

KOREA

Summer, Fall, Spring, and Academic Year



2012-2013 Program Guide



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The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University's student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.



▶ Scan to get this guide on your Smartphone.

YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

Local UCEAP Support

Campus EAP Office

The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientations, and academic advising; and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office

The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

Program Advisors provide academic and operational program information to you and your campus as well as administrative support for all aspects of your participation.

Operations Specialists manage the logistics of the program. They coordinate document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, acceptance and placement by host institutions, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements.

Academic Specialists advise on academic policies, review courses taken abroad for UC credit, and document your registration, grades, petitions and academic records.

Student Finance Accountants assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

Program Advisor

Michelle Hertig

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Operations Specialist

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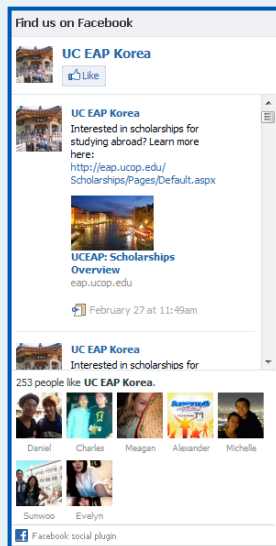
UCEAP Systemwide Office

6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200

Goleta, CA 93117-5823

Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583

► **Join the Conversation!**
Meet fellow UCEAP participants and alumni on Facebook.



UCEAP Online

Bookmark your **Participants** program page. This resource lists requirements and policies you need to know before you go abroad, including your Predeparture Checklist, *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets, and payment instructions.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the **UCEAP Korea page**.

Study Center Abroad

A local faculty member, who serves as the UCEAP Liaison Officer, administers UCEAP programs at Yonsei University along with a Study Center Coordinator. They advise students on academic matters, provide information on cultural events, assist with program logistics, and provide support with personal matters.

Prof. Hyungji Park, Liaison Officer
 UC EAP Seoul Study Center
 Room 404, New Millennium Hall
 Yonsei University
 134 ShinChon-dong, Seodaemun-gu
 Seoul 120-749, KOREA

Ms. MJ Kang, Study Center Coordinator
Phone (calling from the U.S.): (011-82-2) 313-4715
Emergency cell phone: (011-82-10) 9110-9786
E-mail: eap.seoul@gmail.com
Web: web.yonsei.ac.kr/eapseoul

Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code011
(dial this to call outside the U.S.)
 Korea country code82
 Seoul city code2

Approximate Time Difference

Add 17 hours

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

The selection of classes was sufficient, and the knowledge I gained was rewarding. UIC classes presented their material well.

The teachers had a strong sense of responsibility for the students and were very competent in teaching practical as well as structural Korean.

”

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Culture

Korean academic culture is grounded in Confucian educational tradition. Respect for teachers and university rules, including attending all orientation sessions, classes, and other announced functions, is essential. Students are expected to be appreciative, polite, and moderate—not demanding or argumentative—in questioning the opinions of professors or fellow students. Be prepared to modify your own expectations and conform to Korean norms.

For a successful and rewarding academic experience, be proactive and fully engaged in guiding your own education. Before departure, outline educational objectives to help guide your course selection, readings, and other activities. Do not rely solely on classes and professors to define or structure the educational goals that you expect to achieve. Classes are only the beginning of academic inquiry, not the entire academic experience. Systematic observation, reading, and writing in subject areas of interest can help turn even an ordinary class into a base for serious academic work and significant learning.

The size of Yonsei University classes varies with the popularity of the subject. Classes offered in English are relatively small and are taught mostly in the lecture format. Language classes average 12 students.

Many instructors provide syllabi and focus on delivering lectures, but some also encourage discussion and the use of the Internet for class work. The classroom atmosphere can be interactive, but remember to be polite and respectful of the instructor and your fellow students. Teamwork among students is an important aspect of some courses and group presentations are frequently required, particularly in business courses. Engage in your academic activities, join discussions, and form study groups.

Faculty members in Korea rarely keep regular office hours, but you may contact a professor by e-mail to set up a meeting. The e-mail address is normally noted on the course syllabus. If you can't find the contact information, staff at the UCEAP Seoul Study Center will help you find the appropriate way to contact professors.

Many Yonsei faculty members are Western educated and, while respecting traditional Korean customs, incorporate the exchange of ideas in the classroom. Some professors may be traditional in their classroom approach, so be sensitive to the style of each instructor.

Instructors in courses taught in English do not always speak in the familiar American style and some may have accents that are difficult to understand, especially at first. Accepting this as a challenge rather than a frustration will enhance the experience of studying with these instructors, many of whom are highly recognized scholars in their fields, prominent professionals, government policy makers, and consultants in prestigious firms.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“The classes stressed team participation and presentations and were totally different from UC classes, which are generally limited to lectures, discussions, papers, and exams.”

”

Attendance, Exams, and Grading

Seoul is a vibrant city and can be a serious distraction for students. Make sure to prioritize between academic responsibilities and extracurricular social activities.

Your work will be assessed primarily by exams, but many courses also include attendance, term papers, projects, and class presentations.

Attendance serves as an indication of your commitment to the course, the professor, and fellow students, and usually is an important factor in assigning the final course grade. The exact percentage that attendance counts varies depending on the instructor, but may average about 20 percent. If you miss more than one-third of your class meetings for regular courses, you will likely fail the course. If you are absent for more than 20 percent of your language course meetings, you will not receive a passing grade. Some professors count two tardies as one absence.

Participation in class discussion is often part of the grade (averaging 15 to 20 percent), and if class presentations are required they may count for 20 to 30 percent. In regular Yonsei University courses taught in Korean, competition with Korean students is greater than it is with international students in courses taught in English.

Korean language courses require serious concentration and diligent study. Grading in the language courses usually is more rigorous than what you may have experienced at your UC campus.

Summer grades are usually available in mid to late September; fall grades from mid-February to mid-March; spring grades from mid-July to mid-August. Early grades are not possible.

For more information about grades, see the [Academic Information](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

Program Descriptions

Summer Program

At Yonsei International Summer School (YISS), you will take two or three courses taught in English on a wide variety of subjects. Many courses are taught by visiting faculty, including UC faculty, so they change from summer to summer. Course information is on the [Yonsei University website](#).

During the summer program, a Korean language course is recommended but not required. Language classes are offered at eight levels from beginning to advanced and concentrate on developing Korean language comprehension, vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar skills.

You may participate in the YISS field trip that takes place prior to the start of the program; however, you may not earn academic credit for the field trip. You may also participate in non-academic community service opportunities. Internships are not available.

Summer classes are held Monday through Thursday with each class meeting for two hours per day. Attendance is mandatory; if you are absent from a certain number of classes, you will receive an automatic F. In many cases, this is three absences.

