



5 Reasons to Choose the Graduate School of Korean Studies, AKS



November 2025

1. Governmental Institution

- ✓ Established by the **Korean government** in 1980 with the goal of producing experts in Korean studies
- ✓ Public institution under the Ministry of Education
- ✓ **Master's and doctoral degree** programs in **13 majors** in the field of **Humanities and Social Sciences** relevant to **Korea**
- ✓ As of 2025 spring semester, **111 international students from 35 countries** are enrolled.



2-1. Scholarship Benefits

- ✓ **Full tuition waiver** for all international students
 - 2 years for Master's degree program
 - 3 years for Doctoral degree program
- ✓ **Government Grant** for selected students
 - **800,000 KRW(= 510 EUR) per month** for 1 year (renewable upon evaluation) for students with excellent admission results
 - As of 2025 spring semester, **71.4% of the international students benefit** from the Government Grant.



2-2. Scholarship Benefits

✓ POSCO Global Scholarship

- Scholarship Provider
 - POSCO TJ Park Foundation
- Coverage
 - Monthly allowance of 1,000,000 KRW
 - Monthly health insurance subsidy
 - Initial settlement grant of 1,000,000 KRW
- Duration
 - 2 years for Master's degree program
 - 3 years for Doctoral degree program



2-2. Scholarship Benefits

- ✓ **Eligible Nationality**
for POSCO Global Scholarship

Region	Country
Asia	Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam
America	Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, United States
Europe	Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Türkiye, United Kingdom
Africa	Egypt, Morocco, South Africa



2-3. Scholarship Benefits

✓ Paid Positions on Campus

Positions	Monthly Pay	
Division Assistant	600,000 KRW	= 380 EUR
Korean Language Program Assistant	500,000 KRW	= 320 EUR
Dormitory Assistant	600,000 KRW	= 380 EUR
	+ Exempt from dormitory fee	
Communal Kitchen Assistant	400,000 KRW	= 260 EUR
	+ Exempt from dormitory fee	
Research Assistant	Vary	

3-1. Specialized in Korean Studies

Degree	Division	Major	Medium of Instruction	Minimum Language Requirements
Master's or Doctoral Degree	Humanities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Korean History ▪ Diplomatics and Bibliography ▪ Philosophy ▪ Korean Linguistics·Korean Literature 	Korean	TOPIK Level 4
	Culture and Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anthropology·Folklore ▪ Religious Studies ▪ Musicology ▪ Art History ▪ Cultural Informatics·Human Geography 		
	Social Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political Science ▪ Sociology ▪ Education 		
Master's Degree	Global Korean Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Korean Cultural Studies 	English	TOEFL 80 or IELTS 6.5



3-2. Specialized in Korean Studies

- ✓ **Small group education** at the ratio of **5 students to 1 professor**
- ✓ Encourage **interdisciplinary research and study**
- ✓ **9 sister universities** including **SNU, Korea, Sogang, Sungkyunkwan, or HUFS**, etc.

4-1. Korean Language Courses

Beginner Level

Basic Program (6 hours per week)

Korean 1

Korean 2

Korean 3

Korean 4

Korean 5

Korean 6

Special Program (3 hours per week)

Speaking & Writing 1

Speaking & Writing 2

Speaking & Writing 3

TOPIK level 4

Advanced Level (3 hours per week)

Advanced Korean Reading

Advanced Korean Listening

Academic Presentations & Discussions

Academic Writing(Introduction)

Academic Writing(Advanced)

Korean Vocabulary and Grammar



4-2. Cultural Programs

- ✓ Visiting
 - National **Palace Museum**
 - National **Hangeul Museum**
 - Korean **Temple Food** Center
 - **Haeinsa** Temple
 - Pocheon **Art** Valley
- ✓ Making
 - Korean **traditional lamps**
 - Korean **traditional liquor**
- ✓ Trip to
 - **Tongyeong** in Gyeongsang Namdo
 - **Buan** in Jeolla Bukdo



