



Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies



2 July 2025

1. The Institution

- ✓ **The Graduate School of Korean Studies in the Academy of Korean Studies** was established by the **Korean government** in 1980 with the goal of producing experts in Korean studies
- ✓ **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. 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. 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. Programs

Degree	Division	Major	Medium of Instruction	Minimum Language Requirements to Apply	TOPIK Requirement to Graduate
Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies			English	TOEFL 80 or IELTS 6.5	Level 4
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	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 			

4. 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



5. Other Benefits

- ✓ **Small group education** at the ratio of **8 students to 1 professor**
- ✓ Encourage **interdisciplinary research and study**
- ✓ **9 sister universities** including **SNU, Korea, Sogang, Sungkyunkwan, or HUFS**, etc.



6. 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



7. 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/guide/consultation about
- Writing a thesis
 - Adjusting to Korean culture





8. 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



9. 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

9. 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 (1021 USD)	693,000 KRW (510 USD)	-	-	-
New Dormitories <i>"Boinjae" & "Itaekjae"</i> (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





Shared Room for 3 People





Communal Kitchen



Communal Kitchen & Washers



Dormitory for Married Couples



10. The Major

- ✓ **Korean Cultural Studies** in the Division of Global Korean Studies aims to provide **holistic knowledge** of Korean culture from a cross-cultural perspective.
- ✓ **Interdisciplinary approaches** among history, linguistics, literature, economics, philosophy, psychology, and more are encouraged in premodern and modern contexts.

11. Faculty

✓ Prof. Seongho Jun

- PhD in **Economics** at Sungkyunkwan University
- Fields of Specialization : **Korean economic history**



✓ Prof. Wonhyun So

- PhD in **Psychology** at SUNY at Albany
- Fields of Specialization : **Group dynamics / Culture / Emotion**



11. Faculty

✓ Associate Prof. Jung-Youn Woo

- PhD in **Archaeology** at Cambridge University
- Fields of Specialization : **Bronze age of Korea** / **Gender archaeology** **Agency theory**



✓ Associate Prof. Jeongsoo Shin

- PhD in **Korean- Chinese Comparative Literature** at University of Washington
- Fields of Specialization : **Chinese classics** / **Korean-Chinese comparative literature** / **Translation studies**



11. Faculty

✓ Visiting Prof. Jaehoon Yeon

- PhD in **Linguistics** at SOAS
- Fields of Specialization : **Korean linguistics** / **Morphosyntax** / **Korean language education**



12. Courses

✓ Required Subjects

- Basic Subjects in the 1st and 2nd Semester :
Understanding of Korean Culture I & II
- 2 Korean Language Courses

✓ Elective Subjects of 2024 Fall Semester

- Bibliographical Research on Korean Studies I
- Origins and History of the Korean Language
- Methodology in Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language
- Korean Classical Language for Foreigners
- Counseling and Psychotherapy
- Psychology of Korean II



12. Courses

✓ Elective Subjects of 2025 Spring Semester

- Studies on Globalization
- Economic History in Korea
- Cultural Heritage in Korea I
- Intermediate Korean Culture and Society
- Characteristics and Structure of the Korean Language
- Korean Classical Language for Foreigners
- Psychology of Korean II
- Counseling and Psychotherapy



13. Current Students of **Korean Cultural Studies**

✓ **42 Students from 24 Countries**

Nationality	No. of Students	Nationality	No. of Students
Belarus	1	Kazakhstan	3
Canada	1	Mexico	1
Colombia	1	Philippines	1
France	2	Poland	3
Germany	1	Portugal	1
Greece	1	Romania	1
Hungary	1	Russia	5
India	4	Spain	4
Indonesia	1	Taiwan	1
Iraq	1	Thailand	1
Ireland	1	UK	2
Italy	1	USA	3
		Total	42

14. Career Path of Korean Cultural Studies Graduates

✓ 91 Graduates (Feb 2009 ~ Feb 2024)

Career Path / Region	In Korea	Outside Korea	Not Known	Total	%
Employed at a company/institution which is	13	21		34	37.4%
- Not Related to Korean Studies*	9	12		21	23.1%
- Related to Korean Studies **	4	9		13	14.3%
Pursuing a doctoral degree	12	1		13	14.3%
No Reply			44	44	48.4%
Total	25	22	44	91	100.0%

* Working at a Korean company, working as a civil servant, etc.

** Teaching at a university or working at an embassy, etc.



15. Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

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



16. 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.

17. 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



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!