Required:

- Attendance at both Yonsei and UCEAP mandatory orientations
- Language placement test on the first day of the program if you intend to take a language course (no makeup exams are offered)
- Minimum of 9 UC quarter units (two courses); maximum of 13.5 units (three courses)
- All courses must be taken for the maximum approved units (4.5 UC quarter units); the variable unit option is not available
- If you take three courses, you may take one course on the P/NP basis
- Completion of the MyEAP Registration Study List and confirmation by the Study Center (any changes made in your YISS course registration must also be made with the Study Center either in MyEAP online or by General Petition)

You will receive instructions about YISS course registration prior to departure. Final registration takes place after arrival.

Financial Aid Minimum Unit Requirements:

UCEAP allows students in the UCEAP Korea summer program to take either 9 UC quarter units (two courses) or 13.5 UC quarter units (three courses); however, the minimum unit requirement for UC summer funding varies by UC campus.

If you are a **financial aid recipient**, contact your UC campus financial aid advisor for your minimum unit requirement based on your individual financial aid award **prior to departure**. The UCEAP Study Center staff in Korea cannot advise you on financial aid matters.

If you take two courses and your financial aid award requires you to take three courses, you will be required to pay back any over-award of financial aid. This amount will vary by student.

Fall, Spring, and Year Programs

These programs offer coursework taught in English and Korean, as well as Korean language study. The programs also feature community service and internship opportunities.

Required:

- Attendance at both Yonsei and UCEAP mandatory orientations
- Full-time course of study; minimum of 21 UC quarter units each term (usually four or five courses)
- A Korean language course each term (unless you are fluent)
- Language placement test on the first date of the program (no makeup exams are offered)
- Completion of the MyEAP Registration Study List and confirmation by the Study Center (any changes made in your Yonsei University course registration must also be made on your MyEAP Registration Study List)
- You will receive instructions by e-mail regarding Yonsei University pre-registration procedures about a month before departure.

Language Study

Language study is required each semester. You will be placed at the appropriate language level based on the mandatory written and oral placement tests. Depending on the level, the classes emphasize oral-aural skills, systematic grammatical pattern acquisition, basic writing skills, listening comprehension, composition, and cross-cultural communication.

Semi-intensive Korean language courses are offered through the Korean Language Institute (KLI) at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. These courses are 9 UC quarter units each and meet for two hours per day (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.), Monday through Friday. Most UCEAP students take one of these courses. KLI is not open to UCEAP students for the summer or winter quarters, or morning intensive courses.

Materials include Korean language textbooks and collections of readings, listening comprehension materials, newspapers, literary works, and audiovisual materials. Upper-level students learn advanced grammar patterns and expressions, work on expanding vocabulary and increasing reading speed, watch films, and practice advanced listening comprehension with real news broadcasts.

If you do not wish to take the semi-intensive course, you may take a less intensive Korean language course, such as Korean Language and Culture, Korean Writing, or Korean Grammar (4.5 units each). These are offered through other schools or departments at Yonsei University.

If you have documented fluency in Korean language or you receive a high enough score (advanced levels) on the language placement test, you will not be required to take Korean language courses; however, advanced Korean language courses are available.

Courses Taught in English or Korean

The [Yonsei Portal Service](#) lists courses for the current term. All courses on the Yonsei Portal Service are open to UCEAP students except Underwood International College (UIC) courses.

You may be able to take UIC courses if you get permission from the professors. You can make a request to the UIC professor in person on the first day of class. The Study Center can provide you with a form to take to the professor. Permission is not possible for UIC exclusive courses (numbers 8–11) and graduate-level seminar courses.

An increasing number of courses taught in English are offered in many fields, including business, economics, history, communications, Korean art history, law, literature, philosophy, political science, and sociology. Particularly strong courses are available in Asian studies and Korean language and literature, as well as unique courses related to North Korea. Most courses are 3.0 Yonsei units (4.5 UC quarter units).

If the language placement test shows you have adequate proficiency in Korean, you may be able to enroll in Yonsei University courses taught in Korean with the approval of the UCEAP Liaison Officer. A high level of proficiency in reading, writing, and comprehension of university-level Korean is necessary to succeed in these courses.

Special Opportunities at Yonsei University

Independent Study and Internships

Independent study, including internships, may be available in certain fields. Information on UCEAP-arranged academic internships will be provided during the UCEAP on-site orientation.

If you would like to participate, research internship opportunities **before** arriving in Korea and prepare a proposal shortly after arrival. Websites such as [Job Korea](#), [Incruit](#), and [Find Job](#) are good informational sources.

In previous years, UCEAP students have interned at such organizations as the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea, National Center for Korean Traditional Performing Arts, National Cancer Research Center, Prain (PR), FM Communications (advertising), MTV Korea, Hyundai Research Center, Korean Productivity Center (government consulting firm), and MMMG (design).

If you wish to apply for an internship, you will take a preliminary test after the orientation. This preliminary test determines if your Korean language ability is suitable for working in Korea. Korean language proficiency is important because the internship providers prefer students who are able to speak and write in Korean. If you pass, your résumé will be sent to designated internship supervisors in several companies and interviews will be arranged. Selection depends on the internship supervisor of the company—not the Study Center. Once you are accepted for the internship position, you must submit a [Special Study Project](#) form to the Study Center within two weeks.

Internship positions vary from year to year, but opportunities normally are available to qualified and enthusiastic students. Seriousness of purpose and a strong sense of responsibility are key factors in obtaining an internship.

See the [Academic Chapter](#) of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* for more information on independent study and internships.

Volunteering

You may also seek a volunteer or non-academic internship. The Study Center's volunteer club, UCEAP Angels, welcomes UCEAP students who are willing to volunteer on a regular basis. In this club, you may volunteer with Severance Children's Hospital School, with major police stations' culture classes for North Korean refugees, as an English teacher, or in other activities that may be arranged. More information will be available during the UCEAP on-site orientation.

Graduate School of International Studies

As a leading professional graduate school, **Yonsei Graduate School of International Studies** (GSIS) offers an intensive curriculum designed to train international scholars and other specialists. GSIS consists of five programs of courses taught in English: 1) Korean Studies, 2) Area Studies, 3) International Cooperation, 4) International Management, and 5) International Trade and Finance.

Undergraduate students who have senior standing, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and adequate background in a field relevant to the course may be able to take one graduate-level course at GSIS. Permission from the instructor must be obtained at the beginning of the course and both Yonsei University and the Study Center must approve participation in the course. Undergraduate students are limited to one graduate course per term.

Korean Speaking Club

The Study Center hosts a Korean Speaking Club exclusively for UCEAP students interested in practicing Korean. You will improve your Korean by learning and using practical expressions with Study Center staff. The club meets weekly. Details are provided during the on-site orientation.

Tutorials

If you are interested in improving your Korean but can't join the Speaking Club, take advantage of tutorial sessions arranged by the Study Center. You will be introduced to a Korean language teacher who will help you improve your Korean. The teachers are graduate students of Yonsei University majoring in teaching Korean for foreigners. Tutorials are held weekly. Details will be provided during orientation.

