registration was a little complicated, but they will help you during the welcome orientation. I took four courses. The courses were:



1. English for Specific Purposes: Business English 成績 A

This course is designed to prepare students for job placements. It will help students, first, to generate written documents in a business context (e.g., résumés, cover letters, and business correspondence) and, second, to practice speaking skills needed in business (e.g., job interviews, meetings, negotiations, and presentations). Students will improve their command of business vocabulary and become familiar with phrases and topics for cross-cultural business communication. This course was fully classroom-based and students were expected to physically attend and participate in all class activities. This class used *Communicating in Business* Second Edition by Simon Sweeney. In addition to this book, supplementary materials was used. I didn't buy the book and just download the pdf version.

2. Advanced English Communication 成績 B+

This course focuses on Advanced English communication applied to professional and everyday situations. Specifically, students will learn and practice rhetorical skills that can be employed during real world communications as well as those which occur in the workplace. While the primary focus of this course was to develop professional conversational interactions, it also served to improve students' critical reading, listening, and thinking skills through assignments and classroom activities. This course was fully classroom-based and students were expected to physically attend and participate in all class activities. This class used *American English File 5* Third Edition by Christina Latham-Koenig, Clive Oxenden and Jerry Lambert. In addition to this book, supplementary materials such as listening and/or reading activities and videos was used. You must buy a NEW TEXTBOOK for this class.

3. Story of English (In Korean, it's *The World of English* 영어의세계) 成績 A+

This course provides a systematic account of the most important characteristics of the English language. It deals with the structure of English (grammar, vocabulary, sounds and spellings), the language in use in a wide variety of settings, and the development of English from Anglo-Saxon times to the present day, and the spread of English as a global language. This class was classroom-based, but we had online class sometimes when the professor was not feeling well. The professor didn't take attendance. This class used *English Language* by David Crystal. I didn't buy the book and borrowed it through an online library. There's an assignment every week.


4. Understanding Korean Culture 成績 A+

This course is designed to enhance academic and practical knowledge about the customs, beliefs, and practices of the South Korean people from the perspective of a visitor or immigrant living here. Topics include history, folklore, art, beliefs, family, values, films, music, business, politics, and society. This class consists of lectures which usually cover one chapter each week. It's usually started with some type of discussion based on the topics. Every week, there's a reading assignment. The reading assignments will be distributed as PDFs from the professor.


C. Difficulties and solution or advice

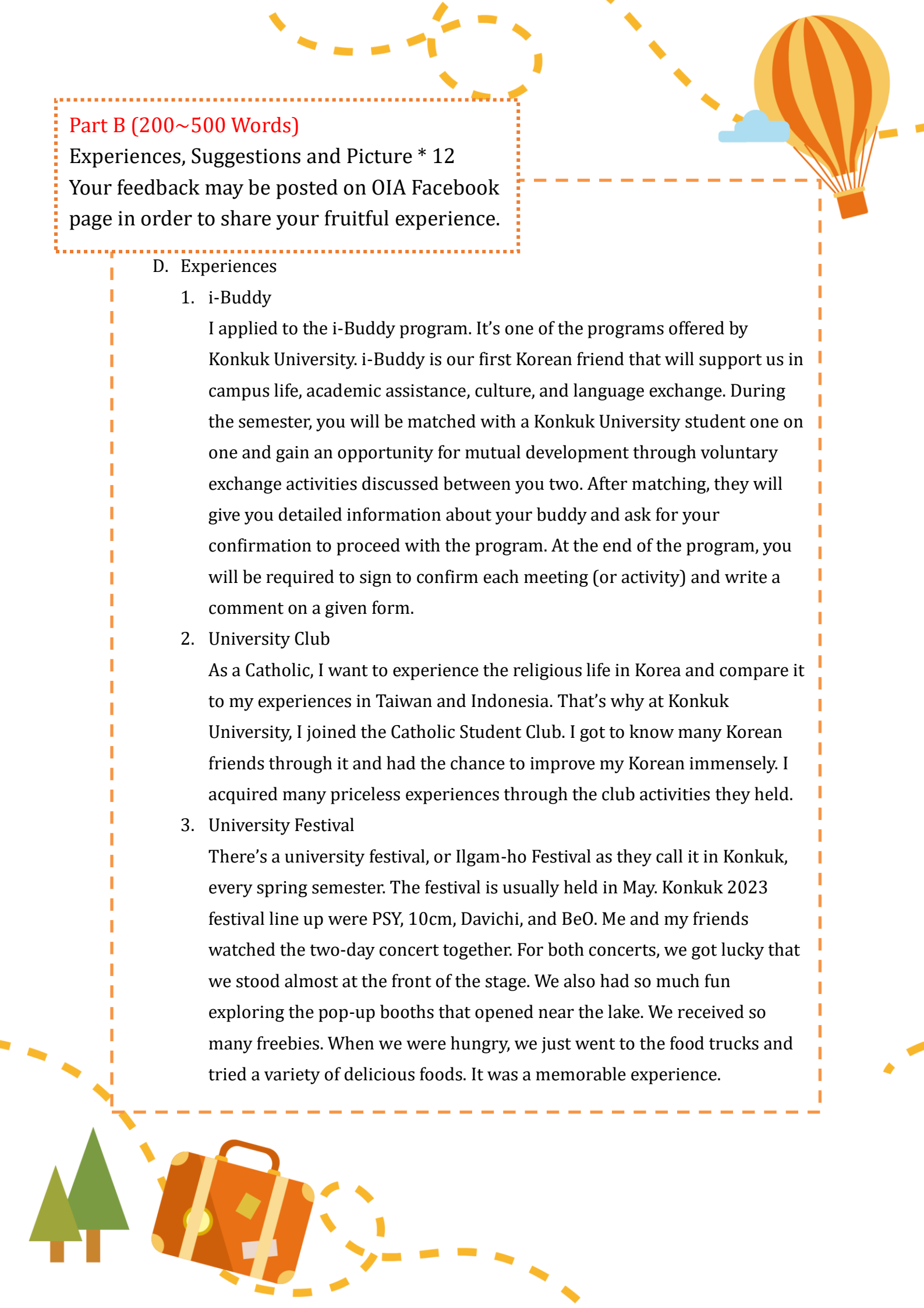
Luckily, there were no major problem during my stay in South Korea. I only experienced a few difficulties. First, for me, Seoul's public transportation is more complicated than Taipei's. Seoul MRT has far more stations and lines. If you enter the wrong train, to change to the other direction, you need to get out and then get on the right one. In the station, there were very few elevators. Mostly, it's stairs. So, it's more tiring to commute in Seoul compared to Taipei.





