



International Department GmbH
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Inside Carl Benz School

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Student Voice
Republic of Korea (South Korea)





Ji Kyung Yoon, CBS Intake 2008

Interviewer: Hello Ji Kyung! Would you please briefly introduce yourself and let me know about your age, schools and studies?

Ji Kyung: No problem! I am 22 years old and I am coming from Korea. In my home country I went to the Pusan Foreign Language High School where I studied English and German. After finishing my High school days I applied for a place at the Korea University. I had to move quite far away from my family which was not easy for me at the time. The university system in Korea differs from the one in Europe, because you do not specialize for a certain subject within the first two years. The aim is to get in touch with as many different types of courses to find out your real interests. During the first semester I was taking part in literature, sociology and basic

science classes. But I did not like the university very much and decided to leave. The whole atmosphere was more about socializing and having fun.

Interviewer: How did you hear about the International Department and why did you choose to come here?

Ji Kyung: My German teacher studied in Germany and knew about the organization. He also mentioned that they offer scholarships to some applicants. I was always interested in languages and different cultures. I also liked the idea of studying in Germany, because I have family connections here. My grand-uncle lives in Renchen, which is a small village close to the Black Forest. I thought it would be a good idea to study in a country where I am supported by relatives.

Interviewer: Your first interests are obviously not technically orientated. Are there any family members working in a technical



» Women will make a difference and my aim is to become one of them «

profession or studying in a technical field, who had a certain influence on your decision to study mechanical engineering?

Ji Kyung: My father and mother both graduated in biology. My mother became a High School teacher in biology, whereas my father left the science path and took over the retail business of his father. Nevertheless he kept his passion for science and we had subscriptions for a couple of technical and science magazines. I was not allowed to watch a lot of television and therefore I was regularly reading in these issues and developed a certain interest in mechanics.

Interviewer: What importance has a good education for you and are you supported by your family?

Ji Kyung: Higher education is very important to me. Korea is a small country with a high population, it has no natural resources. This is why many people aim for professions in teaching or for government positions. In Korea it is very clear to everybody that if you want to have a good life style you need to go to university. My family thought that it would be

very promising for me to graduate in mechanical engineering, because not many women hold a degree in this field in Korea. I think it was easier for them to let me go to Germany, because we have family ties here and they know that I am well looked after by my grand uncle.

Interviewer: Do you think that you have to be better than your male fellow students to be taken seriously?

Ji Kyung: There is a general belief that men are considered more competent in technical issues and I certainly have the feeling that I have to be careful and good in my performance. But I am doing this for myself and not because I feel that I have to prove myself better than my male fellow students. I am ambitious and I know that I can be successful.

Interviewer: Are your male fellow students supportive and how many other girls are in your course?

Ji Kyung: There are two other girls in my course, they are from England and China. We do all support each other, male or female that does not make a difference. Group studies can be very inspiring, for example to hear about the brilliant ideas of the other students. This is very stimulating and it enlarges my thinking.



Interviewer: Klingelberg AG in Japan is your sponsor. Tell me something about the company.

Ji Kyung: Klingelberg is a specialist in gearing technology and provides machine tools for the manufacture of gears.

Interviewer: How did the cooperation between you arise?

Ji Kyung: Klingelberg cooperated with the International Department and they offered a sponsorship for a Korean student. Coincidentally I applied for a scholarship at the same time. I was then contacted by the president of the Japanese branch, Mr. Zahn, and we arranged for an interview in my home town. During the meeting he wanted to find out if I am willing and able to focus on technical studies, because he was obviously aware of my linguistic background. He was also interested in my organizing skills and whether I am a good team player.

Interviewer: Do you plan to work for Klingelberg after your studies and if yes, in which field would you like to start your professional career?

Ji Kyung: I have an agreement with Klingelberg that I will work for them for three years after finishing my

bachelor's. We have not discussed yet where that will be, because until now there is no Korean branch. I would be interested in working in the field of Product Development, but could also imagine doing a PhD later at university to become a lecturer in a technical field of studies.

