

Writing Samples

(2017 - 2019)

Dress Up like your Favorite Korean Icon (Women's Edition)

by Sabrina Jeongco

Take a peek into the wardrobes of South Korea's most fashionable icons

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've most likely heard about the *Hallyu* phenomenon that has taken over the world by storm. The word *Hallyu*(한류) translated means "flow of Korean" and refers to the increasing global popularity of South Korean pop culture and entertainment since the late 90's.

The *Hallyu* craze has since put South Korea on the map and cemented the country's status as Asia's ultimate hub for entertainment, fashion, and beauty. At the forefront of it all are the *Hallyu* stars: South Korean multi hyphenate entertainers who are the ultimate embodiment of talent, beauty, and style. Here we list down just a few of our favorite South Korean icons and how to steal some of the looks they've been serving. It's never too late to ride the Korean Wave in style!

Lee Sung Kyung

When she isn't busy dominating the runway or starring in hit K-dramas, our favourite weightlifting fairy Lee Sung Kyung likes to show off her fun and eclectic off-duty style in playful sweaters paired with statement clutches and comfortable footwear.

Jessica Jung

Feminine and sophisticated is the perfect way to describe this former Girl's Generation member turned fashion mogul's wardrobe. Jessica's go-to pieces include chic oversized sunglasses and flowy button-up tops which perfectly express her clean and streamlined style.

IU

This multitalented singer, songwriter, and actress' outfits are as cute and flirty as her personality. Cop IU's youthful and effortless style with trendy denim skirts, quirky oversized graphic tees, and easy to wear slip-ons.

Jun Ji Hyun

The world is a runway for the OG Queen of Hallyu, Jun Ji Hyun. The *Legends of the Blue Sea* star likes to accentuate her tall, supermodel-like figure with a flattering pair of denim jeans, polished blazers, and sleek heeled booties.

CL

The bolder and bulkier, the better for 2NE1's CL. The self-proclaimed baddest female knows how to make a statement with her eccentric style in chunky oversized jackets and baggy jogger pants.

If you're addicted to K-Fashion drop by ZALORA to get the latest style essentials.
Whose style do you like best? Sound off in the comments below!

Attention to Detail

by Sabrina Jeongco

Make fashion fun again with tassels, pompoms, and fringes.

Basic has been the buzzword of the moment since late 2014, which saw the first inklings of the *normcore* trend. No prints, no colors, and no fun. If you belong to the aforementioned group of people, then you're in luck. Because just when you thought you could leave your quirky fashion sense behind in favor of conforming to the norm, here comes a new trend you might want to get in on. Kitsch accessorising is on the rise, making fashion fun again with tassels, pompoms, and fringes.

If you're fine with understated dressing but still want to cash in on this unconventional trend without looking like you just stepped out of a party supply store, we have something for you too. Take a look at our stylish picks below.

Pom pom

This [article](#) by the Guardian pins down the advent of the pompom craze to the luxury brand Fendi, whose bedazzled handbag with a googly-eyed pompom keychain attached spearheaded the trend. After several celebrities such as Cara Delevingne were photographed with the infamous Fendi "bag bug" in tow, mass retailers such as Forever 21, Next, and Topshop followed suit and adopted the quirky accessory, incorporating it into their products. Keeping it simple helps keep this playful embellishment from looking too garish.

Fringe

The pompom only set the stage for the glorious return of the fringe, the trend that just won't die. We've seen it on dresses in the roaring '20s to jackets in the freewheeling '70s, and it seems like this retro trend is here to stay. These days, fringe detailing is associated with boho Americana chic clothing, often donned by the most stylish attendees of music festivals and beach outings.

Tassel

Tailing behind the coattails of the fringe trend is the humble tassel. You might recognize these little embellishments as the tacky adornment on your grandmother's drapes or a graduation cap, but now they've taken center stage and have become a trendy and fashionable bit of detailing in their own right.

Drop by ZALORA to cop these picks and more of the latest [style essentials](#).

Would you wear these trends? Let us know in the comments below!

Forget Me Knot: Knot and Bow Trimmings

by Sabrina Jeongco

The twisted knot trend has got us wrapped around its finger

A twisted knot takes minimal effort to pull off and makes an otherwise neutral outfit eye-catching without trying too hard, so it's easy to see why this seemingly inconsequential detail has quickly become the apple of the fashion world's eye.

