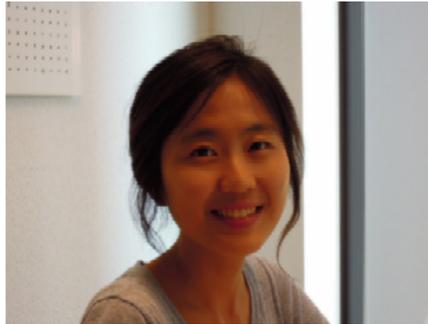


Interviews with Seungjin Lee and Souhee Lee from Korea University, South Korea



Seungjin Lee

Tell us a little about yourself

My name is Seungjin Lee and I am majoring in Statistics. I have just one more semester left before getting a Bachelor's degree next year. Speaking of my personal qualities, I love hanging out with people – not just the ones I've known for a long time, but also the new people I meet. Talking with

people makes me vibrant and feel happy. I try to learn something new from every person I meet since I believe that every single person has something unique to share regardless of his/her origin. Therefore, I try to travel a lot and get exposed to diverse environments in order to see the world in various perspectives.

Why did you apply for the internship at the ISI?

With having just one semester left at Korea University, I thought it would be useful for me to acquire some experience related to my major. Last year I took a break from school for learning English in the United States. That brought me very precious experiences which I would never exchange for anything. So I thought that having another opportunity like this in the Netherlands would offer me another chance to learn something new. The internship at the ISI turned out to be exactly what I expected in that sense.

Tell us about your work / experience at the ISI

I worked with both ISI and CBS (the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics) for a period of 4 weeks. At the ISI, I worked on updating the ISI membership database and membership distribution of ISI and ISI Associations. At CBS, my task was to examine the data on the Labour force survey conducted in the Netherlands and derive a cost function. Through figuring out the functions and parameters, I got to know how the cost of survey changes as parameters vary. This led to my second task called sensitivity analysis. The reading of related materials was very helpful in understanding the overall purpose of the



Souhee Lee

Tell us a little about yourself

I am a student majoring in Statistics at Korea University in South Korea. I am very outgoing and talkative around friends. When I was younger, I didn't like anything related to Mathematics but I loved learning new languages. In my high school years, I found out how interesting Mathematics was.

Therefore I chose statistics as my major, and I am quite happy with this choice. The result is that I'm now majoring in Statistics and interested in learning English at the same time. That's not so common in Korea because most students who are good at languages don't like learning things related to Mathematics and vice versa. So in this way I became interested in organizations like ISI where I can apply both my knowledge of Statistics and ability to speak a foreign language.

Why did you apply for the internship at the ISI?

I wanted to know what it's like to work in an institution that is international so that I could use foreign languages and my knowledge of statistics. This internship was a perfect opportunity for me to learn in and work for the environment where I want to belong later. Also I thought that I'd always have plenty of chances to find a placement in Korea, but I might never have another opportunity to be an intern in a foreign country, especially in the Netherlands.

Tell us about your work / experience at the ISI

One of my tasks was to update the ISI membership data. It was important not to count members more than once and categorize them into 5 different continents. Also, I sent emails to contributors and editors of statistical journals in order to promote ISI membership. The most challenging part of the internship for me was the project that I did for the CBS (the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics), which was to derive cost functions and do sensitivity analysis of Labour force data. I also did other things such as searching and updating the

project and the assignments. All in all, the internship gave me a chance to use and practise what I had learned at university.

What did you like / dislike about the Netherlands?

I can't think of any dislikes about Holland. The attractiveness of the country is that each region has a different atmosphere. Den Haag-Leidschenvveen, where the ISI office is located, is quite calm and peaceful place to live in. Amsterdam became one of my favourite cities I have ever visited. It is a crowded city with many tourists, but I enjoyed the atmosphere as well as the food. Out of Dutch foods I have tried, I especially enjoyed cheese and yogurt. I had heard of well-known Dutch dairy products before, but the variety and taste overcame my expectations.

When you are back in South Korea, what will you miss most?

Obviously, I will miss the ISI colleagues the most. The 4 weeks passed very quickly and I still remember my first day at the ISI office very well. Everyone was hospitable and friendly so it didn't take me much time to adjust to the new environment. Besides this, I will miss the environmentally-friendly atmosphere in the city itself. I biked to the office every day, which was not only a good exercise but also an opportunity to experience biking as one of the most important aspects of the Dutch culture. The weather in Holland is quite unpredictable, so I had to bike in heavy rain sometimes. Nevertheless, I will miss this time very much when I get back to Korea.

information on national statistical offices of various countries.

What did you like / dislike about the Netherlands?

I liked almost everything in the Netherlands except for the weather that was changing constantly. I biked every day to and from the office and enjoyed the beautiful scenery with canals and trees, sometimes also with animals like chicken, sheep or cows. Also, I really enjoyed the delicious Dutch food, and what I liked most was the *kroketts* [croquettes] and *stroopwafels* [treacle waffles]. It's a shame that I didn't try the herring. Another thing I liked was the work environment which is much better than that in Korea with its strict hierarchical structure. As to the weather, sometimes it was tricky. One day, in the morning, it was really sunny so I wore short sleeves but in the afternoon, on my way back home, it was raining so hard that I needed a raincoat. Other than that, I had a great experience.

When you are back in South Korea, what will you miss most?

I will miss the people I met here the most. Actually I was very nervous about working at ISI because this was my first time in a non-student role with complete responsibility for my work. However, from the first day of my internship, the ISI colleagues made me feel very comfortable and helped a lot not only with the work but also with the small things not related to work. I will really miss their smile and kindness.