Interviewer: You met your sponsor yesterday. What was the meeting about and how often are you in touch, in general?

Ji Kyung: I meet up with Mr. Zahn whenever he is on business in Germany, in general once or twice a year. He always wants to find out how I am doing, if I feel happy with my studies and my life in general. Every semester I have to let the company know my exam results. They obviously want to find out how I am performing during my studies, because of the generous financial support I am given. Recently I did a translation job for a control panel of a machine tool for Klingelberg where I cooperated with a German and Korean Engineer. This was a very valuable experience which I enjoyed very much.

Interviewer: Tell me about your internships? How does it feel to work in a male dominant orientated environment?

Ji Kyung: I did a six week internship at the IWKA in Maulburg where

we were introduced in the first four weeks to basic metal processing skills like drilling and filing. We had the task to create a small mini truck out of steel and I found this physically quite demanding. Men have an advantage in this field of work, because they are in general stronger than women. In the last two weeks I was working in the assembly building where I was the only girl wearing blue work clothes and steel toe shoes. My male colleagues were very friendly and curious. I was asked a lot of questions about my German language skills and the political situation in Korea.

Interviewer: What differences are there between the Japanese, Korean and German culture?

Ji Kyung: I have never been to Japan, but would love to go there. After the 2nd world war Korea had a harsh opinion about Japan and there was a big conflict of interests. Over the last 10 to 15 years you can observe an increasing curiosity towards the Japanese culture and both sides are trying to communicate and exchange their characteristics.

A common thing of Asian people is that they do not speak their mind directly, they smile and they are polite. Asian people can also become very passionate. I think the world was

surprised to see the Koreans dressed up as "Red Devils" during the football world cup in 2002 supporting their team like mad. The German culture was not a shock to me. The costs of living are very high compared to Korea. Germans care about their privacy and individual rights. For example, they would call the police when they feel disturbed by the noise of their neighbors during the night. I find the opening hours of shops very irritating. They vary most of the days and remain closed on Sundays.

Interviewer: Do you have a general message for women who hesitate to choose a technical education?

Ji Kyung: If you are interested in technical issues you should always give it a try. Without taking any risks you will never go far in your life. You need to have a bit of a technical brain and some interest in mathematics. Women are capable of having a complex view on issues. In my opinion their organizational and social skills are also much better developed compared to their male competitors. Women will make a difference and my aim is to become one of them.

Interviewer: I have no doubt about that. It was a pleasure talking to you and I wish you all the best for the future.

Bachelor Program Key Facts

Degree	Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Mechanical Engineering
Majors	Production Management, Energy Engineering and Rail Systems Technology
Scope	With globalization it is becoming increasingly important to provide international students with excellent opportunities to study in Germany. This trend was addressed in collaboration with the industry in 1999 within the KIT. The degree program in Mechanical Engineering is offered by KIT and the supplementary courses are offered by the Carl Benz School (CBS) will provide the perfect platform for students to benefit from a proficient English-taught engineering education at a German elite university. The CBS as a college offers an optimal learning environment and in addition students will obtain assistance with industrial internship placement.
Language	Since courses are presented in English, foreign applicants must pass the TOEFL Examination with a minimum of 560 points pb, 220 points cb and 85 points ibt. TOEIC with 720 and IELTS band 6,5 are also accepted. Basic knowledge of the German language eases integration into general student life on campus, but is not a prerequisite for admission to the degree programs. German language courses are offered on campus.
Admission	German university admission to a B.Sc. program requires that applicants must have completed a secondary education, i.e., the German high school diploma. The admission requirements will decide on the eligibility of students joining the CBS. The final admission will be based on the results of an entrance examination which will take place at the end of pre-semester.
Pre-Semester	9 week preparatory course in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and English which will ensure that applicants are equipped with all the quantitative skills to start their engineering studies at an elite university.
Fees	A tuition fee applies.
Starting Dates	August for each given year (Presemester)

International Student Origins



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