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Understanding International Cultures Seminars I/II Korean Language Online Training

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Applicable principle

Principle 10: A commitment to promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance, through education

1. Activity Overview

As we live in the world where global society is expanding, even if we live in Iwate, the various problems occurring in the world are never just someone else’s problem. What is required of young people in the future is to possess an ability to see the events happening around us and local issues from a higher perspective and polish sensibility.

At the Department of International Cultural Studies, Iwate Prefectural University, Morioka Junior College, we offer students a variety of curriculum that allow them to broaden their horizons from the region to the world and acquire knowledge as a cosmopolitan.

However, since 2020, the situation has changed dramatically due to the spread of COVID-19 around the world and we had to change the way to operate classes at the collage. In average years, overseas training in the United States or South Korea would be held in the first year’s “Understanding International Cultures Seminar”, but in 2020, we had no choice but to cancel it. In 2021, we decided to provide online training for the first time in order to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn foreign languages and different cultures. Seven students took the Korean short-term online course offered by the Institute of International Education, Kyung Hee University.

2. Activities and Effects

During the three weeks program, students learned Korean grammar and improved their speaking skills in various situations in the morning, and in the afternoon, they studied Korean cultures such as K-POP, Korean dramas, and Hangeul calligraphy. The advantage of online classes is that students can take lessons wherever they like, but since this was the first time trial, all of students came to school and took lessons by classes according to their ability. Because each class had small number of students, they could enjoy full advantage of receiving careful guidance from their teachers. Also, there was a program called “doumi (helper)” where students could interact one-on-one with Korean students of Kyung Hee University, and the students deepened their friendships with their Korean buddies.

The purpose of the Korean language training is to learn Hangeul, Korean cultures and history, and to learn attitudes to understand different cultures through interaction with Korean students. Due to the impact of COVID-19, online classes were held this year, but the result was more than we had expected; not only did they learn Hangeul, but they also interacted with doumi, making it a fruitful opportunity for the students.

Even during COVID-19, the students actively participated in the online training and worked hard to learn the language and to absorb as much as possible. As one of the options, we are considering incorporating online classes in our curriculum in the future.



Korean language online training