Knot detailing has become a point of interest for high-end labels and street brands alike. We're seeing more of this understated trend on runways and in clothing stores. Fashion juggernauts like Helmut Lang, Isabel Marant, and Calvin Klein have even placed the humble knot front and centre in their collections.

The trend owes much of its ubiquity to the knot's universally flattering silhouette. It's an easy, effortless trick to cheat your way to a flawless figure. The gathered ruched detail from a twisted front knot camouflages any unwanted inches on the midriff and hips, instantly concealing those stubborn muffin tops.

Take your cues from our picks below and see how you can incorporate this cheeky little embellishment into your wardrobe.

1. Striped cotton dress

This classic sleeveless button down dress gets a major upgrade with a decorative knot that cinches the waist to accentuate curves. Perfect for adding a little flair to lazy, casual outfit days.

2. Knot front funnel tank

The subtle front knot on this cropped tank allows you to show off a toned midriff in the most stylish way possible. Easily pair it with your favourite denim jeans and you're good to go.

3. Knot front stripe bardot top

This piece features a unique and deconstructed take on the quintessential Bardot top, topped off with a playful front knot bow. Let this attention-grabbing top shine by keeping the rest of your outfit simple and straightforward.

4. Twisted slip-on trainers

The large gathered knot bow on this plimsol trainer reinvents one of our favourite off-duty outfit staples. This makes it the perfect choice of footwear for on-the-go girls who want to keep their look comfortable yet classy and sophisticated.

5. Knot platform heels

Step up your style game with a pair of these chunky platform heels. The addition of knotted detailing on the front of the shoe makes for a playful yet striking statement piece.

Shop these looks and more at [ZALORA](#).

Got your eye on a new trend? Let us know in the comments below and we just might feature it next!

Where to Study in Korea: The 5 Best Cities

by Sabrina Jeongco

Unless you've been living under a rock, you're well aware of South Korea's stellar rise to the top as the ultimate hub in Asia for setting trends in pop culture and fashion. But did you know that there is more than meets the eye to South Korea beyond its bustling entertainment and beauty industry? If you'd like to get a taste of real South Korean culture, you might want to have a go at studying abroad in Korea! Here are just a few of the best cities to study in Korea to get you started on your study abroad goals:

Seoul

The capital of South Korea, Seoul, is a vibrant city that blends modern contemporary culture with age-old traditions. Many of South Korea's most prestigious universities are located in Seoul, such as Seoul National University, from which the current UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon graduated with a BA in Public Service. The dynamic city provides a competitive yet distinctly rewarding educational landscape for international students, with some of the most outstanding research opportunities and challenging degrees and programs, widely regarded as some of the best in Asia. There are many English-taught courses available to international students. Many universities also offer Korean language learning programs to both high school and university students which are supplemented with Korean culture lessons that are bound to provide a dynamic and unique learning experience.

Gyeongsan

The western border of Gyeongsan leans upon the large, metropolitan city of Daegu. There are many universities situated in Gyeongsan, and they are known to provide an impressive range of courses available in English. The city is home to what is known as the largest campus in South Korea, Yeungnam University. Yeungnam University possesses a Korean Language Institute founded in 2002 with the aim of helping international students who are interested in learning the Korean language and culture. Several universities in Gyeongsan also offer financial support for international students looking to further their studies in this small but noteworthy city.

Chuncheon

Chuncheon is the capital of Gangwon Province, and is located only an hour and a half away from Seoul. The city is a popular tourist destination, and if you're a fan of K-dramas, you might be familiar with the place because it was featured in the popular Korean drama Winter Sonata. International students may enjoy the wide variety of yearly events hosted in Chuncheon, among which are the Chuncheon

Puppet Festival, Chuncheon International Mime Festival, and the Spring Season Art Festival. It is also the perfect place for international students who enjoy the outdoors, as mountains, hiking trails, bike trails, and even ski resorts are abundant throughout the city. There are over 7 private and public universities located in Chuncheon, all of which provide unique programs and English-taught courses to accommodate international students.

Cheonan

The city of Cheonan is also known as “the core city of the nation”, larger cities like Seoul, Daegu, Gyeongju, Gwangju, and Mokpo are easily accessible from the area since it is a main transportation hub for the national road, railways, and expressways. International students will find it relatively easy to fit right in, as the city is home to a large foreign population with over 9,000 foreign residents residing in the immediate Cheonan area and that number has been steadily rising over the past 5 years. There are over 12 universities located in Cheonan, which has been considered the high tech headquarters for Korea. Most of these universities have programs that cater to international students due to the city’s large foreign population.

