



World Internship Project

Experience ✈ Experiment ✈ Exchange



A Gap Year For All

What is LEX?

The Institute for Language Experience, Experiment, and Exchange (LEX) was founded in 1981 by Yo Sakakibara, a Japanese educator, with the mission of promoting multilingualism and multiculturalism. LEX provides immersion-style multilingual language learning clubs for individuals and families, as well as international exchanges and educational publishing. The language clubs are known as Hippo Family Club in Japan, Mexico, and South Korea. We believe in a language-learning environment that is based on the way we learned our first language(s). LEX currently produces language learning materials in 21 different languages, including Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. We encourage openness toward all languages and all people.

What is WIP?

The LEX World Internship Project (WIP) is a volunteer exchange program that provides participants with the opportunity to intern overseas. Interns can choose among Japan, Mexico, South Korea, and the United States, and will generally spend 1-3 months immersing themselves in the rhythms of daily life. Interns can expect to play an active role in the language clubs and to act as cultural ambassadors.

LEX language clubs are so much fun! It is a place where people of all ages come together to enjoy singing, dancing, playing games, and best of all, learning as many as 21 different languages naturally!
Jessica, Maine

The Internship Experience in South Korea

Who Should Choose WIP?

Any flexible, positive person with sincere interest in LEX, natural language acquisition, multilingualism, and cross-cultural understanding. Please be interested in other languages and cultures in addition to Korean.

What Will I Do?

Our internship in Korea is closer to an exchange program than a formal internship. You will not work in an office. Instead you will be based with one or more host families. You will attend local language clubs 1-3 times per week where you will be an active participant, sharing your own language and culture, and learning with and from others. You will also have opportunities to make formal presentations on your home country and culture. Much of your time will be spent immersed in Korean language and culture, enjoying the day with your host family and friends talking, playing shopping, cooking, and sometimes sightseeing. This experience will be what you make it!

Where Will I Live?

For a 3 month program, you will have 3-4 carefully selected and oriented host families who are members of LEX / Hippo Family Club; fewer for a shorter program and more for a longer program. They may be in Seoul, Busan, Jinju, Gyeonggi-do, Daegu, or Cheonan.



Who Will Support Me?

You will have three levels of support: a support fellow who is a local language club facilitator and will help arrange your schedule and support you in daily life; a LEX staff person in Korea who is a gap year program alumni; and a LEX staff person in the United States who has experience working overseas. You will receive orientation before departure and after arrival in Korea; ongoing support in Korea; and a final debriefing after you return home.

What Will I Gain?

You can expect to improve your Korean and other languages; to gain meta-skills relating to language acquisition; to gain a good understanding of Korean culture; to meet and overcome some challenges of living overseas; to make deep and long-lasting friendships; to gain confidence; and to understand yourself and your home culture better. You can expect a lot of learning in a joyful environment, and a lot of fun!

When Can I Start?

This program is available starting from January 2019. Starting times are flexible, and it is unlikely that you will have a cohort of other interns. Applicants must apply at least 4 months before the desired start date. Please check our website at www.lexlrf.org for program fees and application materials.

I felt welcomed. I got along with my host families and made really good friends. The atmosphere was joyful, like in Mexico, with lots of singing, dancing, and jokes. Everyone was very interested in me and my culture. They were very kind and made possible all the things I wanted to do.

Miguel, Mexico City