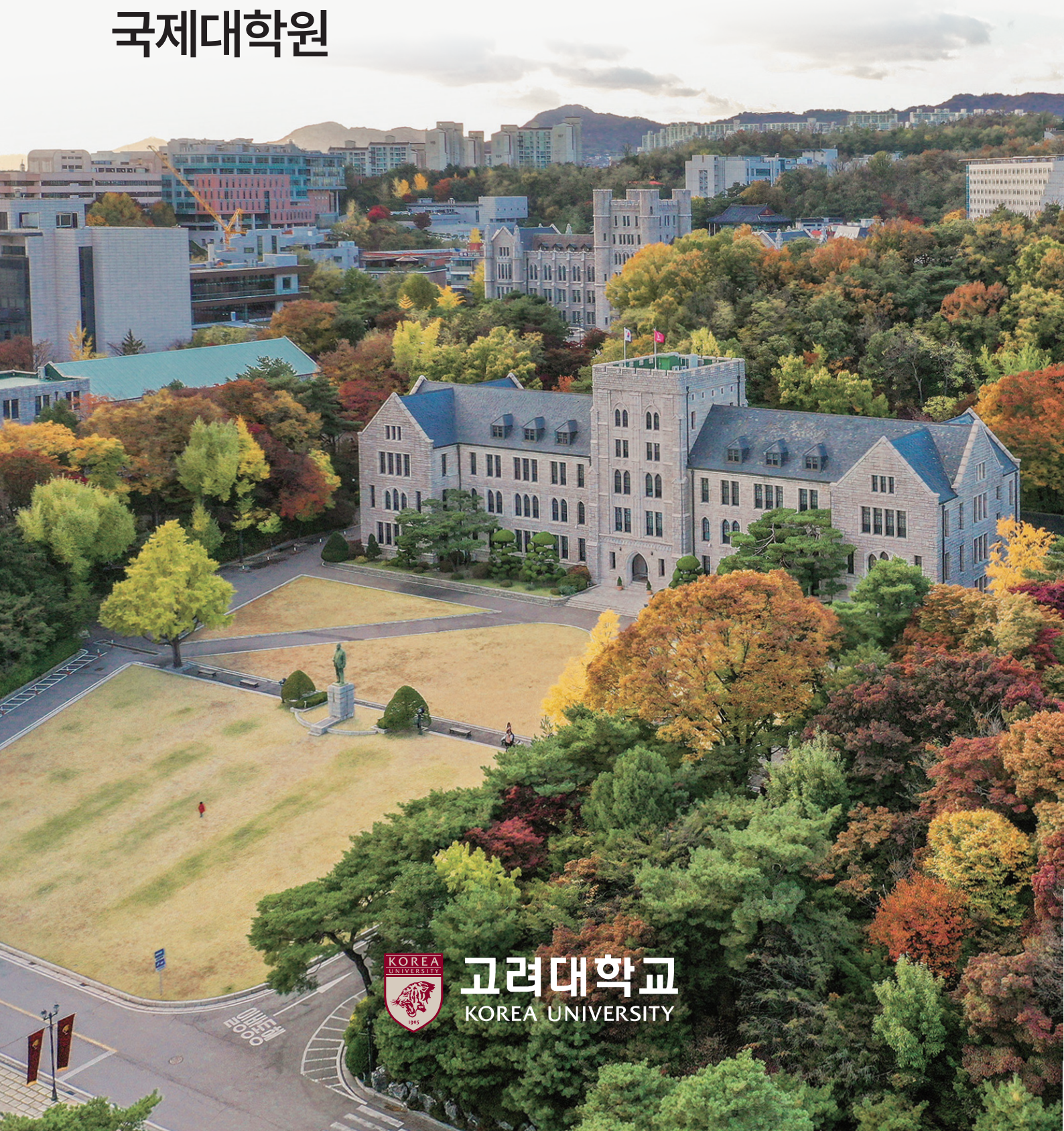


Graduate School of International Studies

국제대학원



고려대학교
KOREA UNIVERSITY

Message from the Dean

Welcome to the Graduate School of International Studies at Korea University.

