

The image features a large, blue, wireframe geometric dome structure in the upper half, resembling a geodesic dome. The letters 'KAIST' are prominently displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font across the center of the dome. The background of the entire image is an aerial view of the KAIST campus, showing modern buildings, green spaces, and a river, with hills in the distance under a clear sky.

KAIST

KOREA ADVANCED INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VIEWBOOK

Global Leading Science and Technology University for Innovative Creation of Future Humanity

Cultivating Creative Leading-Engineers and Pursuing Innovative Research for Future

Why Study at KAIST?

KAIST is the first and top science and technology university in Korea. KAIST has been the gateway to advanced science and technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and our graduates have been key players behind Korea's innovation. KAIST will continue to pursue advances in science and technology as well as the economic development of Korea and beyond.



KAIST Overview

Year of Establishment	1971
Location	Daejeon (main campus/ Munji campus), Seoul Campus
Number of Colleges	5 (7 Schools, 25 Departments)
Number of Alumni	79,111 (BS 21,821, MS 40,465, PhD 16,825)
Number of Students	11,999 (BS 3,980, MS 3,626, PhD 2,855, Integrated MS/ PhD 1,538)
Number of Faculty & Staff	1,574 (Faculty 666, Staff 908)
International Population	1,330 (Faculty 139, Students 1,191)



Academic Ranking

Our history of innovation and audacious challenge has been marked by international league tables. They are the marks of our collective advancement. Not to mention, our graduate students are at the heart of the excellence.

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025



24th

in Engineering and Technology

KAIST marks the 1st rank in Korea.

18th

in Materials
Sciences

22nd

in Electrical
& Electronic
Engineering

27th

in Mechanical,
Aeronautical
Manufacturing
Engineering

29th

in Computer
Science &
Information
Systems

30th

in Chemical
Engineering

34th

in Civil & Structural
Engineering

THE World University Rankings 2025



1st

in Industry Income Indicator



English as the Official Language of Communication

The primary medium of communication on our campus is research. KAISTians gather around the research of interest, learn, challenge, and create through it. However, when it comes to verbal and written communication, English is the official language of communication. Therefore, comprehension of written and spoken English is essential for admission.

International students will have opportunities to learn the Korean language by taking courses at KAIST language center or through the language exchange programs at KI House.

Your Korean language acquisition will make your life at KAIST more colorful and exciting.



Research Achievement

KAIST learns and creates through research. In 2024, KAIST conducted 780 Research and Development(R&D) projects from industries and 2,285 from the Korean government. KAIST also made a significant impact on the global academic stage, publishing 3,404 articles internationally and domestically including 2,979 articles published in SCI journals.

These outstanding achievements came from our active engagements in a wide range of science and technology R&D projects and the strategic support of the Korean government.

Furthermore, KAIST ranked 1st in Korea and 10th globally for U.S. patents granted (NAI) in 2024, securing 176 patents in key fields like devices, digital, mobility, chemistry, and bio-medical sciences.

Historic Moments of KAIST

• **1971**

Establishment of KAIS
(the forerunner of the present day KAIST)

• **1982**

Construction of World's Second Internet System

Prof. Kilnam Chon from the School of Computing established the first internet system in Asia and the second internet system in the world, known as System Development Network (SDN).

• **1992**

Successful Launch of KITSAT-1

The first Korean satellite, KITSAT-1, was launched by the KAIST Satellite Technology Research Center (SaTRec) with Prof. Soon-Dal Choi and Dan-Keun Sung from the School of Electrical Engineering.

• **1994**

Development of Korea's First Microprocessor

The first 386 microprocessor developed by Prof. Jong-Min Kyung at the School of Electrical Engineering paved the way for Korea's information industry.

• **1999**

Development of Chiral Fine Chemical Production Technology

Development of technology for economical large-scale production of hydroxycarboxylic acid, which had not been previously possible due to challenges in achieving purity.

• **2001**

Development of Korea's First Humanoid Robot AMI

The first artificial intelligence humanoid robot AMI developed by Prof. Hyun-Seung Yang.

