

Final report for Europe Korea Foundation.

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Course: Master of International Business Administration.

Case studies with multinational companies: International oriented training

The second term passed so quickly due to many case studies with many multinational companies. All students receive international and interdisciplinary-oriented training which qualifies them for work in international enterprises worldwide. The big difference from other MBA programs is that all students in my program are bilingual in English and German. It is very common that we do many case studies in two languages. The board of directors in multinational enterprises are our audiences. They give us one specific project which we have to find a solution during one semester as if we were a consulting firm. Every student can choose any case studies according to own interests within the areas of accounting, finance or marketing. Personally, I enjoyed so much to join in international marketing projects regarding Asian markets. One multinational company was wondering which Asian country is better to choose for launching their product. To find the best suggestion for the board of directors of company, our team members (from Singapore, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Korea) were struggling with many consumer reports data concerning on Asian markets. However, on the presentation day, as the board of directors were satisfied with our suggestion, every pain changed into joy.

Interdisciplinary knowledge of international management

For me, the most difficult class of this term was international contract law which was conducted by two German lawyers who are working at the Max Plank Institute. It was very interesting lectures with many real law conflicts in international trade. However, the law terms in English were unfamiliar to me. Also the oral exam with two lawyers was not easy. They gave me some real law conflicts what could happen in international trade. I had to explain which kind of law is suitable to solve that problem. As my program emphasis on "Interdisciplinary Knowledge of International Management", we have to take at least two compulsory courses in law, social economics, and politics. An

interdisciplinary approach is indispensable for an understanding of international management. Therefore, many courses impart insight into the social, political, legal and macroeconomic conditions underlying international commercial activity.

Development of linguistic competence

Half of the courses are conducted in English, the other half in German. Some of the courses are held by visiting professors from outside Germany. Students should broaden and perfect their foreign-language competence during the two year program. It is common for the students that they take courses in a third foreign language. A majority learn Spanish or French. In this second term, I have also begun French language courses as my third language. It is amazing how different the language education in Europe is compared to Korea. For example, I was not taught how the French grammar works but how I can speak and understand the sound of words.

Close combination of theory and practice

A further good source of intercultural competence of my degree is practical experience in another country. My program requires participants to complete an internship in a foreign-language country. Especially, for the student who comes from EU, my school support for the abroad internship costs within EU countries. The three-month internship enables the knowledge gained during the degree course to be put into practice. Therefore, I am also looking for an internship not just in Germany but also in other European countries. For example, I did a few interviews in Brussels which is the centre of Europe. For the next semester's compulsory internship, I should keep up with my applications and interviews. After this compulsory internship, I will write my master's thesis to complete my degree.

Long summer vacation: Reports, summer job and trips.

In Germany, they have so long summer vacation; nearly 3 months. In European culture, it is so common to go on holiday at least 2 weeks abroad. All foreign students went back home as soon as the summer holiday begun. Also, all German students went to holiday in other southern countries. However, due to my poor financial situation, I was looking for a summer job to get another new experience. Luckily, I could work as an interpreter at some exhibitions in other cities in Germany. After I earned some pocket

money, I travelled around Europe. I visited friends in England, Sweden and Brussels. Especially, I was motivated to learn French further as I visited Brussels. I also visited the European Parliament, which was very impressive due to its diverse activities for EU. But, after my summer job and trip, now I concentrate on doing my homework of last semester such as written follow up. Personally, I assume that the value of three months long summer vacation depends on what you have planned for and how you organized the time schedule.

Future

One year has passed, one year remains. My last year was so precious time for me. I learned how to control my self and how I can deal with problems that confronted me. I wish that during my last year I will be able to be more effective and successfully prepare for the graduation. After my graduation, I would like to work for an international marketing department which I have already experience in theory and practice. Some people ask me in which county I would like to work for. Then, I answer always “Geh wohin dein Herz dich traegt.(Go where your heart wants to move.)” One of the biggest lessons of my MIBA program is that I am now a cosmopolitan. I do not afraid of where I would work for. I just want to contribute myself into European and Korean Economy from what I have learned and experienced. I appreciate again for EKF and SAMSUNG TESCO to give me this big opportunity of my life. Especially, I appreciate very much to Director of EKF, Ms.Nicole Risse, who gave me courage with warm words as I was in difficulties.