

Moving to Seoul

J: When we moved to Seoul in June, we were not only changing careers, but also committed ourselves to living in a brand-new city within a brand-new country that spoke a brand-new language. Despite all of these tremendous changes we have found so much happiness, excitement, and friendship in our short time here. The support and acceptance we have received from our wonderful coworkers as well as the citizens of Yongdap, Seongdong-gu and Seoul have been truly heartwarming and have showed us the true hospitable spirit of Korea.

A: Moving to Korea was a big change, but Yongdap, and the Global English House, quickly began to feel like home. Getting to know the neighborhood was one of the first things I wanted to do, and I am still finding new things every time I walk down the streets. I enjoy walking through the market and visiting different stores and restaurants. By now I have my favorite places to go for things like bread, coffee, and vegetables. I like the way the neighborhood comes alive after the sun goes down – the streets are lit with so many colorful lights and there are so many people laughing and eating in the local restaurants. Yongdap is a special place to live.



Teaching at Global English House

J: So far, we have been impressed by our student's discipline towards learning and the Global English House offers a unique experience that helps them build trust and confidence in their English abilities. Having the opportunity to share your home with students, to eat meals with them, and to have discussions with them has helped us learn so much about Korean culture and has worked to make us better teachers. We have enjoyed being able to teach a wide age group ranging from elementary school to adults and this has allowed us to share so many different aspects of our culture as well.



Exploring Seoul

J: We have found Seoul to be a city full of adventure and have found great pleasure in exploring the city's various neighborhoods. Since moving to Seoul we have committed ourselves to trying something new every weekend and so far, after almost five months, we have been able to fill each weekend with some new activities. Some our favorite activities have been hiking to the top Dobongsan Peak in Bukhansan Park, learning about Korea's history at the statue of King Sejong, and watching the fireworks at the Hanhwa Seoul International Fireworks Festival.

A: I love being outdoors, and I have greatly enjoyed visiting some of the City's parks. Seoul Forest was one of the first parks I visited, and I have returned to this park many times. There is so much to see at Seoul Forest! The sculptures and the butterfly garden are two of my favorite things. Children's Grand Park is another amazing park – how wonderful to learn that the zoo is free of charge! In addition to the famous five rings and eternal flame at Olympic Park, I also found many walking paths and places to sit – a wonderful place for a picnic! I went to the Firework Festival at Yeouido Hangang Park. Most recently, I visited Yongsan Park to see the colorful fall leaves. It is nice to have so many parks close to our home.

J: In our free time we are always excited to try new restaurants and bars and we have found some delicious places in Seongsu. One of my favorite burger places in Seongsu is a place called Fingertips where the name all of their burgers after the fingers on your hand. They also have good milkshakes, and my favorite is the banana caramel milkshake.

A: When I noticed a docking station for Seoul Bicycle right outside the house, I was inspired to try it out. Learning how to rent a bicycle was challenging at first, even though the website has an English option, but once I figured it out, bicycling has become one of my favorite hobbies. Riding up and down the banks of the Han River is such an enjoyable way to spend a couple hours. Since there are docking stations all over the city, it is easy to rent a bike and ride to another part of town. It's a great alternative to riding the subway on days when you don't feel like being underground!



Other Experiences

J: As we continue to live in Korea I hope to experience and learn more about Korean films. I love to watch movies, especially horror movies, and some of my favorite Korean films include Train to Busan, The Host, and Oldboy. When we first moved here, we also watched the film Ode To My Father, and I found it to be very informative and it helped give me a better sense of the history and identity of Korea.

A: We have done many fun and exciting things since moving to Korea, but one of my favorite adventures has been paragliding at Yangpyeong. When we arrived at the launch site, I noticed a quiet serenity on the mountaintop. It was very peaceful and calmed any nervousness I had about running off a mountain. The moment my feet left the ground was exhilarating. Riding the air currents made me feel like I was flying. It was incredible to see some of the beautiful mountains of Korea from the sky.