• **2008**

Korea's First Astronaut Goes to Space

The first and currently only Korean astronaut Dr. So-Yeon Lee, a KAIST graduate, successfully returned to Earth after completing her ten-day mission at the International Space Station on board Soyuz TMA-12.

• **2009**

Development of Online Electric Vehicle

A wirelessly charging electric vehicle with "Shaped Magnetic Field in Resonance (SMFIR)" developed by Prof. Dong-Ho Cho from the School of Electrical Engineering.

• **2015**

DRC-HUBO Robot Won the DARPA Robotics Challenge

The Humanoid Robot HUBO, created by Prof. Jun-Ho Oh from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, wins the DARPA Robotics Challenge in 2015.

• **2020**

"KAIST New Deal R&D" Initiative for COVID-19 Response

Science- and technology-based initiative to overcome epidemics and other national disasters by creating a new epidemic control industry.

1971

1982

1992

1994

2001

2008

2015

2020



KAIST and International Cooperation



Global Partners

60
COUNTRIES

273
INSTITUTIONS

478
AGREEMENTS

Student Exchange

34
COUNTRIES

127
INSTITUTIONS

127
PROGRAMS

KAIST Community-Global Connections



With every passing year, the KAIST international community grows in size and diversity. Not only within its walls, but the KAIST network also spreads wider across the globe with each prestigious international graduate making a worldwide impact. We believe that maintaining a cordial line of connection between all members of the international community will only serve to nourish relations and open opportunities that are beneficial for students and alumni alike. To that end, KAIST Community-Global Connection serves as a platform for all members of the KAIST international community to reach out to one another and establish mutual communication between students, alumni, and International Scholar and Student Services (ISSS).



ISSS Contact Information

TEL: +82-42-350-2481~7 FAX: +82-42-350-2480
EMAIL: issst@kaist.ac.kr INSTAGRAM: [@kaist_issst](https://www.instagram.com/kaist_issst)



International Scholar and Student Services (ISSS) Programs and Events

Mentor Program

New full-time international students are matched with KAIST seniors to help settle in at KAIST and in Korea.

Academic Coaching Program

Students in KAIST regular courses or other subjects are paired up with a mentor in one-on-one or small group sessions.

Buddy Program

A group of three new international exchange students and dual-degree students is paired with a Korean student to partake in sports activities, cultural experiences, and field trips.

Academic Counseling Program

A professional counselor is available to provide individual counseling, art therapy, and psychology testing.

International Food Festival

International students prepare and serve traditional dishes from around the world at the spring each year.

KAIST ONE (KAIST Overseas Networking Exchange)

This event offers KAIST students a chance to showcase their home countries through presentations, performances, and traditional dishes.

Cooks and Talks

An event to learn more about traditional Korean/international dishes while meeting international members from more than 100 countries.

Year-End Party

An annual Year-End Party is held for international students, faculty, and researchers to enjoy music performances, games, and food in celebration of the year's accomplishments.

Lovely Floral Day

Giveaway of beautiful flowers to members of the international community at KAIST.

Window Decoration and Tile Painting Event

An opportunity to express artistic talents by drawing on the W2-1 (International Center) building's windows or tiles.

DADO-Traditional Korean Tea Drinking Networking Meeting

A networking event with KAIST members accompanied by Korean traditional tea.

Tea Talk Seminar

A seminar on various topics accompanied by a cup of tea.

Culture Classes

A variety of fun and exciting culture classes are offered in English (Guitar, LED lotus table lights, taekwondo, pearl necklaces, Korean traditional paintings, Korean fan paintings, etc.)

KI House (KAIST International House)

- Free one-on-one Korean lessons with native Korean speaking volunteers
- Korean culture/holiday-related events, Korean speech contests, and many more

Undergraduate Admissions for International Students

Applying to KAIST

a. Eligibility

- Academic Qualifications*: Applicants who have graduated or will graduate from high school before the intended admission semester begins
- Citizenship Requirement: Applicants with foreign citizenship (Applicants who hold Korean Citizenship including dual citizenship are NOT eligible to apply as international students.)

