Program Overview

This one- to three-credit course examines Seoul, Republic of Korea, as a case study in contemporary urban governance and management. It is open to graduate students in the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration. Course requirements include a ten-day field trip to Seoul, October 16–25, 2020, in addition to pre- and post-field-trip class meetings, and research and writing assignments. The field trip to Seoul is hosted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and the University of Seoul (UoS). It will include several sessions each day with SMG officials, UoS faculty, and other subject-matter experts, as well as daily visits to a variety of municipal facilities and programs. We will be there with groups from Portland State University, Cornell University, and the University of Central Florida. Graduate students (including matriculated 4+1 students) only are eligible for the course and field trip, per SPPA's memorandum of understanding with SMG and UoS. The target number of participating Biden-School graduate students is six to eight, subject to coordination with UoS.

For all participating graduate students, the SMG and UoS will cover academic program costs, most meals, and seven days' hotel accommodations (double occupancy) during the study trip to Seoul. Out-of-pocket costs per student are estimated to total up to $1,800 for transportation to and from Seoul, one night's lodging and meals, and incidental expenses, plus course tuition and fees that include a $250 mandatory SPPA administrative fee. SPPA study-abroad scholarships may be available to eligible students enrolled in SPPA's graduate degree programs (including students matriculated in SPPA 4+1 programs), subject to SPPA policy and funds availability. In the past, funding has usually been available for scholarships for eligible students to cover up to 50% of eligible and appropriately documented student expenses other than UD tuition and fees.

Interest Meetings Two interest meetings are scheduled: the first on Monday, April 13 at 5:45 p.m., and a second on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. Both will be in 185 Graham Hall.

Course Requirements in brief (the basic requirements are comparable to a two-credit course):

(1) Prepare for and participate actively in several pre-field trip and post-field trip class sessions,
(2) Participate actively in the Seoul Field Trip hosted by the University of Seoul, October 18-23,
(3) Prepare an individual research report based on pre- and post-field trip desk research as well as your field research during the Field Trip, and
(4) Work with your classmates to prepare and deliver a public presentation after the Field Trip.

Approximate Program Calendar

Monday, May 4, 2020: Application deadline. Applicants will be notified about their program-acceptance and scholarship status by May 21.
Friday, September 4: Deadline to submit participation agreement and other forms, $250 deposit, and course registration. Register in the Institute of Global Studies database, register for GeoBlue travel insurance, and register for Drum-Cussac emergency services. Begin securing any necessary visas, permissions and any other documents required for you to travel from the U.S. to South Korea and back. Student are responsible for having valid passports and obtaining their own appropriate travel documents.  

September – October: class meetings and discussions.  

Friday, Oct. 16: Depart from PHL or an alternate airport in the region.  

Saturday, Oct. 17: Arrive at Incheon airport (ICN); ground transfer to hotel in Seoul.  

Sunday, Oct. 18: Orientation to Korean history and culture, and visit to Seoul's city center.  

Monday, Oct. 19 – Friday, Oct. 23: Lectures, meetings, site visits, and events organized by UOS and SMG. Note that these will be very full days, running 10 to 12 hours each.  

Saturday, Oct. 24: A day on your own for sightseeing or other activities of your choice.  

Sunday, Oct. 25: Depart from Seoul; arrive in the U.S.  

November – December: debriefing session(s); final research reports; public presentation.  

Application Requirements  

The application deadline is May 4, 2020. Deliver your completed application materials (including your application to participate in the program, and your application for scholarship assistance if you are eligible) in a single PDF file to justice@udel.edu (be sure to use an informative subject line that refers to "Seoul Case Study") OR hard copy to Jonathan Justice’s mailbox (183 Graham Hall, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716). Applicants will be notified of admissions and scholarship decisions by May 21, and asked to confirm their intent to participate by no later than June 1. Please note that only Biden-School graduate students (including 4+1) are eligible for this program per our memorandum of understanding with the SMG and UoS. If there are more well qualified applicants than available spaces, preference will be given to returning graduate students and to students who have not previously participated in SPPA study-abroad programs.  

Registration Requirements  

In order to participate in the program, all accepted applicants MUST sign participation agreements, register for the designated course (this will be listed as a section of UAPP 730, Topics in Public Policy), and meet all conditions specified in the Participation Agreement Form by Friday, September 4, 2020. Deliver the required forms plus a program-fee check for $250, payable to University of Delaware, to the SPPA office no later than 4 p.m. on September 4, 2020.  

Forms and Further Information  

For additional information, blank forms, sample syllabi, and updates, see https://goo.gl/FprhNh or https://www.bidenschool.udel.edu/masters-programs/study-abroad/current-opportunities.  

You may also contact the Seoul Case Study program director, Jonathan Justice (+1-302-831-1682 or justice@udel.edu) if you have questions.