ICHM
International College of Hotel Management

Kyung Chan's Story

ICHM Student Success Story

Please introduce yourself.

Hello, my name is Kyungchan Lee (Liam), and I'm from South Korea. After completing my studies at Woosong Information College, I spent two years working at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. In my initial year, I served as a bartender in the food and beverage department, and in the second year, I worked as a concierge in the front office. Currently, I have completed the first semester of Year 3 at ICHM and am in the second semester of paid Work Integrated Learning Placement. I am learning all about HK F&B FO operations at Kangaroo Island, and the managers are very professional and good, so I have a lot to learn.

Why did you choose to study at ICHM?

Following the Korean S.A.T, I found myself unsure about which college to attend. To address this uncertainty, I attended a university fair at COEX in Seoul. It was there that I discovered Woosong Information College, attracted by its 2+1 agreement, allowing two years of study in Korea followed by one year abroad. This aligns perfectly with my desire to earn a dual degree and study overseas. ICHM's unique structure, involving six months of on-campus study and another six months of practical training in the hotel industry, greatly appealed to me. Despite some opposition to the idea from those around me, I opted to pursue further education at ICHM, driven by my aspiration to study abroad and gain international work experience. I firmly believe that this experience will be a significant advantage, even if I decide to return to Korea in the future.

Student Profile

STUDENT NAME
Kyung Chan Lee

NATIONALITY
South Korean

COURSE
Bachelor of Business (Hospitality Management)
Year 3

"ICHM's focus on the hotel industry itself sets it apart, offering comprehensive insights into all aspects of the field."

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Please tell us about the location of school and facilities.

ICHM is conveniently located in the city center, facilitating easy access. Despite initial concerns about Australia's public transport, I found it to be efficient. Student metro cards make commuting more affordable, and I usually purchased a 28-day pass (Concession 28-day pass), which costs $56.10 and allows unlimited use of trams, trains, and buses for 28 days. The city center's accessibility and transportation convenience were crucial factors for me.

How did you spend time after school and weekends?

After classes, I frequently visited the beach, a 30-40 minute trip by tram or bus. I enjoyed strolls along the shoreline, watching sunsets, and indulging in delicious food and coffee from nearby establishments. Contrary to stereotypes about racial discrimination and safety concerns in Australia, I experienced none of that during my six months here. I appreciated the laid-back atmosphere compared to Korea, where there's less pressure to conform. Adelaide, while not as bustling as Melbourne or Sydney, offers everything one needs. I explored concerts, sports events, cafes, restaurants, and pubs. For nightlife enthusiasts, Hindley St. is a lively entertainment district on Friday and Saturday evenings.

What subjects did you study and how were assessments?

Each subject involves three assessments, such as essay writing, video PowerPoint presentations, live presentations, and group projects. Notably, there are no paper exams. For instance, in the Sustainability course, we researched global hotels for sustainability examples, assessed their impact, and proposed alternative solutions based on academic journals. Classes often involve master's degree students, emphasizing discussion and personal views. Activity-based classes are frequent, so it's advisable to carry a laptop to every session.

Have you ever had part-time job while you study at ICHM? Please share the story of your work experience.

Initially, I worked part-time at a weekend restaurant for three weeks. However, due to a demanding lecture schedule and assignment focus, I decided to quit. For those seeking part-time jobs, interacting with non-Koreans is recommended. I suggest jobs related to the hotel industry, avoiding potential issues with Korean-owned businesses not adhering to minimum wage standards.

What are the timetables like?

My actual class schedule started off intense but became more manageable over time. I attended optional drop-in sessions for higher assignment scores and clarification of doubts. Classes typically lasted 1 hour and 30 minutes, with mentoring sessions from industry professionals enhancing internship preparation. Expert-led classes involved real-world experiences, such as visiting hotels and art galleries.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9:00 AM	BBHM 306a	BBHM Students RSA	BBHM Students What is Academic Integrity		
10:00 AM					BBHM Students Academic Skills (Drop In Session)
11:00 AM	BBHM Students Introduction	BBHM302			
12:00 PM	Lunch				
1:00 PM	BBHM Students Learning Platforms	BBHM Students WILL Session		BBHM 303	BBHM Students Library Overview & Wrap Up Session
2:00 PM					
3:00 PM	BBHM312	BBHM312	BBHM312		

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What did you like the most about ICHM course?

Classes at ICHM are characterised by smaller student numbers than one might expect, often with fewer than 10 students in exclusive Bachelor's classes. This facilitates in-depth learning through discussion-based classes, providing significant freedom. With a diverse international student body, ICHM recognises language challenges and offers support. Alex McGee, the Student Learning Support Advisor, is dedicated to assisting students struggling with English, particularly in professional essay writing and formal speaking. Additionally, Brianna Murray, the WIL Industry & Career Development Manager, ensures a positive internship experience, matching students with preferred workplaces.

How does Work Integrated Learning (WIL) work?

Approximately a month after enrolling at ICHM, an interview about the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program is conducted. Brianna recommends internships based on this interview, and having a prepared resume in the ICHM format is crucial. Placement dates vary, and the process involves resume submission, interviews with Brianna, and subsequent interviews with hiring managers. Brianna supports students until they secure an internship, emphasizing the importance of thorough interview preparation.

Can you advise for students aspiring to Hotel Management or related fields?

Reflecting on my experience, I initially approached English studies with overconfidence, only to face challenges with Australian English and diverse accents among professors. To prospective students, I recommend thorough English preparation before enrolling. Unlike some Korean classrooms, ICHM professors value inquisitive students and explain concepts well, encouraging active class participation and questions.

When deciding on hotel management studies, consider whether a globally renowned academic-focused university or a specialized hotel management school aligns better with your goals. ICHM's focus on the hotel industry itself sets it apart, offering comprehensive insights into all aspects of the field. Your choice should align with your career aspirations.

Feel free to let me know if you need further adjustments or have any specific requests!

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KYUNGCHAN IS SHAPING HIS FUTURE.

To shape yours, enrol with ICHM.

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