* Please visit our website and read our admission guide for more details regarding the eligibility criteria for your intended admission cycle.

b. Yearly Timelines

	Early Track	Regular Track
Application Term	September – October	November – January
Decisions Announcement	January	March
Admission Date	February or August	August

*The schedules above are subject to change. Please visit our website for details.

Application Materials

Item	Remarks	Documents
Submit Online	Mandatory	① Application Form
	Mandatory	② One Recommendation Letter
Upload Online	Mandatory	③ High School Transcript
	Mandatory	④ Passport or National ID Copy
	Mandatory	⑤ Standardized Official Test Score Report
	Mandatory	⑥ English Proficiency Test Score Report
	Optional	⑦ Honors and Awards
	(Recommended)	⑧ High School Profile

© All materials above must be provided in English. The translation must preferably be done by the issuing institute or the public notary.

Selection Procedure

- 1 Application Review
- 2 Interview (if necessary)
- 3 Final Deliberation

Application Fee: USD 80 (Online Payment or Bank Transfer)

* Application fees can be waived for students from one of the Least Developed Countries according to the UN list of LCDs. For detailed eligibility criteria, please visit our website.

KAIST Scholarship

a. Eligibility : Open to all international students

b. Subsidies

Full Tuition Grants
for 8 semesters

Monthly Living Expenses of
KRW 350,000 for 8 semesters

Monthly National Health
Insurance premium

Academic Degree Programs for Undergraduate Students

College	School	Departments/Divisions
College of Natural Sciences https://natsci.kaist.ac.kr/eng	—	Physics
		Mathematical Sciences
		Chemistry
College of Life Science & Bioengineering https://bio.kaist.ac.kr/	—	Biological Sciences
		Brain and Cognitive Sciences
College of Engineering https://coeng.kaist.ac.kr/	School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	Mechanical Engineering Aerospace Engineering
	School of Electrical Engineering	Electrical Engineering
	School of Computing	Computer Science
	—	Civil & Environmental Engineering
		Bio & Brain Engineering
		Industrial Design
College of Business https://btm.kaist.ac.kr/en/	—	Industrial & Systems Engineering
		Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
		Materials Science & Engineering
School of Transdisciplinary Studies https://sts.kaist.ac.kr/	—	Nuclear & Quantum Engineering
		Business and Technology Management

* The offered degrees and programs above are subject to change. Please visit our website and read our admission guide for your intended admission cycle.

Contact

Undergraduate Admissions Team, Office of Admissions

EMAIL: creative.adm@kaist.ac.kr

TEL: +82-42-350-4803



Graduate Admissions for International Students

Applying to KAIST

a. Eligibility

- Academic Qualifications: Bachelor's degree for Master's and Master-Ph.D. integrated programs, Master's degree for Doctoral programs
- Citizenship Requirement: Non-Korean citizenship

b. Yearly Timelines

	Spring	Fall Early Track	Fall Regular Track
Application Term	August–September	December–January	March – April
Decisions Announcement	December	March	June
Admission Date	February	August	August

*The schedules above are subject to change. Please visit our website for details.

Application Materials

Item	Documents	Remarks
Submit Online	Application Form	
	Two Recommendation Letters	
Upload Online	Official (Expected) Degree Certificate	
	Official Transcripts	
	Valid English Proficiency Test Score Report	Minimum score requirements: IBT TOEFL: 83 IELTS: 6.5 TEPS:326 TOEIC:720
	Curriculum Vitae	No designated form
	Official Identification Documents of the applicant and their parents	
	Honors & Awards	Optional

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Selection Procedure



Application Fee: USD 80 (Online payment or Bank transfer)

*Application fees can be waived for students from one of the Least Developed Countries according to the UN list of LCDs. For detailed eligibility criteria, please visit our website.

Scholarship Programs

KAIST Scholarship

a. Eligibility: Open to international students applying for KAIST graduate programs

b. Subsidies

- FULL TUITION GRANTS:** 4 semesters for Master's, 10 for Master's-Ph.D. Integrated, 8 for Ph.D.
- MONTHLY LIVING EXPENSES:** KRW 350,000 for Master's, KRW 400,000 for Ph.D. The stipend may also be awarded depending on your level of involvement in research.
- MONTHLY NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM** (The coverages and conditions are subject to change.)

