Youngwon Shin, Ielp Alumni and
returning student for Summer 2016

Youngwon was an IELP student back in 2008 and she recently returned to the program for the summer term 2016! Here is her story.

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I’m a licensed clinical psychologist (doing psychological assessment for psychiatric patients, psychotherapy for individual and group, etc). Right before I came to the US this time, I was crazy about baking bread, cakes and cookies AND workout at the same time (looks weird, though). I’m still in love with baking and fitness. I’ve been to the US a couple of times to travel with my family before coming to Portland to study English in 2008. I spent 10 months in the Ielp program and I was in level 3 for Listening/speaking and level 2 for other class. I was a grammar/writing dummy so I had a really hard time to do homework.

On why she came to Portland...

One day, two of my close friends decided to go to Canada and England to study English. Many Korean students go to the US to study English like it’s their must-do task. Of course, because other students do it should not be a good reason to go to the US, but as I said earlier I had huge English speaking problems so I thought studying English in the US would be fun. Moreover, my cousin who joined PSU’s IELP earlier strongly recommended the IELP. She said the IELP provided perfect education and Portland was such a nice city to live that she even cried when she came back to Korea. My expectation was so high but I was never disappointed during my entire stay!

When I worked as a trainee in the university hospital, sometimes we had foreign patients or Korean patients who felt more comfortable with English. They needed a psychologist who spoke fluent English to do their psychological assessment or therapy. I was not the only psychologist who worked there but I was the one who had the best ability to communicate with them (which is hilarious) so I had to deal with all the English speaking patients by myself. I think I was not that bad but I felt terrible when one of my American patients dropped after the 9th counseling session in 2013. After 4 years from intensive studying, my English had become worse and worse! Also I attended IELP only for three terms so I always felt bad I could not improve my English enough. So I came back!

On what she did after the IELP in 2008...

I finished my last year at university back home and went to graduate school. My major was clinical psychology so I got trained at the university hospital as a clinical psychologist after I graduated. It was a 3-year-program and I got my license in 2015. I worked for a psychotherapy center for 7 months after getting licensed and attended a workshop to be a criminal psychologist.

On what she is going to do after the IELP this summer...

I’m thinking about opening my own psychotherapy center. I have so many plans and thoughts about it but I’m not sure yet. However, I’m sure I’m going to not hesitate to meet English speakers as my patients! I want to be specialized as a clinical psychologist who does psychological assessment and counseling in English with no problem. I’m going to try hard!

On her fondest memories of the IELP...

First of all, I kept in touch with many other IELP friends after going back to Korea. One of my Saudi Arabian friends visited Korea with his friends and I loved to be their tour guide. And after that, one of his friends (now he is my friend, too!) came to Korea with his two sisters because he loved Korea so much! We had extra fun time together. I welcomed my Taiwanese friends, too! It was such an amazing memory. I can’t wait to make more friends this time! Second, watching NBA games with IELP friends and sharing our traditional food together was so fun! The IELP had so many exciting events in 2008. I won’t miss any single event this time. Third, the IELP taught me tons of skills about APA style writing. It helped me so much especially when I studied in graduate school. Every paper and journal required extremely strict APA style writing so I really appreciated that the IELP already trained me very well!

Advice she would give to current IELP students...

Study hard! I dealt with every homework and exam with my best. No regret because I came to the US to study English. And don’t forget to make friends as many as you can. I’m so happy to have my friends from all over the world and keep it touch with them by SMS like Facebook or Instagram. Plus, if you have any depression or anxiety, don’t hesitate to come and say hi to me. If you bring just a cup of coffee, no doubt we would have a very nice talk.

Stay connected with the IELP
The Intensive English Language Program (IELP) at Portland State University is one of two intensive English programs selected nationally to host Fulbright students for six weeks of English for graduate studies training. 23 graduate students from a variety of countries and academic majors studies with us from June 27 until August 6, when they departed for their American host universities. The IELP classes prepared Fulbrighters for the academic and cultural expectations they are likely to experience while studying advanced degrees in the United States. In addition to class work, they enjoyed getting to know Portland, meeting Americans from various walks of life, and volunteering in the community.

This program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the Institute of International Education as part of its Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. For more information, visit fulbright.state.gov.

Summer Communication and Culture Program
This year, the Summer Communication and Culture Program welcomed students from Japan, China, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Turkey! Students in this program study English through topics such as Sustainability, English through Movies, and American Culture through Service Learning. Program options are available for 3, 4, 7, 8, and 11 week long sessions.
A winter communication and culture program is now available. The program starts in February and runs for 4 weeks. Apply now!

Summer Academic English Program
This summer term, the IELP welcomed 50 new student from 19 different countries including: Indonesia, Qatar, El Salvador, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, China, Chile, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Kuwait, and more!
The Summer Academic English Program ran from June 20 to August 12. Along with studying, students also enjoyed IELP sponsored trips to the beach, Seattle, and Blue Lake!
We are now accepting application for winter term. Apply now!
UNIVERSITY DELEGATION VISITS

In an effort to build international relationships with universities and agents, the IELP frequently invites delegations to visit our beautiful campus and learn more about our program. Over this summer we had the following delegations visit us:

- A delegation of university administrators from Saudi Arabia
- Akiko Shimoji from Shogakuin Business Academy from Okinawa Japan
- Dr. Shinya Iwasaki from Osaka International University from Japan
- A delegation of agents from Thailand

We love our Alumni!

IELP Alumni stop by our office very frequently, and we always try to get a photo opt when they do! Recently we had two members of the Lingga family come visit to say goodbye before they went home to Saudi Arabia. Both had recently finished their degrees at PSU (PhD and Masters, respectively), and both started in the IELP!

Another IELP alumn to stop by was Dr. Shingo Hamada from Japan! He is a former IELP office employee.
IELP INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TALENT

This summer, the IELP welcomed a cohort of students from Indonesia who are studying in Portland as part of a scholarship program sponsored through the Indonesian government. This group of students turned out to be quite musically talented and showed off their skills at a festival in downtown Portland's Pioneer Square. Watch the video of their performance below!

FALL TERM PREVIEW

Fall term is just beginning! Our New Student Orientation for our Academic English Program went off as a success! We welcome 185 new students from over 18 countries. With the help of our new IELP mentoring program, we were able to get all of our new students tested, oriented, and ready to begin fall term! Here is to a successful fall!
MAKE A GIFT TO THE IELP

Help us continue as one of the nation's leaders in teaching English to international students and preparing students for undergraduate and graduate programs at Portland State University and as a pathway to other U.S. universities. We hope that our IELP alumni will give us the ability to support generations of students to come. We need your support now more than ever. Every gift you make benefits our students and faculty and deepens your connection with the IELP, Portland State University, Portland, and The United States. Please consider donating.

DONATE

Give by mail:
Intensive English Language Program
Portland State University
PO Box 751
Portland OR, 97207-0751

Thank you for supporting Portland State University's IELP

STUDY ABROAD THIS WINTER
Interested in studying abroad this winter?
Are you, a spouse, friend, or relative interested in improving their English and studying in Portland in a short term program? Then apply now for our winter Communication and Culture Program. This program runs for four weeks beginning in February. Click here for more information.

Or contact us at:
Samudra Kugel: skugel@pdx.edu
TEL: 503-725-4088

Interested in a longer term program?
Then apply now for our Academic English Program. We are now accepting applications for winter term which starts at the beginning of January and runs for 11 weeks.