

# Seoul, South Korea

## Dao Tran



**Program:** Education Abroad Network: Summer in Seoul,  
Summer 2017

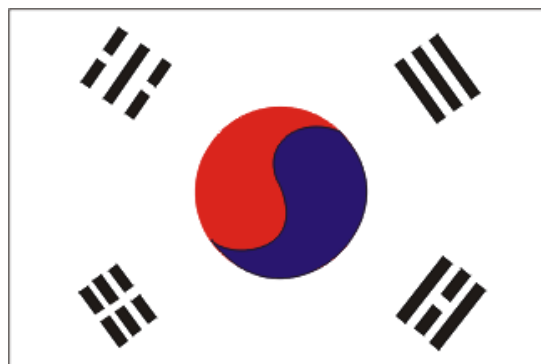
**Major:** Economics

### Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



This badge was a challenge for me because of the language barrier and the culture difference I experienced in Korea. I took Beginning Korean at the start of the program and learned the basics. At first, they tested us individually to see which level of Korean we were able to understand. We had two wonderful Korean teachers who taught Korean in different styles. We learned how to write the alphabet, form

sentences, and converse with our peers. One of our homework assignments was to practice our Korean with a stranger. This was completely nerve-wrecking because I have never spoken to anyone in Korean except the people I was around every day. Fortunately, the week of the homework assignment, we had planned to explore around Seoul. So, I was able to ask for directions and order food in Korean. This was probably the most memorable experience of being in Korea. Once I was able to get the hang of how to form sentences, it became easier to understand people and what they were asking me. At times it became difficult, but interacting with people on a daily basis in Korea really helped me understand the culture and helped me immerse myself in the language. The language is incredibly beautiful, and the culture is sensational. It was a great experience that I'll never forget!



### Transferable Skills:



I am applying the skills I learned from my study abroad by getting a job related to my major. Korea has taught me to go for my dreams and do things that make me happy. The one important thing I learned was that communication is the key to success. If we are interacting with people with different backgrounds, we need to listen with our hearts. Once I understood the key to

success is communication, it made it easier for me to understand the culture of Korea.

***"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."***

***-- Ralph Waldo Emerson***