Last August, I finally started my exchange journey in Korea. As my extended major is Korean, going to Korea was something that I had been planning to do for a long time. As I stepped on the land, warm summer wind blew on my face; suddenly I had a feeling that I would fall in love with this country- Korea one of the 4 dragons in Asia. The university that I was studying in Korea was “Korea University” (KU) one of the top 3 universities in Korea. KU is a “globalised” university which offers various courses taught in English (45% of the courses in KU are taught in English). The local students at KU are required to take at least 1 or 2 subjects taught in English every semester. KU also has a special program call “KUBA = Korea University Buddy Assistant” which offers help to the foreign students, and assign every foreign student with a KU student. The local Korean students at KUBA are very nice and fun to be with; they took us to a lot of different places to experience the true Korean university culture. I also noticed that the “social etiquette” in Korea is very important. You can not refuse any drink that is offered by your senior, and when you drink you can not face the people who you are drinking with, you have to turn your face aside to finish the drink. Despite the fun moments that I had in Korea, there were also some times when I had to face the culture shock. Even though, I had learnt Korean before this exchange program, sometimes I still did not feel confident in speaking Korean. However, my Korean buddies encouraged me and reached out to me when I needed help. During my one year exchange in Korea, I have met some great people, and learnt about a lot of different cultures not only from Korea, but also those of the other international students that I have met. I think I have grown a lot by being able to solve problems in a foreign land, and as well as communicating with the other people who do not speak the same language as me. Even though there were some low moments, I believe the experience will become the motivation that pushes me to go forward in the future. Going on exchange does not only provide me with success on the academic scale, but also a life long experience that I needed in preparing for my future.

5 TOP TIPS:

When you go to KU there are some places that you must visit or you must do.
1. Blue Apple: You can get the cheapest largest cafe latte as you want!
2. Biggest Korean style sushi around campus, and it is freshly made.
3. Go-yong jon: it is a annual sports competition between Korea University and Yonsei University in September. Cheer for your school and feel the spirit.
4. Cafe103: Best coffee around campus (personal opinion hehe), it is hidden in the alley, but ask any international student on the campus, they will all be able to give you the direction.
5. Winter clothes: Winter in Korea could easily drop down below zero, so be prepared and bring some winter gears.
at the annual sports competition  고연전

after the KUBA party

at the student cafeteria, we love  식당 = sik dang = cafeteria
(that’s why I said bring more winter clothes!)

(all Korean were dressed in red for the world cup: shouts for the reds!)