

1. Introduction

- **Period and Institution:** Participated in the UCLA Summer Session A6 program from June 22 to July 31.
- **Purpose of Participation:** Having had no prior experience living in the United States, I participated with the aim of improving my language proficiency, as well as pursuing academic and personal challenges and broadening my international perspective.
- **Outcomes:** Gained valuable practical experience, including adapting to a foreign education system and interacting with students of diverse nationalities.

2. Academic Experience

- **ECON 11 – Microeconomic Theory**

The course consisted of lectures, with two quizzes after each class session and one assignment per week (five in total), resulting in a relatively heavy workload given the intensive nature of the summer session. The content itself was similar to economics major courses in Korea, but student participation in class was notably higher. Active questions and discussion during class created an atmosphere that differed from courses in Korea. I enrolled in this course out of curiosity about a major course offered at the host university and found it generally satisfying; however, for students aiming to improve vocabulary or presentation skills, I would recommend taking a different course.

- **FILM TV 122E – Digital Cinematography**

The course consisted of both theoretical lectures and hands-on practice. Classes were mostly lecture-based, with two film screenings held during the term. The main assignments required submitting two pieces of work that applied course content to a script provided by the instructor. Since assignments tend to be concentrated in the final week, advance preparation is recommended.

- **Comments on Course Selection**

Although the university announcement lists several Summer Session term options, in practice most courses are offered only within the six-week session. In addition, since a large

proportion of courses are offered online, the range of practically available courses may feel limited, which is worth considering in advance.

3. Campus Life

- **Facilities and Environment:** Dining areas, cafés, the library, and athletic facilities were well equipped, and many facilities were free to use with a student ID. However, it was somewhat disappointing that many facilities operated on shortened or limited hours due to the nature of the summer session.
- **Living Regulations and Safety:** Living regulations were relatively relaxed compared to Korea. There were no strict restrictions on, for example, bringing guests into the dormitory. Safety-related facilities, such as Campus Police and Emergency Buttons, were well established.
- **Dormitory:** Cleanliness was satisfactory, and the restroom and shower facilities were well maintained. In Olympic Hall, where I resided, each floor had a lounge and study space. Bedding was provided, and a separate laundry room was available. However, there was no dedicated kitchen facility, and vending machines and microwaves were available only on certain floors.

4. Daily Life in LA

- **Racial Discrimination and Local Atmosphere:** There were instances of experiencing racial discrimination, but all of them involved homeless individuals. Particularly friendly or positive attitudes toward Koreans were rare; however, this attitude did not appear to be specific to Koreans but was similarly observed across other ethnic groups as well.
- **Cost of Living and Food:** Overall, the cost of living was relatively high.
- **Public Safety:** Because relatively few people travel on foot in the United States, the areas around the campus and Beverly Hills were comparatively safe; however, other areas did not feel particularly safe for walking alone. The number of homeless individuals tended to increase sharply outside the main tourist areas, and some were

present near the campus as well. Walking at night was practically difficult.



5. Conclusion

- Overall, this was a meaningful period of personal growth through academics, cultural experiences, and daily life, and I intend to actively apply the perspective and confidence gained from this experience to my future studies and career. I would recommend this program to students who are interested in the United States and in this host university.