4-3. Writing Clinic

- ✓ Matching a **Korean PhD student as a tutor** with an **international student as a tutee**
- ✓ Tutors guide and correct tutee's written **assignments or thesis in Korean**
- ✓ ('24) 30 tutors corrected 9 assignments and 24 theses



5-1. Library of Korean Studies

- ✓ **Specialised library in Korean studies** with vast collection (502,461 books) and e-resources in the field of humanities and social sciences relevant to Korea
- ✓ Purchase Request
 - A student can request the library to **buy maximum 5 books per month**.
- ✓ **24-hour-open Study Room**



Lobby



24hr Study Room



Search, Copy & Scan



Meeting Room



5-2. Dormitory

- ✓ 120,000 KRW (**80 EUR**) for a **double room** ~
320,000 KRW (**200 EUR**) for a **single room per month**
- ✓ Each room is equipped with toilet and shower, basin, Wi-Fi, bed, desk, wardrobe, and air conditioner
- ✓ Shared facilities: Cooking area and laundry room

5-2. Dormitory Fees

✓ Total amount **for 6 months** as of Sep 2025

Buildings	Single Room	Double Room	Shared Room for 3 People	Dormitory for Married Couples	
				One-room Type	Two-room Type
Old Dormitory <i>"Shiseupjae"</i> (Built in 2002)	1,386,000 KRW (890 EUR)	693,000 KRW (440 EUR)	-	-	-
New Dormitories <i>"Boinjae" & "Itaekjae"</i> (Built in 2024)	1,872,000 KRW (1,200 EUR)	-	1,200,000 KRW (770 EUR)	2,286,000 KRW (1,470 EUR)	

✘ Meals are not included.



Outside of the Dormitory



Single Room





Communal Kitchen



6. Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

- ✓ Foreigners or overseas Koreans
- ✓ Holders of a bachelor's or a Master's degree (including those who are expected to graduate)
- ✓ Those who meet the **language requirement** either in Korean(**TOPIK level 4**) or English(**TOEFL 80, IELTS 6.5**)



7. Admission

Admission Process	Spring Admission	Fall Admission
Announcement of Recruitment	Early September	Early March
Application Deadline	Late September	Late March
Announcement of Selected Students	November 30	May 31
Start of Semester	March 1	September 1

- ✓ Online application at www.studyinkorea.go.kr
- ✓ Document Screening
- ✓ Video Interview
- ✓ **Research plan** is of importance.

8. **GKS** of NIIED

✓ **Global Korea Scholarship**

✓ **1 year of Korean language program @ Pai chai Univ.**

(Objective : TOPIK level 4)

+ 2 years of Master's or 3 years of doctoral degree program

✓ **Monthly Stipend**

▪ 1,175,000 KRW (750 EUR) during Korean language program

▪ **1,308,000 KRW (840 EUR)** during degree program

✓ Application sought in March

✓ **Quota** by country

▪ Embassy Track (4), University Track (0)



My Study-abroad Experience at the **AKS**



JASMIN Kevin Axel

**2025 PhD in Korean Literature
GKS Awardee**



Reasons I chose the AKS

First and foremost, the **living and research environment** seemed ideal for academic study.

Additionally, the Academy's **strong focus on Korean studies**, along with its comprehensive training in classical Korean literature and classical Chinese, was a major draw.

The **faculty members** are always available and willing to provide guidance and support, which made it an even more attractive choice.



How to Overcome Difficulties

I haven't really faced major difficulties in life overall, and I consider myself very fortunate in that regard. My only real challenge was **writing seminar presentations and my thesis in Korean.**

Fortunately, my **seonbae (senior colleagues) were always there to help me** revise my work and to offer their encouragement and support.