EXTENDING UCEAP PARTICIPATION

Plan Ahead to Extend

Extending your UCEAP participation in Korea is possible. UCEAP encourages you to extend participation to the next term. Approval of extension is based on academic performance, the support of your UC campus department, and available space at Yonsei University.

Before departure, submit an approved [Departmental and College Preliminary Approval to Extend](#) (DPA) form to your Campus EAP Office. Submitting the approved DPA does not obligate you to extend or guarantee extension, but the DPA will expedite the process if you decide to extend.

To extend from the Yonsei International Summer School to the fall or year programs, you **must** have a 3.0 GPA, **must** have a DPA on file with UCEAP, and **must** declare your intention to extend during the first two weeks of the summer program. Yonsei will not consider extensions filed after that period.

If you would like to extend from the fall program to the year program once you are abroad, make an appointment with the UCEAP Program Coordinator to initiate the process. If you have a DPA, the Study Center Program Coordinator will submit a Request for Final Approval (RFA) form to the UCEAP Systemwide Office. The UCEAP Systemwide Office must receive the request by the deadline indicated on the form. If you do not submit an approved DPA before departure, then you must submit a Petition to Extend form, which requires campus and department approval, and can take up to six weeks to process.

Once your extension has been approved, notification will be sent to your UC campus registrar, Financial Aid Office, and Campus EAP Office. For information about the steps you need to take with regard to finances, see the [Extension of Participation](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

Extension for more than two semesters is not possible. You may participate in multiple summer programs.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Be prepared to talk about all aspects of American life. You will be asked about sports, politics, cities... just about everything.

Due to the crowded conditions in Seoul, people do not seem afraid of close contact. Strangers don't mind sitting very close to each other or being jam-packed into a subway like a bunch of sardines.

My positive attitude and determination to learn the Korean language helped me to acculturate in Korean society.

”

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Educate Yourself

Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites such as [Lonely Planet](#) are excellent resources. To keep up with current events, read articles in newspapers, magazines, and journals.

You also need to understand the local culture and history. Although many people in Seoul dress in Western clothing, they do not necessarily think in a Western manner. Rather, social conduct in Korea is regulated by formal customs and traditions such as veneration of the elderly and subservience of women.

These sources should help you prepare before departure.

Recommended Books

Travel and Language

Hilts-Park, Jonathan and Minkyong Kim *Lonely Planet Korean Phrasebook*, Lonely Planet Publications, 2008.

Robinson, Martin, ed. *Lonely Planet Korea*, Lonely Planet Publications, 2007. *Lonely Planet Seoul*, Lonely Planet Publications, 2006.

History and Politics

Lee, Jai Eui and Henry Scott-Stokes *The Kwangju Uprising: Eyewitness Press Accounts of Korea's Tiananmen*, Armonk: M. E. Sharpe, 2000.

Macdonald, Donald S. *The Koreans: Contemporary Politics and Society*, 3rd edition, Boulder: Westview Press, 1996. A balanced overview of Korea's politics and society.

Oberdorfer, Don *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History*, new edition, New York: Basic Books, 2001. A historical overview of the two Koreas and surrounding countries.

Robinson, Michael Edson *Korea's Twentieth-century Odyssey*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007. Historical background to understand the complex politics and contemporary crises that currently exist in the East Asian region.

Women

Hicks, George L. *The Comfort Women: Japan's Brutal Regime of Enforced Prostitution in the Second World War*, New York: W. W. Norton, 1995.

Lee, Helie *Still Life with Rice: A Young American Woman Discovers the Life and Legacy of Her Korean Grandmother*, New York: Scribner, 1996.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

People show more respect for their elders and authority figures.

It's important that you are respectful and dress modestly.

Study in Korea for at least summer and fall, because the summer program is not long enough to fully appreciate the culture.

”

Useful Websites

- [Incheon International Airport](#)
- [Yonsei University Office of International Affairs](#)
- [Yonsei I-House](#)
- [Korea Ministry of Tourism](#)
- [Hi Seoul](#) (what's new, transportation, bank, etc.)
- [Korea Immigration Service](#)
- [The Korea Times](#)
- [The Korea Herald](#)
- [UCEAP Seoul Study Center](#)
- [Hyundai Department Store](#)
- [Lotte Department Store](#)

Improve Your Language Skills

The more Korean you know before departure, the more rewarding your time abroad will be. If you have not studied Korean, you should at least learn the writing system. If you have already studied Korean, devote some time outside of classroom study to improve written and oral skills.

The following are good methods to prepare:

- Read Korean newspapers and magazines.
- Watch Korean movies.
- Keep up with Korean current events by reading articles in newspapers, magazines, and journals.
- Read a book or two in Korean, preferably one fiction and one nonfiction.
- Seek out people fluent in Korean for conversations and vocabulary practice.
- Keep a journal of Korean phrases, expressions, whole sentences, and structures that you would like to add to your vocabulary and practice them aloud.

► Additional information about passports, visas, and other required documents is provided in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and in the UCEAP Predeparture Checklist.

ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Travel Documents

U.S. Travel Registration

Register online with the [U.S. Department of State](#) as soon as your flight plans are known. Registration is free and it allows the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to assist you and provide information in case of difficulty or an emergency while abroad.

Photocopies

Make photocopies of all important documents, including passport photo pages, vaccination certificates, travelers check receipts, airline tickets, student ID, birth certificate, credit cards (front and back), etc., then leave a set of copies at home with a parent or guardian and pack a set in various pieces of luggage. Spending a few moments copying documents now can save time and energy if something is lost or stolen.

Student Visa

- Students with a valid Korean passport are not required to obtain a visa.

Summer program participants do not need a visa to enter Korea. U.S. citizens in possession of a valid U.S. passport can visit Korea without a visa for a duration of up to 90 days or less for study.

For the fall, year, and spring programs, you must obtain a **Student (D-2) Visa** prior to entering Korea. A Korean student visa is an endorsement placed in your passport by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea. The visa grants you permission to enter and reside in Korea for the purpose of study.

Non-U.S. Citizens

If you are not a citizen of the U.S., special travel restrictions or requirements may apply to you. Contact the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea for visa information and entry regulations.

Male Korean Citizens

If you are a male Korean citizen between the ages of 18 and 35, you may be eligible for the draft and required military service. Prior to departing the U.S., you must research this further with the [Consulate General of the Republic of Korea](#) and [Military Manpower Administration](#). Report your exchange student status when you enter Korea. You will be eligible for military service even if you have dual citizenship. Make sure you understand your status prior to arrival.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...



It's very hot and rains a lot here during the summer. Be prepared to sweat and don't forget to bring rain boots and a good umbrella.

Take a laptop; Korea is all connected with LAN.

If you wear large-sized clothing, you'll have to pack all the clothes needed for the program because they won't have your size.

Women's fashion in Korea is very trendy. Bring some dresses and nice clothing.