For the last five years,

94%

of our international students have been granted KAIST Scholarships.

KAIST Global Presidential Scholarship (KGPS)

a. Eligibility

- Those who apply for Master's or Master's-Ph.D. Integrated programs through KAIST International Graduate Admission cycles with KAIST Scholarship will be automatically considered for KGPS without further application
- Those who are recommended by the student selection committee of the department (Awardees of KGPS are selected among those who apply with the KAIST Scholarship.)

b. Subsidies: Full tuition and monthly stipends of KRW 1,000,000 for 4 semesters

*Awardees from Master's-Ph.D. Integrated programs will receive the same benefits as the KAIST Scholarship after 4 semesters of the KGPS guarantee.

Global Korea Scholarship (GKS) program

a. Subsidies: Tuition, living expenses, airfares, the Korean language training course, and other aid. Learn more about the grants at the NIIED website.

*GKS recipients are required to take one-year Korean language courses in South Korea.



b. Application Timetable:

Education Level	Application Term	Decisions Announcement	Beginning of Class
Graduate	February	June	August

c. Notes

- Applicants must check their eligibility and the application track – University/Embassy – with the application guidelines attached to the GKS announcement of the year.
- Master's-Ph.D. Integrated programs are NOT available in GKS.

Academic Degree Programs (next page)

The offered degrees and programs on the next page are subject to change. Please visit our website and read our admission guide for your intended admission cycle.

Contact

Graduate Admissions Team, Office of Admissions

#110, E16-1, 291 Daehak-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, Republic of Korea (zip: 34141)

EMAIL: advanced.adm@kaist.ac.kr | TEL: +82-42-350-2352, 2354



College	School/ Department/ Division	M.S.	M.S.-Ph.D	Ph.D
Natural Sciences	Physics		●	●
	Mathematical Sciences	●	●	●
	Chemistry		●	●
Life Science & Bioengineering	Graduate School of Quantum Science and Technology		●	●
	Biological Sciences		●	●
	Graduate School of Medical Science and Engineering		●	●
	Brain & Cognitive Sciences		●	
	Graduate School of Engineering Biology	●	●	●
Engineering	Graduate School of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology	●	●	●
	Mechanical Engineering	●		●
	Aerospace Engineering	●		●
	- Space Exploration Engineering Program	●		●
	Electrical Engineering	●	●	●
	- The Robotics Program	●		●
	School of Computing	●	●	●
	- Graduate School of Information Security	●	●	●
	Civil and Environmental Engineering	●		●
	- Environmental and Energy Technology Program	●		●
	Bio and Brain Engineering	●	●	●
	- Brain and Cognitive Engineering	●	●	●
	Industrial Design	●		●
	Industrial & Systems Engineering	●	●	●
	- Graduate School of Data Science	●	●	●
	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	●		●
	Materials Science & Engineering	●		●
	Nuclear and Quantum Engineering	●		●
	- KINS-KAIST Master's Degree Program	●		
	Cho Chun Shik Graduate School of Mobility	●		●
Liberal Arts & Convergence Science	Kim Jaechul Graduate School of AI	●	●	●
	Graduate School of Green Growth and Sustainability	●		●
	School of Digital Humanities and Computational Social Sciences	●		●
	Graduate School of Culture Technology	●		●
Business (Daejeon Campus)	Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy	●	●	●
	Business and Technology Management	●		●
	Graduate School of Global Digital Innovation			
	- Global Information and Telecommunication Technology Program (GDI-ITTP) Track	●		●
Business (Seoul Campus)	- Global Technology Innovation Program (GDI-GTIP) Track	●		
	Management Engineering	●	●	●
	Finance MBA	●		
	KAIST MBA	●		

Student Welfare

KAIST Clinic (Pappalardo Center)

It is a medical center that was completed in 2010, providing medical services to KAIST's Korean and international members and their families.

