



Interview with Ye Rim Kim, first participant of the International Credit Mobility Programme at Károli Gáspár University



Interviewer: Today we are here with a Korean student, who has spent an exchange semester at Károli Gáspár University. She will tell us about her studies at our university, the experiences she made, and will also share with us if the Korean or the Hungarian cuisine is spicier.

Ye Rim Kim: Hi, this is Ye Rim Kim, I am from Korea, Handong University, I came here for one semester and I have made such a great experience here with Hungarian students.

I: Would you like to tell us something about your studies in Korea, what did you study there?

YRK: I studied English and Psychology at home, and here at Károli Gáspár University I studied English, Literature, Hungarian language and Psychology as well.

I: Why did you choose Károli Gáspár University?

YRK: Three years ago I visited Hungary when I was in high school, so that is why I already had some experience here, even though it was a short time, but I had great memories. That is why I wanted to come here again and see more from Hungary.

I: What was your first impression about Hungary?

YRK: It was the first European country where I travelled, so I felt really excited. Hungary was very beautiful, I had a good impression about it.

I: And was the language very strange for you at first?

YRK: I could not understand anything, because Hungarian is so different from Korean or English, but at the same time I found it very fascinating.

I: So tell me about your journey. You decided to apply for a scholarship and come to Károli Gáspár University in Budapest. And what happened next?

YRK: When I heard that I could go to Hungary I was in Russia with my parents, so it was really exciting. I lived in Russia with my parents during my high school years.

I: Please tell me about the courses you completed here.

YRK: I did not expect this high quality of classes. I had all my classes in English, and I didn't know that so many students speak English so well here. It was all very useful, I could develop my English skills a lot.

I: And what kind of lectures did you have?

YRK: I visited Basic Concepts of Literature, English Literature, Personality Psychology, and Advanced Language Practice. So I had very dynamic and different kind of classes.

I: I am so interested, could I achieve any of your academic or personal goals while studying at Károli Gáspár University?

YRK: Actually, when I came here I wanted to develop my English skills the most, because even though I have studied at an international high school, I needed some more practice, to talk more in English. My main goal was to improve my English skills, so I could successfully achieve that I think. I wished to study about my majors more in depth, for example Psychology. I could make experience with presenting about different topics related to it.

I: Did you have to give a presentation?

YRK: Yes, I had seminars, there we had to choose topics and had to hold a presentation on a chosen date.

I: What was your topic?

YRK: Dreamworks

I: Tell me something about that please.

YRK: Freud talked about dreamworks first, what specific meaning dreams have. Regarding our anxiety, or the kind of things that come up during our dreams.

I: Did you get any feedback on your presentation?

YRK: Yes, the professor helped me a lot.

I: What is your favourite place in Budapest?

YRK: St. Stephen's Basilica, it is so beautiful. Three years ago I visited Budapest, in the framework of a gathering for European Christina high schoolers; they had choirs and sang together in the Basilica. It was wonderful.

I: How did you like the Hungarian cuisine? Do you think Hungarian food is much different from Korean food?

YRK: I love Hungarian food! It is not so different from the Korean meals. Hungarian people can eat spicy food too, that's why. I was surprised how much Hungarians like spicy food as well.

I: What is your opinion about the courses you had?

YRK: I have realised that Hungarian classes are very good. You can learn much more than you would expect. I can really recommend everyone to come here for studying.

I: Have you made any friends? How do you like your classmates here?

YRK: Yes, when I was asking them about anything, they were always very helpful.

I: There are many Hungarian students, who are passionate about Korean culture. And I am sure they would like to experience it themselves by studying at Handong. Why do you think they should come and spend the semester there?

YRK: I really recommend for everyone to come to Handong, because Handong University has a really close community, you can learn about the Korean culture a lot and experience studying in a Christian community. The students also have a close relationship with their professors, not only with their fellow students. It is really good because the professors always want to show you what is the right way in your life, which is a great experience. Handong also provides high-quality classes and courses, so you will have a great time if you come to study there.

I: I hope you ha a lovely time with us! Do you think you will come back?

YRK: I would definitely like to come back here again! And if you come to Korea or Handong, you can contact me and ask me about Korea or the university, I am happy to help with anything!