

A Wonderful New Life Abroad

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South Korea is a wonderful place to live and work, and I feel honored everyday to be a teacher at Busan Electronic Technical High School. It can also be extremely challenging at times. What really separates life here from life in America are the little things. There were weeks of cold showers before I knew how to turn on the hot water. My washing machine has six different settings; all of them are in Hangeul. And ordering food can be quite challenging when you do not know how to speak the language. I made sure that I included a lesson about “How to Order Food” in the curriculum right away so my students would not suffer the same fate if they found themselves in a foreign land. While I find that progress learning to speak and write in Korean comes quite slowly, eventually I managed to conquer both the hot water heater and the washing machine. At the end of the day, it is all part of the adventure; and a huge reason why I find living in a foreign land so appealing.

I can still remember the first day of school vividly. My morning started by promptly getting lost. This was not really a surprise because my first three days in Busan were spent taking wrong turns. One night I managed to get lost until well past midnight after going the wrong direction from the grocery store. The first day of school wasn’t much different in that regard. So after a panicked rush to get to class on time, I found myself covered with sweat after having to run on a hot summer day wearing a long sleeved dress shirt and wool dress pants. I was also extremely nervous about meeting my students for the first time.

My day immediately changed when I finally taught my first class. I have to say that upon reflection, there are many things that I love about teaching here, but the thing that I love most is the students. I feel very thankful to have a job where I am able to laugh every single day. Teaching can be a challenging occupation at times, but the majority of my days here are amazing. Seeing the students learn new things while having a great time makes coming here to teach an easy decision. The work ethic and commitment of both my students and my fellow teachers is a constant inspiration. This is the best places to work in Busan.

And while there are many cultural differences, and not knowing the language still causes problems in my everyday life, I make an effort to learn something new every day. This is something that I hope to instill in my students as well. There is no doubt in my mind that in time I will be watching Korean dramas, chatting with taxi drivers instead of giving them a pre-written card with my address written in, and getting McDonald’s delivered to my apartment on the back of a scooter. In the meantime I want to thank my students and my colleagues again for their kindness and their conscientiousness. Both qualities really make coming to work enjoyable every single day.



I teach and run the Global Internship Club at our school. It is for students that want to live and work in Australia



Our students built this Transformer themselves. They are amazing.



Here is a map and photo of Busan Electronic Technical High School. It is one of the largest and most famous high schools in Busan.