Pack dryer sheets—your clothes will have less static and the smell will remind you of home.

Bring a good pair of sneakers because you will be walking around Seoul a lot. For the fall term, bring sunglasses, an umbrella and warm jackets.



Packing Tips

Just about everything is available for purchase in Korea.

Essential

- One formal outfit (for class presentations, formal lectures, interviews, and the UCEAP farewell banquet)
- Personal care and hygiene products (especially preferred brands)
- Vitamins and medications (see the [Health](#) chapter of this guide)
- Travel guide with a detailed map of Seoul
- Slippers

Optional

- Rain boots and an umbrella (highly recommended)
- Athletic gear (including a swimsuit)
- Laptop (printers are provided on campus for a fee)
- Costco card (there are several throughout Seoul)
- Gifts for foreign hosts and new friends (suggestions: Frisbees, T-shirts, UC pens or decals, California pistachios or almonds, California scenic calendars, See's Candies)
- Pictures of home, family, and friends
- Hand sanitizer (you can easily buy this in Korea)

Climate and Dress

The climate in Korea is temperate, with four distinct seasons. Summers are hot with high levels of humidity. However, Koreans dress fashionably and value their sense of decorum. Despite hot and humid conditions in the summer, provocative clothing is inappropriate in public. Plan for periods of heavy rain and monsoons.

It normally snows in the winter and the average temperature is about 23°F. Winter clothing can be purchased for reasonable prices in Seoul.

- **The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad.**

Travel to Korea

You are responsible for making your own transportation arrangements to and from Korea (even if you are on financial aid) and for arriving on the Official UCEAP Start Date. This includes reserving and purchasing airline tickets (purchase a changeable ticket). Standby tickets are not acceptable.

You will arrive at Incheon International Airport, which is 90 minutes from Seoul, and take the limousine bus from the airport to Yonsei. From the bus stop, it is a 10-minute walk to the dorm. Detailed arrival instructions and maps are provided before departure in the Predeparture Checklist. Prepare to pay with Korean won for your transportation from the airport.

Early check-in is not permitted. If you arrive in Seoul prior to the arrival date, make hotel reservations or arrangements with your family and friends.

Program dates and arrival information are posted on the UCEAP website. Failure to appear by the Official Start Date is cause for dismissal from the program (per Student Agreement, Section 10). When traveling, always carry your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money. Never put valuables in your checked luggage.

The program dates can change due to unforeseen circumstances. You are responsible for making modifications to your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. UCEAP is not responsible for any non-recoverable transportation charges you may incur for travel arrangements. To stay informed of program changes, update MyEAP with any changes to your contact information (mailing address, e-mail, and phone number).

Financial Aid Students

Your financial aid package is based partly on the UCEAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare amount is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Korea. If your independent travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the UCEAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselors. Neither UCEAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

Orientation

You are required to attend a predeparture orientation at your UC that covers an array of program topics including health and safety, cultural issues, and program-specific academic information.

The programs officially begin with two mandatory orientations in Korea by Yonsei and UCEAP that cover:

- Introduction to Korean culture and information about the university
- The academic program and how to complete and submit your MyEAP Study List
- Internships and volunteer opportunities
- UCEAP field trips, cultural activities, daily living, tips from previous students
- Housing

Attendance at all orientation sessions is **mandatory** and you are responsible for following up with all procedures and deadlines.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...



The subway is often crowded and stuffy; take buses instead. Bus stops are easier to find and you can always find a bus headed where you want to go.

If you use taxis, be careful of price gouging. The driver may take you on the “scenic route” to get a few more won.



LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Travel within Korea

Subway

The subway is the most efficient way to get around the city. Seoul has an impressive subway system that is clean, reasonably priced, and extends out into the suburbs. There are nine color-coded lines that run at regular intervals throughout the city. Signs are clearly marked and announcements are made at all stops in both Korean and English. The subway also provides convenient links and transfers to the city’s bus system. The fare will vary depending on the distance to the final destination.

Rechargeable transportation cards, good for use on subways and buses, can be purchased at most newsstands. Students participating in the academic year, fall, or spring semester programs can also use their Yonsei ID cards as a rechargeable subway card.

Buses

The urban areas of Seoul are serviced by four types of buses, each with different fares and routes. These include village buses, circular city buses, general buses, and seat buses.

For travel outside of Seoul, express buses are available at many of the bus terminals located near the outer perimeter of the city.

Taxis

Cabs are available everywhere in Seoul. Fares are reasonable, although a long-distance ride can be quite expensive.

There are three types of taxis: 1) General taxis, 2) Deluxe taxis, and 3) Call taxis. Deluxe taxis provide a higher quality of service, but at a higher price (except between midnight and 4 a.m. when General taxis add a 20 percent surcharge). Deluxe taxis are black and have a yellow sign on the roof that displays the words “Deluxe Taxi.” Call taxis are seven-passenger vans that are equipped with foreign language interpretation phones and credit card processing terminals. The base fares (first 2 KM) for General, Deluxe, and Call taxis are KRW 2,400, 5,000, and 5,000 respectively. The fair between Incheon Airport and downtown Seoul is usually 80,000 won. Tipping is not required for any taxi service.

Trains

Train travel in Korea is reliable, fast, comfortable, and moderately priced. You can purchase tickets at most travel agencies, the Seoul Railway Station, or the Korea Tourist Bureau. Trains have several classes for traveling, so you must know exactly where and in what class you wish to travel when you purchase tickets. More information, including schedules and fares, is posted on the [Korail](#) or [Qubi](#) websites. For frequent travelers, the Korean Railroad offers the Korean Railroad Pass, which can be used for unlimited train travel. Also, there is a discounted pass for international travelers.

Trains include the Korean Train Express (KTX), which is a high-speed train system, and the Saemaoul and Mugunghwa Express.

► It is important that you carefully read all of the information available in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and discuss it with the person who will assist you with your finances while you are abroad.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after your program is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to UCEAP
- UCEAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while abroad (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid?)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your UC campus financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. You can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). The fees that you owe UCEAP will be applied to your account after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP. For the amount due to UCEAP prior to fees being posted on your account, refer to the UCEAP Student Budget Payment Vouchers. Program fees are subject to change.

UCEAP Student Budget

Carefully review your [UCEAP Student Budget](#).

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. Review your UCEAP Student Budget frequently. The Payment Vouchers are on the second page of the UCEAP Student Budget.

Instructions

- **Download** and **print** your UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your UCEAP bills. Sign this person up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you will be receiving financial aid, see also the [UCEAP Financial Assistance](#) web page.

Handling Money Abroad

Before leaving the U.S., change some money into Korean won at the airport. Besides providing an opportunity to become familiar with the currency, the funds will be useful for snacks, transportation, and unexpected purchases upon arrival.

Banking

Several major U.S. banks maintain branches in Seoul. Check with your home bank to see what services may be provided. Various services are also available from other international banks in downtown Seoul. Inform your bank that you will be using your ATM card internationally to avoid a hold on your account.