Daegu

Daegu is the fourth largest metropolitan city in South Korea after Seoul, Busan, and Incheon, with a substantial population of international students and foreign English teachers. International students will enjoy a young, fresh atmosphere as Daegu is known for being a distinctly college town. The city hosts three American military bases, which is home to many American residents. History buffs will also appreciate Daegu’s rich history dating back to the Silla and Joseon dynasties where it was central to the unification of the Korean peninsula as well as one of the traditional eight provinces of the country. The city also boasts an interesting traditional herbal medicine market, as well as a Chicken Gizzard Alley and Braised Beef Ribs Alley that foodies would definitely want to linger in.

There plenty of reasons to [study in Korea](#), so take your pick from one of these great cities to begin your study abroad journey in this dynamic and vibrant country. There are plenty of Korean universities looking for Filipino students just like you. Visit [here](#) to find out which schools you can apply to!

7 Reasons Why You Should Study in California

by Sabrina Jeongco

When you think of California, you immediately think of sun-kissed beaches, picturesque landscapes, and the calming sound of the ocean. But there's so much more to this wonderful state. Not least of which is the public university system, which is one of the best in the world! So if you're considering studying abroad, California is a great option, and you'll be happy to know that many of their schools are looking for Filipino students just like you! Still not convinced? Here are 7 good reasons why you should consider it.

1. Top quality public schools

If you're looking for top-quality education without that hefty ivy league price tag, then California has some great public school options within their university systems, making it a popular choice for international students looking to study abroad on a tight budget. With over 10 different campuses to choose from, there are also plenty of options available!

2. Multi-cultural experience

California has a wonderfully diverse cultural heritage and history, making it one of the most exciting states in America and of the best places for international students to study and explore. There are also loads of interesting and distinct foods to try out! As an international student, you'll fit right in.

3. Technology leaders

California is the breeding ground for technological innovation, specifically in Silicon Valley, which serves as a base for some of the world's pioneering technology and innovation companies. If you're interested in pursuing a career in this field, you'll be in good company with the likes of Google, Apple, Facebook, and Netflix calling California home. This also means that there will be many opportunities for you to network and rub shoulders with the best of tech!

4. Study sustainability

If you're interested in renewable energy, environmental science, and sustainable living solutions, then studying in California is a great start. The sunshine state is one of the most enterprising and innovative when it comes to green initiatives and sustainable practices, which is mirrored in the wide variety of courses offered in this field.

5. Great weather

California's gorgeous bright sunshine will make you feel like you're on a summer vacation all year round. It also means that you'll have loads of freedom to explore all the incredible sights and natural wonders that the beautiful state has to offer. Places like Yosemite Park, Sequoia National Parks, and even the Golden Gate Bridge are just a few of the must-see sights you must tick off before you leave California.

6. Creativity is king

If you're a creative junkie who dabbles in art, drama, music, or film, California is the ideal destination for international students who want to pursue a career in the field of creative arts. Nestled in the heart of California is the headquarters of Disney, Warner Brothers, Columbia Pictures, and MGM Studios, so where better to get a headstart on that creative career than in the world capital of the entertainment and film industry?

7. Sports

Many schools in California boast excellent college sports teams and opportunities for athletic students to apply for sport scholarships. So if you're on the sporty side, then California is the best destination for you to consider.

Get started on your dream to study in California by clicking [here](#) to see what schools in California you can apply to!

10 Things You Must Try When You Study in Sydney

by Sabrina Jeongco

If you're an international student either planning to study in Sydney or if you've already managed to land yourself a spot in one of its many prestigious universities, you might be wondering what you can do to make the most out of your time in the land down under. You might not think it, but it really is just as important to play hard as it is to study hard, especially as an international student. Being in a new country opens you up to unique experiences that will broaden your horizons and introduce you to new perspectives, it would be rude not to delight in all the beauty Sydney prides itself in. So here are just some noteworthy things every international student must experience to make the most of what Sydney has to offer:

1. Swim in Bondi Beach's Bondi Iceberg Pool

Bondi Iceberg pool is the most photographed ocean pool in Australia. The gorgeous 50-metre Olympic pool is located in Sydney's most famous beach, Bondi Beach. The Bondi Icebergs Club is also home to the oldest winter swimming club in Australia, and it's possible to become a member by swimming three Sundays a month for a period of five years. For those who just want to dip their toes into the pool for the fun of it, you only need to shell out \$6.50 for casual entry which gives you access to the pool, sauna, and gym.