That's why it's highly recommended to wear a comfortable shoe when you're commuting in Seoul. Second, usually coffee shops open around noon. Especially the aesthetic and themed one. If you always have breakfast and coffee or tea, don't be shocked to not find an open coffee shop in the morning. Third, Korea has extreme winter and summer. Winter in Seoul was super freezing while summer was really hot. Once, during winter, the weather dropped to under zero degree. The summer was similar to Taipei. It's sweltering and humid. Remember to check the weather. Fourth, everything's expensive. The foods in school's cafeterias are around 5.000 KRW which is 120 NTD. If you eat outside school, one meal usually costs around 10.000-13.000 KRW which is 240-310 NTD. If you eat Korean BBQ and drink alcohol with your friends, it's usually around 20.000 KRW which is 480 NTD. If you follow to the second and third round of the dinner, everything usually costs around 40.000 KRW which is 960-1000 NTD. If you go to karaoke or take pictures in a photobooth, it will cost much higher. Going to see a doctor in a clinic or hospital and buying groceries are also very pricey for a student like me. Always prepare enough money with you. Fifth, if you don't have ARC, you won't be able to online shop for things and order delivery food. After you have your ARC, connect it to your phone number through the store you buy it from. I bought my phone number after I land in Korea in a store called Chingu Mobile near Konkuk University. Remember to be patient because the ARC card came out around April and May during my exchange. Last but not least, the sixth difficulty I faced was culture and language barrier. I can speak Korean, but it's not 100% perfect. So, prepare and get ready to have countless misunderstandings between you and your friends. On the other hand, I didn't have any problems with my international friends who are also exchange students because we speak in English. My advice for future exchange students is to be brave, be adventurous, and get ready to face problems.





Part B (200~500 Words)

Experiences, Suggestions and Picture * 12

Your feedback may be posted on OIA Facebook page in order to share your fruitful experience.