Most students open an account at Woori Bank on campus, as it is one of the major banks in Korea. It is in the basement of the Student Union Building. Its ATMs are widely available both on campus and throughout the city. There is no monthly charge for maintaining a bank account, and no fee or deposit required to open one. To open an account, you need a valid passport. You can go directly to the bank and open an account any time during office hours (9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Telegraphic transfers can be made from a home bank account in the U.S. to a Woori account for a fee. Personal checks cannot be cashed at the Woori Bank, although travelers checks and international checks are accepted. An advantage of using Woori Bank is that you can use your Yonsei student ID card as a debit card.

You can also open a bank account at the Hana Bank on campus, which is located on the first floor of the Engineering Research Center.

If you are planning to use a credit or debit card, check with your home bank to see if your card will be compatible with machines in Korea. If you plan on withdrawing money from your U.S. account, you will need to use a global ATM; there are two on campus and many can be easily found off campus in subway stations and convenience stores. Check with your bank to determine the fees involved with international services.

Checks

Checks are not commonly used in Korea. It can take up to two months for personal checks to clear the bank and you will be charged a separate transaction fee, even after a local bank account has been established.

Travelers checks can be exchanged easily at money exchange offices, banks, and some tourist information centers. Avoid exchanging money at hotels and tourist shops; although convenient, their rates are often less favorable. Your passport is required to exchange money.

Credit Cards

Major credit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club, and American Express are widely accepted in many restaurants and department stores in Seoul, but not in small shops. It may be possible to withdraw cash using a credit card through the global ATMs located throughout the city. Before departure, check with your credit card companies to see what services are available and the fees involved with international services.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...



Everyone uses cell phones in Korea, so it's hard to have much of a social life without one.

Bring a smart phone. WiFi is available in many places including Yonsei University. You can rent a phone for regular use and use your smart phone to connect to the Internet.

Most people do not text here, but use an application called KaKaoTalk to communicate on their smart phones.



COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

- ▶ The **Before Babel Brigade** is a volunteer organization for non-Korean speakers who need help communicating. Call 1588-5644 and press 1 for an English-speaking volunteer. Also, the City of Seoul operates the Dasan Call Center for any questions around Seoul. Call 02-120.

Phones

All UCEAP students obtain a cell phone upon arrival. Cell phone service branch offices are found everywhere in Seoul, even on the Yonsei campus. After receiving an immigration card, you can obtain a cell phone.

For the summer program, you can find cell phone companies that offer a prepaid rental phone. Cell phone rental services are also available at the Incheon International Airport. If you are not sure where to rent a phone, attend First Step to Korea (one of Yonsei's orientation programs for exchange students) for advice on how and where to rent a phone on campus.

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), the technology for transmitting voice conversations via the Internet, is popular with students who take a laptop abroad. Social networking software such as **Skype** is commonly used to make free or low-cost calls over the Internet. Students report that they use Skype at least once a week to connect with friends and family in the U.S.

Computer Access and Use

- ▶ UCEAP students suggest taking a laptop.

Yonsei University has computer labs in most buildings. The computer lab in the dormitory is open 24 hours. Each room in the dormitory has Internet access through a LAN network.

Internet cafés such as PC Bang are inexpensive and widely available throughout Korea.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

The international dorm staff accommodated us well. The cost and distance from classes were excellent.

Be prepared for regulations—you will probably find them more restrictive than at UC. The consequences of breaking the rules can be severe, including expulsion from the dorm and even the program.

”

HOUSING & MEALS

Where Will I Live?

You can choose where you will live. There are two on-campus choices at Yonsei University. International House (called I-House) and SK Global House are owned by Yonsei University but are managed by a private company. On-campus housing is provided on a first-come/first-served basis by application and prepayment before arrival (even for financial aid students).

If you decide to live off campus, Yonsei University and the UCEAP Study Center cannot assist you with housing arrangements. It is your responsibility to research all options and understand the leasing terms. Popular off-campus choices for UCEAP students include living with relatives, [DMC Ville](#), and [Casaville](#).

I-House and SK Global House (on campus)

I-House and SK Global House are located in the northeast corner of campus, next to the Yonsei East Gate, and provide housing for over 800 students. There are floors for both graduate and undergraduate students and separate wings for women and men. During the summer the I-House is used for international students only. During the fall and spring terms Korean and international students live in I-House, providing a truly global atmosphere.

Rooms have a Western-style bed, closet, bookcase, desk set, air-conditioner, heated floor, and small refrigerator (single room only). The dorms have two-prong power outlets (220 volt). To use 110 volt equipment, you need to buy a converter (available for purchase in the convenience store near the dorms). Every room is equipped with LAN connections for Internet use; however, LAN cables are not provided (also available for purchase at the student union or in the convenience store near the dorms). The dorms are considered safe as they utilize an ID card key system for enhanced security. There are security guards and surveillance cameras to provide further security and ensure that I-House regulations are upheld.

Amenities include a food court, 24 hour convenience store, bakery, coffee shop, flower shop, nail salon and copy shop. Coin laundry is also available. Basic linens are provided, but you will need to pack or purchase towels. More information on room rates, types (including photographs), and facilities can be found on the on-campus housing's [website](#).

Early check-in is not permitted. If you arrive prior to the official move-in date, make hotel reservations or arrangements with family and friends. Yonsei has a list of recommended temporary accommodations close to campus on their website.

The demand for [summer housing](#) is high. Rooms are reserved on a first-come/first-served basis. Complete an online housing application as soon as you receive your admission number from Yonsei.

You are responsible for directly paying the housing fee by wire transfer. Housing fees for the first term are due prior to arrival in Korea. We recommend that you request wire transfers in person at your bank. Even financial aid recipients will need to secure housing before their first disbursement.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

The strict separation of gender in the I-House was something that I was unprepared for.

The I-House has 110-volt outlets so we can use our appliances without adapters.

”

You will be required to sign a housing contract to complete the housing application. Any student who violates regulations may be dismissed from the housing assignment without a refund, may be dismissed from Yonsei University, and as a result would be withdrawn from the UCEAP Korea program. Examples of housing regulations include prohibited use or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, smoking, and visitation between the men's and the women's floors (which is regarded as a very serious matter in Korean culture). For security reasons, guests (including family members) are not allowed in the dormitories.

Quick breakdown of the difference between I-House and SK Global House

I-House	SK Global House
Double rooms	Single and double rooms
Limited number of facilities, but have access to SK Global House facilities	More facilities
Communal shower/bathroom on each floor	Shower/bathroom in each room
No communal kitchen	Communal kitchen
Key card system to access facilities	Key card system to access facilities
Close proximity to classes	Close proximity to classes
Renovated in 2010	Opened in 2010
Capacity 232 students	Capacity 604 students

Hasooks

If you arrange your own off-campus housing, you may want to consider boarding homes or *hasooks*. There are several close to campus. *Hasooks* offer single occupancy rooms with shared bathrooms and common areas. While the amenities of *hasooks* can vary, most include Internet access, television service, and utilities. The rent typically ranges from KRW 350,000–550,000 per month (depending on the number of people sharing a bathroom). If you are interested in this type of housing, arrive early to research the options. Since it is hard to find *hasooks* on the Internet, you are expected to visit them in person and negotiate with owners in Korean.