Benefits of Studying at the AKS

I've greatly benefited from the **academic support** provided by both professors and seonbae, as well as from the many resources and opportunities offered by AKS, such as **various events, field trips, the library, and the Jangseogak Archives.**



Benefits of Studying at the AKS

Another key aspect has been being **surrounded by people who share the same interest in Korean studies**, especially on highly specific topics.

I remember feeling quite frustrated during my studies in France because I didn't really have anyone to discuss my interests **in classical Korean literature with**. At AKS, however, I've made many friends whose perspectives and interests have not only helped me grow academically, but have also enriched and broadened my way of thinking.



To the AKS Applicants

If you are truly serious about specializing in Korean studies and studying in Korea, I sincerely believe that the Graduate School of Korean Studies at AKS is the best place to do so.

AKS not only offers high-quality education, but thanks to **the diversity of its courses and the presence of both Korean and international students** from all backgrounds, I would say it provides a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It is a **place where one can truly encounter the values of « humanism »** within an academic institution.



My Study-abroad Experience at the AKS



Ana Ungureanu

- ✓ 2025 **Master's** Degree in **Political Science**
- ✓ Currently enrolled in **doctoral degree program at Free University Berlin**



Reasons I chose the AKS

I had three main reasons for choosing the Academy of Korean Studies.

My first encounter with the AKS was in the summer of 2019, when I took part in the 28th **AKS Summer Program** for International Students. Back then, I fell in love with the lovely scenery of the campus, its calmness and **peacefulness**.

As a second reason, I was quite concerned with the fierce competition—a well-known characteristic of Korean universities. But at the AKS, half of students are foreigners like myself. Moreover, the **5:1 student-faculty ratio** enabled a better communication between me and my professors. Practically, it felt like taking private lessons for the whole two years. I loved it. I believe this was the reason for which I was able to graduate on time.



Reasons I chose the AKS

Lastly, AKS is **the main international grant provider for Korean studies institutes** across the globe. Thanks to the AKS, many European universities developed and improved their Korean studies curricula, including my back-home affiliation in Romania.

In short, there was no reason for me not to choose the Graduate School of Korean Studies, the Academy of Korean Studies! 😊



How to Overcome Difficulties

No matter how much you love Korea and its culture, being far from home is not easy. Your own doubts surface in the moments of fatigue, and when they get mixed with homesickness, your next thought is to give up everything and go back home to your comfort zone. I had plenty of similar experience.

Again, **what helped me was the small student-faculty ratio**. It made me feel at home and see AKS staff as my own family. Of course, keeping in touch with your family and friends is a must. Finally, every time I was going through hard times, I had to remember myself that graduating was my goal. **Having a purpose** in life keeps you going.



Benefits of Studying at the AKS

My favourite benefit was **the library and the Jangseogak Archives** in the Academy of Korean Studies.

For two years, AKS library allowed me to order **5 new books a month**, no matter the price or the language, plus **unlimited access to its online database**. These benefits were like an oasis of information for my thesis. Also, via the library you can borrow any books from other Korean universities' libraries without even leaving the campus.



Benefits of Studying at the AKS

Regarding the **Jangseogak Archives**, if you are into Korean history and culture, this is the **perfect place for doing research**. Talking about academia or just simple personal interests on Korea, as an AKS student many doors will get open, for real.

Finally, let's not forget that only **18 Km** separates AKS **from Seoul**. Just take the red bus in front of the campus main entrance and in less than 30 minutes you are in the heart of Korea.



Benefits of Studying at the AKS

Talking about trips, I would like to mention the **cultural experience program** offered every semester, free of charge. In other words, AKS organizes two times a year free trips around Korea (1 to 2 nights), only for its students, so that they can get used to the culture. Plus, each department (politics, sociology, etc.) organizes once a year trip to various attractions. For instance, as a political science student, my department took me to DMZ. As a student at AKS I visited many interesting spots in Korea.