Jacqueline KAMPHAUSEN

✓ Currently enrolled in Master's Degree in
Korean Cultural Studies

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

I have studied Korean studies in my bachelor's degree and knew I wanted to keep pursuing this field throughout my Master's degree as well. While researching about appropriate universities in Korea I came across the AKS and was immediately intrigued by **the programs and majors** offered.



Jacqueline KAMPHAUSEN

- ✓ Currently enrolled in Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies

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

Since the **AKS specializes in Korean studies** and also has **many international students** from a wide range of countries, I felt I could enjoy studying here very much. Also, the fairly remote location of the campus is a nice addition, since there is always **beautiful nature** around, but it has many restaurants and cafés nearby as well as it is still **quite close to Seoul**.



Jacqueline KAMPHAUSEN

✓ Currently enrolled in Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies

2-1. How to overcome difficulties during my study

It is always difficult to go to a different country to study and live there. Especially since Korean culture is very much different from German culture, I struggled in the beginning to find my place here. Luckily the AKS has many international students who all bond through this shared experience of studying abroad and I was able to find good friends who understand and share my struggles. I think through meeting people, other foreigners and Koreans, and going outside campus and experiencing Korean life helped me to feel more and more at home.

Jacqueline KAMPHAUSEN

✓ Currently enrolled in Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies

2-2. How to overcome difficulties during my study

Additionally, the AKS has a **counselling service** which is always available to help student's mental health struggles and offers workshops to talk about these things in a group setting, all free of charge. Thanks to **the great community** I experienced at the AKS in my major specifically, I luckily never had to deal with many big difficulties which I am very grateful for.

Jacqueline KAMPHAUSEN

✓ Currently enrolled in Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies

3-1. **Benefits** of studying at the AKS

Usually, Korean University tuitions are very high and it is amazing that the **AKS offers their programs free of charge for all foreign students**. Additionally, it has more **scholarship opportunities** as well as quite a few options to **work part time on campus**. Apart from financial benefits, the AKS has a great specialized library and many competent professors with expertise in a wide range of fields connected to Korean studies. So, no matter what specific interest one might have, there is a **high chance of finding a professor skilled in that specific field**.

Jacqueline KAMPHAUSEN

✓ Currently enrolled in Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies

3-2. **Benefits** of studying at the AKS

Also, while studying here, the course options are not limited to your own major. As long as your Korean level is high enough, **everyone is welcome to attend any majors' classes**. Also, the AKS has many **sister universities** including Seoul National University, Korea University etc. where you can take courses as well. So even though this is a small institution, there are many opportunities to attend a wide range of classes.

Jacqueline KAMPHAUSEN

- ✓ Currently enrolled in Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies

4. To potential applicants of the AKS

If you consider applying to this institution, I will highly recommend **starting the process as early as possible**. There are many document requirements, and some take longer to obtain than others, especially in Germany. So good time management is essential and I am sure this doesn't just go for the AKS but any school you are planning to apply for.



Santosh Kumar Ranjan

- ✓ 2012 Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies
- ✓ Assistant Professor at **Jawaharlal Nehru University**

“If you want to study Korean studies properly, I highly recommend the Graduate School of Korean Studies, the Academy of Korean Studies, which has a **beautiful Korean traditional campus, expert professors, and caring staff**. Don't miss out on the great opportunity to work on your research in the **library, which has an abundance of resources.**”



Kelly Jane Ompad

- ✓ 2020 Master's Degree in Korean Cultural Studies
- ✓ **Admissions Reader** in the Admissions Dept. at the **University of Colorado Boulder** and Freelance Translator

- ✓ **About the GKS Program**

My proudest achievement in life so far is being a GKS scholarship recipient. It gave me the opportunity to not only live abroad while obtaining my graduate degree, but it also supported me financially in so many aspects, which I know is one of the biggest struggles in acquiring higher education. Receiving that kind of help **alleviated a lot of stress which helped me focus more on my studies!**



Kelly Jane Ompad

✓ About the Graduate School of Korean Studies

- ✓ I miss AKS terribly. The environment and surroundings are so **peaceful and relaxing**. It is **the best place to study**. I can always rely on taking short breaks around the campus because the scenery is beautiful. The admin office staff are also super quick and helpful. Plus the **Korean language courses and teachers are amazing**. The **classes are small** so it's a lot easier for students and teachers/professors to discuss and engage more. In my experience, the professors in my department were all amazing and always ready to help, so don't be afraid to email them or visit them during office hours!





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 -

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

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