South Korea

The Location

South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea, is located in Eastern Asia, in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula bordering the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea with a long tradition of exceptional culture and history. South Korea has a population of about 50 million people with one of the highest population densities in the world. The capital and largest city is Seoul with a population of 10 million inhabitants. South Korea is a very safe, fully functioning, modern democracy. The country is a center for trade and the sixth largest exporter in the world with some of the largest companies including, LG, Samsung, Hyundai-Kia, and Korean Air. Education in South Korea is regarded as crucial to financial and social success, and competition is consequently fierce, with many participating in intense outside tutoring to supplement classes. Korean art has been highly influenced by Buddhism and Confucianism, which can be seen in the many traditional paintings, sculptures, ceramics and the performing arts. In addition, South Korean mainstream culture, including televised drama, films, and popular music, also exports to various parts of the world in the form of K-Pop.

The University

Pyeongtaek University was established in the spirit of truth, justice, and service. Pyeongtaek University is a prominent school of higher learning that was founded as Pierson Memorial Union Bible Institute according to Biblical values and principles in 1912. Through the years the institution has changed its name to offer various programs in cooperation with the local community and businesses, such as Social Work, Music, Information and Communication, Education, Business, and Counseling. The University has more than 4,000 students. PTU is a specialized university that maintains exchange programs with schools overseas. Pyeongtaek University has also been providing opportunities in higher education to an increasing number of Korean and international students. The Universities efforts have been recognized by the Korean government, which named Pyeongtaek University a "School of Excellence" in its University Evaluation Report.

Academics

CHC students studying at Pyeongtaek University will participate in the summer language program that is full of communicative and experiential activities. Students will develop basic Korean communication skills related to confidence in speaking basic Korean with focus on natural speech intonation, rhythm, and pronunciation to
improve everyday life communications in the language.

Students will also learn various aspects of Korean culture (politics, society, arts, crafts, sports, music, and food) through specialized faculty lectures and field trips. Students will participate in traditional Korea martial arts, farm experience, and museum trips, wear traditional Korean dress wear, stay with a host family and other relevant cultural events. Students will develop a better understanding of Korea by analysis between their home country and culture. Differences in non-verbal communications and social interactions will be explored as well.

**Housing**

As an exchange student, CHC students will stay for the most of their stay in the dormitory on campus. There will be short occasions where a homestay will be available as part of the class trip. Three meals will be provided for the students during the week except for on Saturday and Sunday. Students can visit the local restaurants/ grocery stores located near the campus.

**Visas**

CHC students who participate in this program do not need a student visa.

**Air Travel**

CHC students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Please see the Global Education Office for assistance.

**Tuition**

CHC students continue to pay CHC tuition and fees while attending Pyeongtaek University. Students are billed for tuition and fees plus a Global Education fee. Keep in mind that all financial aid can be applied towards your study in Korea since you are participating with an official CHC sponsored program. Students do not pay any tuition fees in South Korea. Please note you will pay for your own room and board, any travel, personal expenses, and activities you participate in.

**Academic Calendar**

The term for the program is the month of August.

**Health Insurance**

All CHC students are required to maintain health insurance while abroad. All CHC students also MUST purchase an ISIC card prior to study abroad. You may find out your current health insurance does not cover travel overseas. Your health insurance carrier must provide written verification of coverage. The Global Education Office can assist you in purchasing supplemental coverage.

**So, how do I get started?**

Simply come by the Global Education Office to pick up an application form. **Remember-** Applications are due March 1 for the fall term and October 1 for the spring term.