KU GSIS offers innovative curricula and leads cutting-edge research to foster a deep understanding of global issues and deliver practical solutions. With more than 300 students from diverse national and cultural backgrounds and more than 50 lecturers with outstanding academic and field expertise, our programs are truly international in scope.

KU GSIS was founded in 1991 to address the growing challenges of globalization. KU GSIS continues to make significant contributions in research, education, and social engagement.

Today's global political economy is at a crossroads, marked by rising nationalism, protectionism, and regional security threats. Emerging challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development demand creative and forward-thinking approaches. International studies must advance across research, education, and social impact to meet these demands.

KU GSIS will continue to address global challenges, shaping the future of international education and policy. I invite you to follow our journey and be part of a vibrant academic community that makes a difference.

Thank you very much.

Why Korea University GSIS?



Rigorous graduate education in international affairs



Distinguished faculty with academic and professional expertise



International student community and global perspectives



Strong focus on research, policy, and practical engagement



Excellent preparation for careers in global fields



Strategic location in Seoul, a major hub in Asia

The Graduate School of International Studies at Korea University offers advanced education for students seeking to deepen their understanding of global affairs and preparing for careers in academia, policy, business, and international organizations. With a rigorous curriculum, distinguished faculty, and a highly international academic community, KU GSIS provides a graduate education that combines scholarly depth with real-world relevance.

Students at KU GSIS engage with contemporary international issues through specialized coursework, research, and close faculty mentorship. Many faculty members bring both academic distinction and professional experience from work with governments, companies international organizations, research institutes, and NGOs. Located in Seoul, KU GSIS offers students the opportunity to study global issues in one of Asia's most dynamic political, economic, and cultural centers.

At KU GSIS, students gain not only advanced knowledge, but also the insights, perspectives, and professional preparation needed to lead in a complex and interconnected world.

World-Class Faculty

The faculty of Korea University's Graduate School of International Studies provide high-quality education based on their expertise in diverse fields, including global affairs, Korean studies, development, commerce, peace and security. The faculty combines academic excellence with practical insight to foster students' critical thinking, interdisciplinary learning, and global awareness.



More than 50 lecturers with a wide range of expertise

50

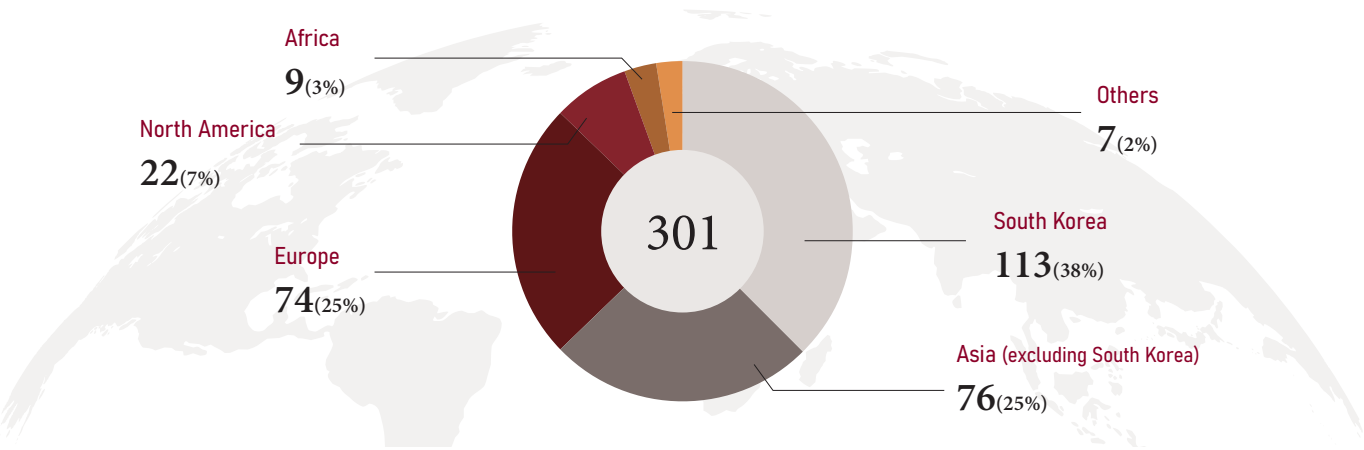


Full time professors

25



Number of Students (2025)