Goshiwons

Goshiwons are tiny rooms only furnished with a small bed and desk. Although they are limited in space, they are generally less expensive than *hasooks*. You can easily find *goshiwons* in the Shinchon area, and they are recommended for temporary housing during the break.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Come with an open mind and try Korean foods. Eating the local food is vital to getting in touch with Korean culture.

Restaurants are nearby and there's a great delivery service.

Don't worry, there are all kinds of American chains here: Costco, Krispy Kreme, McDonald's, Outback Steakhouse.

The best place to eat an inexpensive lunch on campus is in the Korean Language Institute building.

All department stores have a food court and supermarket in their basements.

”

Meals

- ▶ **The housing fees do not include a meal plan. For more details, refer to the Student Budget on the UCEAP website.**

Meal plans are not provided at Yonsei University. There are several cafeterias around the campus and many kinds of restaurants are near campus. On-campus cafeterias located in the International House, New Millennium Hall, and the Korean Language Institute building are most frequented by international students. They provide both Korean and Western-style food (e.g., *bibimbap*, *soondubu*, curry rice, and hamburgers), as well as Korean traditional cakes, toast, ramen, *gimbap*, and *udong*. Coffee and cake are available at the International House, Severance Hospital, and Miwoo Hall.

Other low-cost places to eat are located in the surrounding Shinchon area. There are two department stores with grocery sections in the basement connected to the Shinchon subway exit. The Shinchon neighborhood also has many restaurants, including both Western-style and Korean food. Several restaurants provide 24-hour delivery service to the dorms. There are also food vendors along the streets.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

The best way to experience the culture is to join a club. I joined a traditional Korean drum-playing club and experienced a lot more of Korean culture and activities.

I enjoyed Yonsei festivals that were traditions at the school. It really gave me school spirit.

Try to experience as much of the culture as you can, especially on holidays.

Take advantage of the fact that you are in a new place. Go explore!

I joined in UCEAP Angels and volunteered at Severance Children's Hospital School. I was very proud that I could do something good for others in Korea.

Living in Korea allowed me to reconnect with my relatives and bond closely with my grandmother.

”

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Get Involved

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while on UCEAP is an excellent way to meet people, improve your language skills, and integrate into the community. Join clubs, sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations, attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles, and get the most out of your time abroad!

The Global Lounge contains various resources for international students. It serves as a hub where students gather and interact, and as a focal point for cultural activities, language exchange, and clubs for international students. It has televisions, computer terminals with Internet access, meeting rooms, and study areas. The Global Lounge is maintained by the International Student and Scholar section of the Office of International Affairs.

Cultural Activities

The Study Center has information about cultural activities and recommends you get a listing of current events from the [Korea Ministry of Tourism](#). Also, check the [Royal Asiatic Society-Korea Branch \(RASKB\)](#) or [United Service Organizations \(USO\)](#) for activities in English as well as resources for learning about Korean history and culture. They also provide lectures and tours to other cities in Korea and Asia that may be difficult to arrange on your own.

Festivals

Korea celebrates a number of events and festivals throughout the year. Go to [Korea.net](#) for information.

In addition, Yonsei hosts the spring festival and Akaraka concert. The spring festival celebrates Yonsei's foundation day with performances, games, concerts, and more. The Yon-Ko fete during the fall festival, which started in 1945, is a famous tradition between Yonsei University and Korea University in which the two rival universities compete in six sports for two days. After the games there are festivities around each campus and surrounding neighborhoods.

Yonsei Student Clubs

There are more than 200 student and college-affiliated clubs centered on common interests such as athletics, academics, volunteer activities, and music. Joining a student club is a great way to interact with local students. There are club fairs in the beginning of each semester and you can sign up for the clubs on site.

Reading

National newspapers in English, [The Korea Herald](#) and [The Korea Times](#), are available at many newsstands. Bookstores typically have limited sections with popular books and magazines in English. Yonsei's library and Global Lounge offer a variety of publications in English. The [Korea Foundation Library](#) is a great resource for English-language books and magazines focused on Korean history and culture.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...



It was really fun meeting people from different places and just being brave and going out and experiencing the culture. I advise future UCEAP students to savor every moment of it because it's really worth stepping out of your comfort zone and letting the culture lead you.

Experience noraebang (karaoke), Namsan tower, palaces, Han River, music shows (kpop), and night life. Visit a jjimjilbang (sauna) and go to Korean music show recordings and concerts.

Try to plan trips outside of Seoul; it allows you to see a different side of the culture. I also recommend going on the summer field trip.



Religion

English-speaking religious services are available in Seoul. As a Christian-affiliated university, Yonsei offers chapel services, Bible studies, and religious retreats.

Performing Arts

There are many venues in Seoul for theater performances, live music, and cinema. You can enjoy plays, dance performances, and music ranging from classical to modern pop culture. For information on events, visit:

- [Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism](#)
- [Seoul Arts Center](#)
- [Korea House](#)
- [Chongdong Theater](#)

Shopping

There is a wide array of goods for sale in Korea. Many students like to shop at the local markets such as *namdaemun*, *dongdaemun*, *Myongdong*, *Itawon*, and the EWha Womans University area.

Sports and Outdoor Activities

You can participate in numerous sports and outdoor activities, including hiking, martial arts, swimming, and tennis. There are sport fields and a recreation center on campus as well as inexpensive private gyms in the Shinchon area. Also, you can hike Yonsei Mountain behind the New Millennium Hall.

Language Study

The Study Center arranges activities to assist with Korean language acquisition, including a Korean Speaking Club, tutorials, and a Language Buddy Program. The Language Buddy Program will pair you with a current Yonsei University student who will be coming to UC as a future reciprocity student.

Travel

It is relatively easy to plan your travel from Seoul to other locales in Korea. There are many excellent travel books available.

Past UCEAP participants have found the following to be particularly useful: *Lonely Planet Korea*, *Lonely Planet Seoul*, and *Guidebook for the International Traveler* by the Ministry of Tourism.

The Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) can be reached in the U.S. and Canada by calling (800) 868-7567 and has a useful website in English at www.visitkorea.or.kr/intro.html. The KTO also operates a phone information service in the Republic of Korea, which traveling or resident U.S. citizens in Korea can reach by calling 1330 (02-1330 from cell phones) anywhere in the country. The phone service has English speakers and is available 24 hours every day throughout the year. The [Seoul Global Center](#) (SGC) also assists foreigners with an English-speaking help line at (02) 1688-0120. The SGC is open from 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday to Friday. Please read the U.S. Department of State [Background Notes on South Korea](#) for additional information.

