

Professor Cheng, Professor Wu, Professor Ting and Secretary Lee in IE&M department led a group of 15 students to initiate this academic visit in Korea. From July 3 to July 7, 2023, they visited Pusan National University and Pukyong National University proceeded a visiting journey of five days...

When I first learned about academic exchange programs abroad, I was eager to explore different university campuses and facilities, hoping to understand the differences between Korea and Taiwan. Motivated by this curiosity, I decided to participate in the exchange program. This exchange took place at two universities in Busan, South Korea: Pusan National University and Pukyong National University.

Pukyong National University's main teaching building exuded an air of solemnity. During our visit, we had the opportunity to explore graduate student laboratories. What struck me was the unique design of these laboratories, where students and their supervising professors shared the same space, somewhat like coworkers in an office, separated only by glass windows and doors. We also visited their university's historical museum, where knowledgeable professors explained the significance of each archaeological find. While they provided translations in Chinese, a certain level of expertise was required to fully grasp the historical insights. The museum not only featured numerous historical artifacts but also real animal specimens, including marine life, birds, and turtles. Pukyong University had arranged student guides who described the architectural highlights of the campus buildings in English. Unfortunately, due to the summer break, we couldn't witness the campus in its full academic hustle and bustle, and we couldn't explore the interiors of the teaching buildings. This was a minor disappointment during our visit.

On the other hand, Pusan National University boasted an impressively vast campus, far larger than what I had seen at Yuan Ze University in Taiwan. Their campus featured dozens of buildings, some of which were even older and more architecturally distinct than those at Pukyong University. Student guides here also provided English explanations throughout the tour, using a more conversational approach, making it easier for us to understand. I was particularly impressed by one student who had some prior knowledge of Chinese and, though a bit rusty, didn't hesitate to use it. Pusan National University allowed us to explore their library, which provided study spaces and included a relaxation area with a café. Additionally, the university provided electric scooters for transportation around the large campus, as well as an on-campus

department store. We had lunch at the department store's buffet restaurant.

After visiting these two Korean universities, I noticed some similarities. Both universities had a library in nearly every academic building, which contrasted with our university's single large library. Additionally, both institutions had 24-hour study centers, which seemed to be well-funded and a crucial part of campus life.

During this trip to Korea, I learned that coffee is an indispensable beverage for Koreans. They often stay up all night and boost their energy with a cup of black coffee in the morning. This piece of information surprised me. Throughout our visit, the teachers and students at the Korean universities were exceptionally warm and even gave each of us small gifts. Overall, I gained insights into the distinct cultural aspects of different nations, which can shape students' lifestyles and boost their confidence in expressing themselves. Witnessing the self-assuredness of Korean students inspired me to pursue this goal further. I hope that in the future, I will also become more courageous in expressing myself.



The students at Pukyong National University were dressed in formal attire, wearing blue dress shirts, as they introduced the campus to us.



I dined on famous Korean barbecue with the graduate students from Pukyong National University.



I visited the historical museum at Pukyong National University and was currently listening to a teacher's explanation of some ancient artifacts.



The top photo is a group picture with the professors from Pusan National University, and the bottom photo is a group picture with the professors from Pukyong National University.



Photos of Pusan National University students who guided us around the campus. There were a total of four students wearing yellow short-sleeved shirts.



A final group photo with the Pusan students before concluding the visit.



The Pusan National University library offers seat reservations through an app, and the seating is designed in a tiered arrangement.