The main aim of this paper is to illustrate the roles that international students from Korea play while they develop their careers and how those roles influence their career decisions. Career in this paper is defined as “the combination and sequence of roles played by a person during the course of a lifetime” (Super 1980). Research questions are below:

1) What kinds of roles do international students play during their career development?
2) How do those roles change during their study abroad?
3) How do those roles influence their career decisions?

In Chapter 1, the aforementioned research purpose and research questions are presented with relevant background. Problems to be solved and the composition of the research are also described.

Chapter 2 reviews previous research. Although the present research is mainly concerning roles in career development, little existing studies have used the term “roles.” Instead, substantial research has been done on values, adaptation, and socialization, which are concepts strongly associated with the idea of roles. Chapter 2 first reviews existing research on values and has been analyzed from two perspectives: intercultural...
adaptation and developmental psychology. Second, three characteristics of the present research are presented in comparison with previous research: 1) having perspectives of intercultural adaptation and developmental psychology, 2) employing a qualitative and longitudinal research method to deal with changes in the roles of each student, and 3) utilizing the native language of interviewees in the interviews so that they can express their feelings and experiences directly.

Chapter 3 depicts a detailed analytic perspective of the present research as a life-span, life-space approach to career development (Super 1980). Four keywords of the approach are presented: career self-concept, vocational fitness, life-span, and life-space. Moreover, three figures depicted in Super (1980) are illustrated in this chapter: “the Life-Career Rainbow,” “Major Roles in a Life Career,” and “a Developmental Model of Emergent Career Decision Making.”

In Chapter 4, the present research method is described in detail. There were six Korean students who participated in multiple interviews with the researcher from the start of their job hunting in Japan through their ultimate life course decision following graduation. In-depth interviews were employed as the interview method to reveal the various feelings and experiences of the international students.

A qualitative method called Steps for Coding and Theorization (Otani 2011) was employed. It utilizes four steps for coding the data and descriptions of storylines and theories by the researcher.

Chapter 5 illustrates the results of the individual analysis of six students in each section. In section 5.7, answers to the three research questions are provided. The first question was, “what kinds of roles do international students play in their career development?” Roles that they had before coming to Japan including “child,” “student,” “citizen,” “worker,” “leisureite,” and “believer” are depicted. The roles of “homemaker” and “foreigner” were added after coming to Japan. The second question was, “how do those roles change during their study abroad?” Changes in one’s
status and environment, imagining one's future, and encountering unexpected crises are depicted as potential triggers that lead to students developing new roles. The third question was “how do those roles influence their career decisions?” It is thought that the students' original roles of “child,” “student,” and “worker” influence the decision to come to Japan to study. As for the career decisions made after studying abroad, students with multiple roles were observed actively engaging in the decision process.

In Chapter 6, the significance and the future task of the research is depicted