To the AKS Applicants

I would like to encourage anyone who's interested in Korean studies to apply to the AKS. At the AKS, **there are always people who can help you finish your journey.** You just need a little bit of courage to ask for help and do not forget that you are not alone. AKS wants you to graduate and be proud of yourself. I believe that at bigger universities it is more difficult to make yourself noticed and form friendships. In my case, AKS was the perfect 'friend' :)



My Study-abroad Experience at the AKS



Roxanne Canelle ROSSIGNOL

**Currently Enrolled in
MA in Korean Cultural Studies**



Reasons I chose the AKS

After a bachelor in Art History, I wanted to specialize in Korean Art History, and was planning on applying for a Master's degree in Paris, but **my Korean teacher suggested** I should study in Korea directly. She is the one who introduced me to the Graduate School of Korean Studies, AKS. After researching about the school online, it seemed clear AKS was the most appropriate place to continue my studies.



How to Overcome Difficulties

One of my main difficulties was **money-related**, as I didn't get the scholarship during my first semester. I had savings, but the anxiety that came with living-costs was impacting my quality of life. But I poured my time and efforts into my school-work and got the scholarship for my second semester.

My other difficulty is probably my **Korean level**, which is still insufficient for my own standards and for graduation. But I am studying diligently and trying my best to interact with Korean-speakers, and it is clear my language proficiency has already largely improved in the 8 months I've been here. If I keep studying seriously, there is no reason for me not to achieve TOPIK 4 by the time I graduate in mid-2026.



Benefits of Studying at the AKS

Firstly, studying at the AKS as an international student offers clear advantages: **no tuition fees, possibility to get a scholarship, affordable dormitory, included language courses**. Compared to other schools, AKS is more accessible on those matters. Education-wise, students have access to a **wide range of classes and subjects** to study, offered by highly qualified scholars. The quality of education we receive prepares us to become experts in Korean studies. On the “funnier” side, through the school we have access to various **cultural activities and field-trips**, which makes our experience here more valuable.



To the **AKS Applicants**

If your goal is to become an expert in Korean studies, the Graduate School of Korean Studies is the right choice.

I've come to realize our experience in this school, and in Korea, is what we make of it. Explore Seoul, make friends, study with passion, eat chicken and convenience store ice cream, visit other cities, and read books! I'm grateful for my life here, and if you come with the right motivation, you will too!



Words from Alumni

I want to say that the Academy of Korean Studies is widely regarded as a **leading institution for learning and research in Korean studies**. I highly suggest international students to join here. - *Shreejana Gnawali from Nepal, 2012 Graduate, Visiting Professor at **Kyungsung University, Busan, Korea***

Words from Alumni

- ✓ Don't hesitate to apply even if your Korean skills are not that great yet. You will have intensive Korean classes and improve right away! You got this :) - *Jitka SKOCDOPLOVA from Czech Republic, 2021 Graduate, Executive Secretary to the Head of Mission, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Korea*
- ✓ AKS is full of great people and opportunities. Use it to **build your network** and **work on your research skills**. Also, don't forget to practice your Korean every chance you get! - *Rana Amr Mohamed Mahmoud ELMETWALLY from Egypt, 2023 Graduate, Adjunct Professor, Film Dept., American University in Cairo*

I really enjoyed my time at AKS. If I could give any advice, it would be to **take advantage of the library more and knowledgeable professors**. I wish I talked to them more on issues I was curious about.

Also, time flies, so please choose your area of interest for your thesis as soon as possible. This way, you can improve it without being stressed by the deadline. Lastly, I'd advise you not to forget to **have fun outside academia**, prioritise your mental health, and take breaks when needed.

- *Sule Nur DALKILIC from Turkiye, 2021 Graduate, Senior Specialist at **Samsung Electronics Turkiye***





Thank You 😊

For more information, visit -

- ✓ grad.aks.ac.kr
- ✓ intl.aks.ac.kr/english
- ✓ facebook.com/aks.news
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