

## **S. J. Oh (Joon)**

Born in Seoul in 1994, I was an ordinary elementary school student in Korea until 2006 when I went to live and study in Christchurch, New Zealand. My parents believed in the importance of having experience abroad and when the opportunity arrived, they did not hesitate to send me away. Being all alone in a foreign country was a life lesson for me. I not only learned English to survive but thrived in the new environment. After all, I successfully graduated from Halswell School. Those years are very precious to me as I had unique experiences that most young Korean children could not imagine. It was during that time that I learned to communicate and interact confidently with people from various ethnic groups.

In 2013, I entered KyungHee University (KHU), School of Global Communication and am currently double-majoring in British-American Cultural Studies and Business Administration. Serving as student representative of entering freshman for the British-American Cultural Studies major, I have learned a lot of skills and lessons: skills to manage relations between people, communicate with people from various circumstances, plan and conduct large on-campus projects, and also learned how to devote myself to the group I belong to with a responsible attitude, and how to be committed and responsible to an organization. Doing the work for student council of my department remarkably helped me adapt to the environments of ROKMC (Republic of Korea Marine Corps). I started my mandatory national military service at ROKMC in February of 2015. I was selected as an airborne infantryman and also as an interpreter enlisted for ROKMC, CMCC (Combined Marines Component Command, ROKMC + USMC) and III-MEF(Subordinate unit of USMC), experiencing considerably unique military life compared to others.

After being discharged from ROKMC, I decided carried out a demanding solitary project. When I was living in New Zealand, I saw a lot of fundraising cyclists for the poor or homeless and such. However, in Korea, fundraising cycling culture does not exist, or at least not yet well established, meaning that there are few people doing it. However, I was able to find sponsors such as a few bicycle related companies, Naver Happy Bean (private voluntary service institution based on Korean online search engine website) and ROKMC reserves union for my 2,000km ride throughout the Korean peninsula, fundraising about ₩1,100,000(Korean won) through Naver (Korean online search

engine website) platform. After the journey, I donated all the money, not missing a single penny, to the homeless children in Seoul. I felt sincerely honored and proud since the major press and broadcasting channels in Korea such as YTN, Naver, Daum-KaKao, Insight, Ministry of National Defense, ROKMC Public Affairs Office and KyungHee University Public Affairs office and others have reported my grateful journey.

When I returned to my university in 2017, through a democratic election, I became president of my department's student council. Also, I am serving as a TA in Global Collaborative lecture courses of overseas professors, held by GAFC (Global Academy for Future Civilizations), KyungHee University, and freelance interpreter in KMS(Korea Mobile Society), a mid-sized start-up enterprise in Korea. These are positions which have allowed me to take on challenging leadership responsibilities and utilize all the skills I gained over the years. These have also exposed me further to an English-speaking environment where I feel comfortable and capable. These and all the other experiences have confirmed my belief in working hard for organizations I belong to and for people who are in unfortunate circumstances.

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