2. Picnic at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Sydney

This historical public garden is thought to be one of the oldest public gardens in the Southern hemisphere. Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens has withstood numerous fires, cattle grazing, and even invasions of flying foxes. Today it is a beautiful oasis in the center of a hectic urban backdrop, perfect for taking a picnic with friends under a shaded spot to while away the time.

3. Explore National Royal Park

If you're itching for some adventure, the National Royal Park is your best bet. Less than an hour's drive from the Central Business District of Sydney, the park features campgrounds, hiking trails, picnic areas, beach tracks, waterfalls, beaches, coastal cliffs, and biking trails. National Royal Park's 15,091 hectares of picturesque bushland is the ultimate place to enjoy the great outdoors on your free time.

4. Visit the zoo

Taronga Zoo is a not-for-profit organization that supports wildlife conservation. Once you get to the zoo, you'll find one of the most superb views of Sydney Harbour and the best place to meet over 4000 different kinds of animals up close, ranging from

Australia's native wildlife to rare exotic animals. For a truly unique experience, Roar & Snore allows you to spend the night at the zoo in a safari-style tent. The highlight of the activity is waking up to spectacular views of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

5. Eat your heart out at Spice Alley

If you're a big foodie or even an Asian international student missing your favorite flavors from home, head on over to Spice Alley, a small alleyway paved with Asian eateries that serve everything from Japanese sushi to Cantonese BBQ pork buns. Tucked behind Kensington Street laneway in Chippendale, this open-air courtyard serves tons of hawker style dishes from all over Asia and is sure to leave any ardent gastronome satisfied.

6. Climb the Harbour Bridge

There's no better way to see Sydney at its best than to climb the Harbour Bridge. Getting up to the top of the nation's beloved bridge grants you an uninterrupted 360 degree view of Sydney in all its majesty. Adult tickets go for \$200, which might be a bit pricey for students on a budget, but it's guaranteed to be worth the money as doing it just once will already leave you with a distinct memory you will treasure forever.

7. Paddleboard at Camp Cove

Camp Cove is a popular destination for snorkelers, paddleboarders, and scuba divers. Its serene turquoise waters offer the perfect get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. You may also catch an unbeatable scenic view of the Sydney skyline as you go on your paddleboarding adventure. Paddleboarding is quickly becoming a popular alternative to surfing as you are less likely to get wiped out by harsh waves. instead. It's a great place to unwind from your studies while taking in Sydney's sights on its flat, calm waters.

8. Kayak in the harbor

Australia might be the driest continent on earth but that doesn't stop Australians, particularly inhabitants of Sydney, from being all about water. Sandy beaches, beautiful harbours, sloping coastlines, and small creeks are abundant in Sydney, so it's no surprise that the city offers countless kayaking opportunities. Sydney Harbor offers four-hour "eco tours" which you under Spit Bridge, then to the shores of Garigal National Park, where you will be served morning tea before paddling back to Mosman. Paddling conditions are the best in the morning, when the waters are more gentle and you may catch a glimpse of the beautiful sunrise.

9. Visit a museum

The Art Gallery of New South Wales is one of Australia's leading cultural institutions. It is home to significant collections of Australian, European, and Asian art with nearly 40 exhibitions for you to see annually. On Wednesdays, the gallery is open until 10pm to host workshops, talks, and film screenings under a weekly program called Art After Hours.

10. Ride the ferry to the Sydney Opera House

The Manly Ferry voyage is a thrill for both natives and visitors alike. Riding the ferry is a classic way to get around Sydney's crown jewel, Sydney Harbour. No stay in Sydney is complete without climbing aboard one of the picturesque green and yellow ferries that have been in operation for the past century and a half. The Manly Ferry voyage will make you appreciate the beauty of the city you're studying in and is most certainly a quintessential local experience.

There are plenty of reasons to [study in Australia](#), particularly the beautiful coastal city of Sydney, and there are plenty of Australian schools looking Filipino students just like you. Visit [here](#) to find out which schools you can apply to!