



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



July 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 (= 590 USD) 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

✓ Paid Positions on Campus

Positions	Monthly Pay	
Division Assistant	600,000 KRW	= 442 USD
Korean Language Program Assistant	500,000 KRW	= 368 USD
Dormitory Assistant	600,000 KRW	= 442 USD
	+ Exempt from dormitory fee	
Communal Kitchen Assistant	400,000 KRW	= 295 USD
	+ Exempt from dormitory fee	
Research Assistant	Vary	

3-1. Specialized in Korean Studies

Degree	Division	Major	Medium of Instruction	Language Requirements To Apply	Language Requirements To Graduate
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	TOPIK Level 6
	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	TOPIK Level 4



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
 - **Jingwansa** Temple
 - Pocheon **Art** Valley
- ✓ Making
 - Korean **traditional lamps**
 - Korean **traditional liquor**
- ✓ Trip to
 - **Tongyeong** in Gyeongsang Namdo
 - **Buan** in Jeolla Bukdo



4-3. Group Tutoring

- ✓ Matching a **tutor(PhD student in their 4th ~ semester)** with less than 10 tutees
- ✓ Meeting **minimum twice a month**
- ✓ Tutor's roles include advice and guide on
 - Writing a thesis
 - Adjusting to Korean culture





4-4. 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(88 USD) for a double room ~
320,000 KRW(235 USD) 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 "Shiseupjae" (Built in 2002)	1,386,000 KRW (1,021 USD)	693,000 KRW (510 USD)	-	-	-
New Dormitories "Boinjae" & "Itaekjae" (Built in 2024)	1,872,000 KRW (1,379 USD)	-	1,200,000 KRW (884 USD)	2,286,000 KRW (1,684 USD)	

✕ 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 (865 USD) during Korean language program

- **1,308,000 KRW (965 USD)** during degree program

- ✓ Application sought in March

- ✓ **Quota** by country



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' :)



To the AKS Applicants through GKS Program

Combining GKS with AKS benefits is like a double scholarship. I not only benefited from one year of Korean language program that GKS offered, but was able to experience GKS cultural trips. AKS and its benefits is great; but combined with the GKS experience, it is wonderful, extra, superior.

Furthermore, GKS students at the AKS need to take the **Korean language course at Pai Chai University in Daejeon**. This is great because it allows students more diverse experience. As a GKS student at the AKS, you will not get bored. Just take it as a double scholarship and make the most of the opportunity.

David RADERMACHER

- ✓ 2019 **Master's** Degree in **Sociology**
- ✓ 2025 **Doctoral** Degree in **Sociology**
- ✓ **Researcher** at Sungkyunkwan University

1-1. **Why** I chose the AKS

What first drew me to the Graduate School of Korean Studies, AKS, was its **strong academic reputation** and **unique focus on Korean Studies** in an interdisciplinary, global context. But what truly convinced me was **the campus itself**.



David RADERMACHER

✓ MA and PhD in Sociology

1-2. **Why** I chose the AKS

It is not only a place of learning but a landscape architectural masterpiece. The campus reflects the beauty of Korea **through the changing colors of the four seasons** and **offers a peaceful environment that refreshes both the eyes and the mind**. It symbolizes the harmony between tradition and modernity.



David RADERMACHER

✓ MA and PhD in Sociology

2. **How to overcome difficulties** during my study

As with many international students, the initial months were marked by language barriers and cultural adjustment. Communicating smoothly wasn't always easy, and I often felt the weight of being in an unfamiliar environment. However, what made the biggest difference were the people around me. **The friendships and connections I made at AKS gave me emotional support, courage, and motivation.** Slowly, I grew more confident in navigating both academic and daily life, and I learned to see these challenges as valuable parts of the learning process.

David RADERMACHER

✓ MA and PhD in Sociology

3. Benefits of studying at the AKS

AKS offers an **exceptional academic environment**. The faculty consists of experts trained at Korea's top universities and prestigious institutions abroad. Classes are intellectually stimulating and promote critical thinking. I've not only deepened my academic knowledge but also been able to pursue my own research interests freely and with strong support. The institute's **collaborations with major Korean universities** have allowed me to expand my academic network beyond the campus.

In addition, living in the **student dormitory** has become increasingly comfortable—especially with the option of single rooms, which allow for privacy and personal space, that we didn't have before. The cost of living here is reasonable, especially compared to other Korean universities, and the environment is mostly supportive for both local and international students.

David RADERMACHER

✓ MA and PhD in Sociology

4-1. To potential applicants of the AKS

I personally believe that **studying abroad**—if the opportunity arises—is an invaluable and irreplaceable experience. Only when we are taken out of familiar structures and placed in a completely new culture, surrounded by unfamiliar customs and behaviors, and find ourselves in the position of being a "minority", can we truly deepen our intercultural understanding. It is in such moments that **we develop empathy for diversity, acceptance, and genuine human connection**—values that have become more important than ever in today's world, where radicalization is on the rise and marginalized groups are increasingly excluded by the majority.

David RADERMACHER

✓ MA and PhD in Sociology

4-2. To potential applicants of the AKS

In short, I believe that my time studying at AKS has helped me grow both academically and personally and **has made me a better human being**. Studying at AKS helped me grow—not only as a scholar, but also as a person. Living and studying in a foreign country opens your eyes to different ways of thinking and being. You gain a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and learn empathy, patience, and adaptability.

If you are open-minded and ready to grow—intellectually and personally—then **AKS will offer you not just an education, but maybe a life-changing journey**.



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 SKOCDOPOLOVA 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 -

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

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