Departments like internal medicine, dentistry, dermatology, and ophthalmology are available, and it is a research-oriented hospital that conducts medical research integrating clinical and academic research functions.

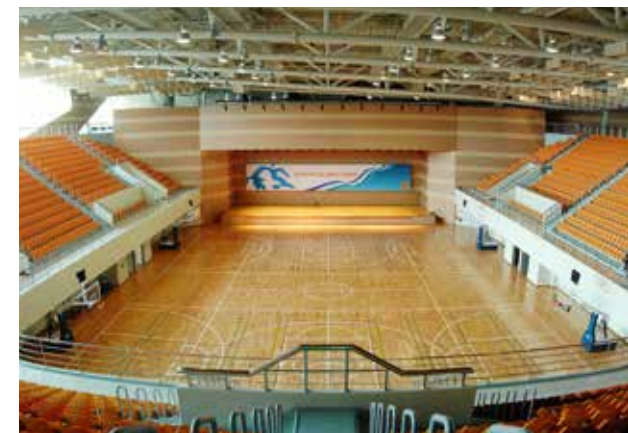


International Office

It is a compound educational and cultural space created so that international professors, researchers, and students can smoothly integrate with Korean members. It is equipped with a language room, classroom, multi-purpose room, lounge, and outdoor terrace, and there are departments that handle administrative and life support for international members.

Lyu Keun-Chul Sports Complex

It is a multi-purpose sports facility for promoting students' health. It is equipped with a main stadium for ball sports with 3,000 seats and a 200m jogging track. There are also fitness centers, golf learning zones, exercise prescription rooms, dance rooms, martial arts rooms, and club rooms.



Indoor Swimming Pool

It is an indoor swimming pool for the members of the university and is located to the left of the main auditorium (E15).

There is a sauna facility, and it is possible to enter daily at a cheap price, and free lessons are available from the student swimming club.



Chang Young Shin Student Activity Center

This is a space for students to enjoy a fun and happy campus life through various cultural activities. It was built and designed based on students' suggestions, and the students are responsible for operating the space after completion. It houses a multi-purpose room, martial arts room, individual practice room, club room, bookstore, student autonomy organization office, counseling room, and others.



Academic Cultural Center

The KAIST Academic Cultural Center (Library) located in the center of the main campus provides services focusing on the latest information in the field of science and technology, and also provides materials for general education. In addition to serving KAIST members, it has made significant contributions to the Korean science and technology community by providing information to many researchers in the field of science and technology.



Global Talent Visa Center

The Ministry of Justice opened the 'Global Talent Visa Center' at KAIST in Daejeon in December 2021 and launched a fast-track visa system to attract international sci-tech talent. International students who earn a master's degree or Ph.D. at KAIST are eligible to apply for the F-2 residence visa immediately after graduation, regardless of their job status. If they continue their research, they can apply for the F-5 permanent residence visa three years later without the income precondition for acquiring permanent residence or Korean citizenship. International students at KAIST receive overall support for staying in the country.



Dormitory

All KAIST students can live in the dormitories. We operate 20 dormitories with a total capacity of over 8,000 people so that students can concentrate on education and research and adapt smoothly to campus life. It is large enough for all students who wish to enter to live in, and it is equipped with various convenience facilities such as a store and a gym.

KAIST dorm fees are generously low compared to other universities in Korea. Dorm fees will depend on whether you are assigned to a two / three person room or single room. All dorm rooms are equipped with desks, chairs, closets, and beds. In your first semester, you will be assigned a dorm room. From the second semester on, you must apply for a dorm room yourself during the application period at kds.kaist.ac.kr. Some students choose to live off-campus by finding housing for themselves.





Office of Admissions

EMAIL. Undergraduate: creative.adm@kaist.ac.kr
Graduate: advanced.adm@kaist.ac.kr

WEB. Undergraduate: <https://admission.kaist.ac.kr/intl-undergraduate>
Graduate: <https://admission.kaist.ac.kr/intl-graduate>

ADDR. 291 Daehak-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, Korea 34141
Office of Admissions, KAIST

