



## Universiteit Leiden **International Studies** **Humanities**

### **Discretionary Space News: My internship at “People for Successful COrean Reunification”**

*In this article we will be catching up with Tijmen Kivit, third year International Studies student. Currently he is working for a human Rights organisation in Seoul, South Korea, called People for Successful COrean Reunification (PSCORE). This organisation works on human rights issues related to North Korea and provides educational and cultural programs for North Korean refugees in South Korea. Tijmen tells us how he found his internship, what he does during a typical day and what it is like to live in Seoul.*

#### **First contact with PSCORE**

“I found my internship while being on holiday in South Korea in 2015, during which I visited PSCORE’s office in order to get acquainted with the field I was interested in. Later, I contacted them in order to apply for an internship for my discretionary space. I applied for the internship because over the years I have gradually become interested in the human rights situation in North Korea, and I wanted to help out in an area which I feel not enough attention is being paid to.”



#### **Introducing IT tools to add structure**

“A typical day at my internship looks as follows: my working hours are from 9.30 to 18.00. I take care of a variety of tasks such as managing the PSCORE Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PscoreKorea/>) and Twitter page, writing the monthly newsletter, doing the occasional photography or video-shoot or helping to organize events. The work is extremely varied and interesting. The work that I have been most proud of so far, has been designing a system and website for English tutors who volunteer to keep track of the English language progress of our North Korean students who have defected in order to bring more structure into our educational program.”

#### **Do get lost in the Korean Way of life**



“I am living in Seoul, which is an incredibly vibrant and busy city at any time of the day, and night. Seoul can be a very concrete city sometimes, and that is why I like to get out and explore the South Korean countryside as well. Luckily, the South Korean people have been incredibly friendly and open (granted that you respect their cultural norms and values), and I feel welcome. Seoul can be a great place for doing an internship in the third year, and it is definitely a good place for those looking to make connections for their future career. Do get lost in the Korean way of life, but make sure you can handle your liquor if you are serious about doing business here.”

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