D. Experiences

1. i-Buddy

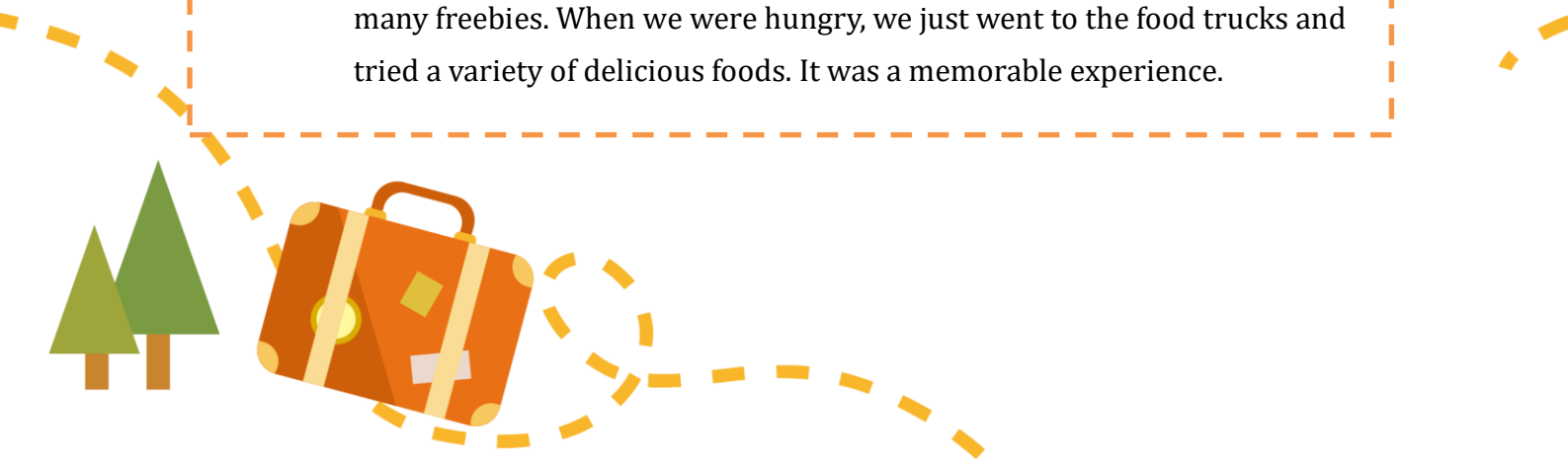
I applied to the i-Buddy program. It's one of the programs offered by Konkuk University. i-Buddy is our first Korean friend that will support us in campus life, academic assistance, culture, and language exchange. During the semester, you will be matched with a Konkuk University student one on one and gain an opportunity for mutual development through voluntary exchange activities discussed between you two. After matching, they will give you detailed information about your buddy and ask for your confirmation to proceed with the program. At the end of the program, you will be required to sign to confirm each meeting (or activity) and write a comment on a given form.

2. University Club

As a Catholic, I want to experience the religious life in Korea and compare it to my experiences in Taiwan and Indonesia. That's why at Konkuk University, I joined the Catholic Student Club. I got to know many Korean friends through it and had the chance to improve my Korean immensely. I acquired many priceless experiences through the club activities they held.

3. University Festival

There's a university festival, or Ilgam-ho Festival as they call it in Konkuk, every spring semester. The festival is usually held in May. Konkuk 2023 festival line up were PSY, 10cm, Davichi, and BeO. Me and my friends watched the two-day concert together. For both concerts, we got lucky that we stood almost at the front of the stage. We also had so much fun exploring the pop-up booths that opened near the lake. We received so many freebies. When we were hungry, we just went to the food trucks and tried a variety of delicious foods. It was a memorable experience.





Search



My user name

Monday at 11:00 AM



你，在想些什麼？

Feedback :

I gained more than I could have imagined from the short time of just four months in Korea. There are three major things I obtain from the exchange program. First is people. I got to know and make a long-lasting relationships with great people and students alike from various parts of the world. The second is experiences. Through the wonderful connection I made in Korea, I got to have fantastic adventures. Third is precious lessons. The incidents, events, and happenings I experienced in Korea brought valuable knowledge and wisdom that I can apply in my life now and in the future. When you experience a different culture through educational and cultural exchange, you gain a deeper understanding of yourself and the people around you. This exchange program has been a blast, and I have zero regrets. I could do it all over again if I could!

My suggestion for future exchange students is to be brave and open-minded! Leaving the familiar and stepping into the unknown shows a willingness to understand other people and their culture. It is a commitment to learn about the world in ways that books, schoolwork, and jobs can never reveal. Be bold and always be nice to the people around you. You will find endless lessons to learn from them and the countless experiences you faced.



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55 comments



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照片說明：

Going to MT with ISV and other exchange students.



照片說明：

Exploring Korea Traditional Market.



照片說明：

BTS Festa.





照片說明：

With friends in Konkuk
University's Catholic Club.



照片說明：

Picnic in Hangang.



照片說明：

Had dinner and drank
makgeolli with friends.





照片說明：

Went to Hiphopplaya Festival.



照片說明：

Watched PSY, 10cm, Davichi, and BeO at the university festival.



照片說明：

Went to a salon in Korea.



照片說明：

Waiting for the class to start.



照片說明：

Experiencing Korean sauna for the first time.



照片說明：

Manhwa café in Seoul.



照片說明：

Slept in friend's house in Gyeongju



照片說明：

Watched a theater in Daehakro.