- **The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel abroad.**

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

The UCEAP Study Center and Yonsei Summer Office planned many activities. I went on a city tour, watched several musicals, and participated in the field trip to the DMZ.

”

Field Trips

Yonsei International Summer School coordinates a three-day field trip around South Korea prior to the summer program. It is designed to acquaint students with historic, scenic, and modern Korea. The field trip is optional and the cost is not included in your UCEAP fees. Reservations must be made in advance. More information is provided on the [Yonsei website](#).

The Study Center offers a field trip each term. Check the [UCEAP Seoul Study Center website](#) regularly for news and updates. The activities arranged by the Study Center are free and exclusively for UCEAP students. These field trips offer great opportunities to explore Korea and meet other UCEAP students. You have to sign up in advance for the UCEAP field trip during the designated sign-up period. It is important to check your e-mail and the UCEAP Seoul Study Center website often so you do not miss the chance to explore amazing life in Korea.

► In addition to the following, read the [Health chapter](#) of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

HEALTH

Physical Health

With the change in diet, climate, and sanitation standards, you may experience an upset stomach or diarrhea until you adjust to the new environment. Water in Korea is unsafe. It is subject to municipal, industrial, and agricultural pollutants. Municipal water treatment systems are inadequate and obsolete. Authorities assert that about 70 percent of the underground water in Seoul is unsuitable for drinking and 8 percent of it is unusable. Use water that has been boiled or purified or use bottled water from a reputable provider.

Be prepared for sinus illnesses and allergies, which may be worse than in the U.S. due to heavy pollution in Seoul.

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact the UCEAP Study Center staff immediately. Study Center staff can recommend a clinic to visit, provide the necessary medical insurance claim forms to complete for reimbursement, and assist if arrangements need to be made with your professors due to extended absence from class.

Medical Facilities

Hospitals in Korea are generally well equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. High-quality general and specialty dental care is available in Seoul. Western-style medical facilities are available; however, not all doctors and staff in major urban areas are proficient in English. A [referral list](#) of English-speaking health care providers is available from the U.S. embassy. You can use the Yonsei University Student Medical Center located on the second floor of the Student Union Building for primary medical treatment. More information is available on the Yonsei University [Health System](#) website.

During regular business hours, English-speaking doctors are available at the Severance International Health Care Center, which is part of the Yonsei University Student Medical Center system. You will be seen on an outpatient basis and referred to the appropriate department of the hospital if necessary. For emergencies outside of regular business hours, go to the emergency room at Severance Hospital.

The Seoul [Global Center for Foreigners](#) operates a 24-hour Medical Referral Service (MRS). Medically trained, English-speaking staff provides information and recommendations on medical facilities and services.

Korea has a very good hospital emergency response system similar to that of the U.S. However, Korean hospitals generally do not accept medical insurance, and normally expect advance payment for services in the form of cash or credit cards from foreigners. In an emergency situation, a hospital may possibly perform triage, but will generally refuse surgery without payment. You must pay for medical services at the time they are rendered, but will be reimbursed after submitting the proper insurance claim forms and receipts (see the [Insurance](#) tab of your [Participants](#) program page for forms and instructions). Keep extra money or a credit card for unexpected medical fees.

Korean ambulances do not carry sophisticated medical equipment and the ambulance personnel do not have the same level of emergency medical training as in the United States. However, ambulances operated by the fire department (dial 119) will respond very quickly and take patients to the nearest hospital.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Many Koreans smoke and the air is not as clean as it is in California. If you have allergies, bring medication.

Pack the cold medicines you like at home. Some of my friends were sick due to the change in weather. The weather fluctuates often—warm for a couple days and then cold again. Bring enough medicine if you prefer certain brands.

”

Prescription Medications

Refer to the [Health chapter](#) of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

If you require prescription medications, contact the UCEAP Assistance provider, Europ Assistance, at (866) 451-7606 to ensure that your medication is legal and/or available in Korea. You can also contact Europ Assistance at ops@europassistance-usa.com

While most medications are available and less expensive in Korea, pharmacies will not acknowledge U.S. prescriptions. Plan to take an adequate supply of your prescription medications for the duration of your time abroad. To transport prescription medications into Korea, you will need the following:

- A copy of the prescription or letter from a physician with a detailed explanation including the purpose, generic name of the medication, and prescribed dosage
- A receipt of purchase of the medication
- Documentation that verifies the amount of time you will be staying in Korea (for example, a host university acceptance letter)

Pack your prescription medications in your carry-on luggage and store them in their original, labeled containers. Also remember to bring a prescription for your glasses or contact lenses in case you need to get another pair while you are abroad.

Health Risks

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes information to advise international travelers of health risks including infectious diseases. Before departure, review the CDC [Travelers' Health](#) website.

H5N1 Avian Flu

UCEAP continually reviews information from the CDC and World Health Organization, works closely with medical experts on the UC campuses, and monitors local host university and country health resources. It is important to exercise care while abroad and avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces or fluids from poultry or other animals, and eat only thoroughly cooked poultry products. Refer to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul for more information on [avian influenza](#).

Emotional Health

Speak with returnees and gather as much information as possible before you leave for Korea.

Do not be surprised to think, “It’s not what I expected.” Life in Korea is fast-paced with large crowds and noise. For diversion, UCEAP students have discovered that some sort of regular activity—whether with an interest group like a chorus or hiking club, or study of traditional dance, archery, or calligraphy—offers a way to get a break from textbooks. Ask for insight from locals and acknowledge that this is a valuable learning experience.

Culture shock and homesick feelings are normal. It is easy to become worn down from physical and mental stress due to the vastly different environment. Most students expect to quickly adapt to the new culture—and they need to adjust rapidly if they are to effectively meet the academic demands placed upon them. Culture shock is a normal developmental phase of adjustment to a new cultural environment. It is not a psychological disorder. Most students who experience culture shock function reasonably well under the stress and are able to keep up with the responsibilities of school and everyday life. However, any situation entailing a high level of stress can cause unusually strong emotional reactions and can interfere with effective functioning either at that time or later. Such reactions are normal responses to abnormal situations and are to be expected under the circumstances. They are usually transitory—lasting a couple of weeks—and do not imply mental illness or an inability to cope. Nevertheless, there are occasions when the experience of culture shock can stir up deeper emotional issues. To counter this, eat well, stay hydrated, get plenty of rest, share concerns with the Study Center staff, and be open and accepting of the differences you encounter. It will make your stay more enjoyable as you adapt to the new environment.

Severance Hospital at Yonsei University provides mental health care services. You may go directly to the appropriate division or be referred through the Severance International Health Care Center. In addition, the U.S. Embassy in Seoul can refer you to private English-speaking counselors.

- ▶ In addition to the following, read the **Safety** chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.
- ▶ You are encouraged to read *A Safe Trip Abroad* issued by the U.S. Department of State.

SAFETY

Assembly Points and Evacuation Plan

The UCEAP Study Center has designated assembly points at Yonsei University if there is an immediate threat and students need to move to another area for safety or evacuation. Assembly points and an evacuation plan will be reviewed with you during on-site orientation. In the rare event that an evacuation would be necessary, the UCEAP security and travel assistance providers will work with you and the Study Center. Evacuation events, by their nature, are extremely chaotic and highly stressful. When there is sufficient warning, the evacuation will be staged, hopefully via commercial aircraft (to be determined). When there is no warning of civil disorder and an immediate evacuation becomes necessary, all travelers will be evacuated by the safest and most expeditious method available. Once the decision is made, hopefully in consultation with the Study Center Director, it is UCEAP's responsibility to communicate this decision to the Study Center Director, parents, and the students. Given the hectic, confusing, and oftentimes quick pace of events around an evacuation, it is very difficult to establish continuous communications with all students. Students, Study Center Director, and UCEAP Systemwide officials have a shared responsibility for distributing time sensitive messages regarding an emergency evacuation.

Korean Peninsula Conflict

Decades after the end of the Korean War, the border between North and South Korea remains heavily guarded and the potential for conflict exists constantly. It is against the law for South Koreans to cross the border into North Korea. An international military force consisting mostly by U.S. or South Korean personnel is stationed on the so-called Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Due to the political significance of South Korea, especially to the U.S., embassies may refrain from initiating all-personnel evacuation plans should a conflict arise on the Korean Peninsula, until the security situation deteriorates substantially. Therefore, it is important to educate yourself about UCEAP emergency plans.

Most incidents between the two countries are low-level military skirmishes, often naval. There have, however, been cases of South Korean fishermen being abducted by North Korean armed forces.

Crime

While relatively infrequent by U.S. standards, street crime does occur. The security precautions a person would take in any large U.S. city are appropriate throughout the Republic of Korea. There are regular incidents of pick-pocketing, purse snatching, and assaults in the major metropolitan areas. Exercise caution when traveling at night. This includes using only legitimate taxis, such as black Deluxe cabs, or public transportation. Travel in groups when possible. You may reduce the likelihood of criminal incidents by exercising the same type of security precautions you would take anywhere. If you are the victim of a crime while in Korea, immediately report the incident to UCEAP Study Center staff, local police, and the U.S. embassy.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Just use common sense: don't go out alone at night.

Don't take a taxi alone at night. Bring a cell phone everywhere, and call 02-120 for a free interpreter or general help.

Drivers don't seem too concerned about yielding to pedestrians.

”

Criminal Penalties

While in Korea, as in any foreign country, you are subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the U.S. Americans are not protected by U.S. laws while in Korea. Penalties for breaking the law abroad can be more severe than those enforced in the U.S. for similar offenses. If you violate the law, even unknowingly, you may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs are strict, and convicted offenders can expect severe jail sentences and fines. UCEAP is not able to intervene on your behalf.

Drugs and Alcohol

Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs in the Republic of Korea are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences, heavy fines, and deportation at the end of their sentence. U.S. citizens in Korea have been arrested for past use of illegal drugs based on urine tests, hair samples, or other tests. Korean authorities frequently arrest U.S. citizens on drug charges by scanning suspicious packages sent through the mail and by using information provided by other persons charged with drug possession or use. You will find different practices and attitudes towards drinking and smoking. Alcohol and cigarettes can be purchased by anyone over 19 years of age. There is high consumption of alcohol in the Korean nightlife culture. You do not need to conform to this aspect of Korean culture. Become familiar with the UCEAP [Substance Abuse Policy](#).

Environmental Hazards

The Republic of Korea has only experienced very minor earthquakes with minimal or no damage in recent history. The monsoon season runs from June to August. Damages from flooding vary from year to year, but flooding is a problem primarily in rural areas.

In September 2010, Typhoon Kompasu, the strongest to hit Seoul in 15 years, killed at least three people and injured dozens more. More than 120 flights were cancelled, and power cuts hit major parts of the subway network.

Transportation Safety

Criminal charges and hefty fines may be imposed on anyone involved in a traffic accident. Do not operate a vehicle while abroad, including motorbikes. In all accidents involving an automobile and a pedestrian or motorcycle, the driver of the automobile, regardless of citizenship, is presumed to be at fault. There are many forms of public transportation available in Seoul.

Road Safety

Korea's roads are generally well paved and traffic signals are functional. Nonetheless, traffic fatalities per driver are almost two times greater than in the U.S. Causes of accidents include frequent lane changes, running of red lights, and aggressive bus and taxi drivers.

Pedestrian Safety

As a pedestrian, be aware that motorcyclists sometimes drive on the sidewalks and drivers of all types of vehicles do not always yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks. It is safer to use pedestrian underpasses and overpasses where available.

UCEAP Travel Warning

You are prohibited from entering The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea or the DPRK). The United States does not maintain diplomatic or consular relations with North Korea. U.S. citizens crossing into North Korea without proper documentation have been subject to arrest and long-term detention.

Demonstrations

Sometimes demonstrations are held in Seoul to protest political or controversial issues. Although the majority of demonstrations are non-violent, the U.S. Department of State recommends that you minimize personal risks by exercising caution and avoiding areas in which demonstrations are being held.

Historically, Yonsei University has been the site of many student-organized protests, a practice that continues on a sporadic basis. If protests occur, you are advised to avoid the demonstration areas and to keep in close contact with the UCEAP Study Center staff.

Fire Safety

Purchase a battery-operated smoke alarm. Know your escape routes and practice an exit plan. For more information read the [Fire Safety](#) section in the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

Emergency Contacts

What Is an Emergency?

An emergency is a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. The following are considered emergencies:

- Any life/death situation
- A traumatic event requiring immediate assistance
- An arrest
- Civil unrest or natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency

Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.

- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact your Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad

Carry the local emergency contact information at all times:

Police **112**
 Fire and ambulance **119**
 Medical issues **1339**

(If calling from a cell phone, first dial “02” before the number.)

If you do not speak Korean, you may be connected to an English-speaking interpreter. You can also dial **1330** for emergency interpretation services.

U.S. Embassy in Seoul

The American Citizen Services (ACS) unit at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul provides many services and information to U.S. citizens. ACS maintains a list of the most recent security information for American citizens living in Korea. To view previous security information or sign up for notification messages via e-mail, visit their website.

Embassy of the United States, Seoul
 32 Sejongno, Jongno-gu
 Seoul 110-710, Rep. of Korea

E-mail: seoulinfo@state.gov

Web: seoul.usembassy.gov

Emergency phone: 011-82-2-397-4114

Severance International Clinic: (0)2-2228-5800

If you have a health, travel, or safety emergency and do not have access to local or UCEAP representative emergency information, contact the UCEAP travel assistance provider, Europ Assistance, available 24/7:

- Call international collect: 1+202-828-5896
- Call within the U.S.: 1+866-451-7606
- E-mail: ops@europassistance-usa.com