International Students by Degree (%)

(MA 65%, PhD 36%, Total 62%)

Degree	Major
Master's Degree (2 years)	International Commerce
	International Development & Cooperation
	International Peace & Security
	Area Studies
	Korean Studies
Doctoral Degree	International Commerce
	International Relations
	International Development
	Korean Studies

Master of Arts

International Commerce

This program is to provide students with an enhanced understanding of international commerce within the process of globalization. Relevant courses will equip students with the skills, knowledge and experiences necessary in the fields of trade, finance, business and marketing. A wide range of relevant courses include: macroeconomics, strategic management, electronic commerce, multilateral and regional cooperation for economic development, foreign direct investment, and money and banking.

International Development & Cooperation

This program deals with critical issues in international development. Students will explore various aspects of interactions among states, international organizations, aid agencies, and individuals in reducing poverty & inequality, achieving sustainable development, and addressing climate change. IDC professors at KU GSIS specialize in the following topics: education, climate change, human rights, water, environment, urban studies, gender, poverty and inequality, international trade and FDI, international law, and human rights.

Area Studies

This program offers students the opportunity to develop a deep and broad understanding of issues related to various world regions. Area studies at KU GSIS primarily focus on three regions: East Asia; Southeast Asia; and Europe. Further expertise among KU GSIS faculty allows the study of other regions such as North America (Canada & US), Sub-Saharan Africa, and Russia.



International Peace & Security

This program provides rigorous and policy-related courses in global politics with a special focus on peace and security. A series of courses on international peace and security include: World Politics, International Negotiation, Comparative Foreign Policy, History of International Relations, International Relations in East Asia, Approaches to International Peace, North-South Korea Relations, International Law and Human Rights.

Korean Studies

This program aims to equip students with an enhanced understanding of Korea, including its contemporary social modernization, and economic development. All the courses in the program are taught in English. In addition, high-level Korean language and reading classes are available in Korean for students who want to have intensive training in the Korean language. Current courses include: Modern History of Korea, Social Movement and Political Change, Social Problems in Korea, Korean Economy, Korean Cinema in the Global Context, and Dynamics of Korean Management.

Doctor of Philosophy

International Commerce

The doctoral program in International Commerce combines economic and business theories with quantitative and econometric methods to address real-world challenges. This holistic approach provides students with a deep understanding of international economics, business, and finance. The research topics include but are not limited to, traditional international economics and business subjects such as Free Trade Agreements (FTA), World Trade Organization (WTO) structures, trade conflict resolutions, the international economic aspects of climate change, foreign aids, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and international portfolio investment.

Emerging topics include the impact of emerging technologies (AI, robotics, e-commerce), international marketing, e-business, international labor markets, as well as open macroeconomics.

The doctoral graduates will be equipped with empirical analysis capabilities and positioned to pursue careers as international commerce experts and data analysis specialists in various fields, including academia, economic and business research institutes, international organizations, and private sectors.

International Development

From global macro issues to carefully-crafted micro research, the International development program offers specializations across a range research topics, including sustainable development, international trade and economic development, multilateral and regional cooperation, international organizations, human rights, water, poverty, inequality, social justice, urban development, climate change, energy security, gender, education, and migration.

International Relations

International Relations program offers a broad spectrum of themes and methodological approaches, spanning from theoretical exploration of macro-level structural issues to the meticulous crafting of micro-level empirical research. The program emphasizes teaching and research with strong policy relevance. Potential research topics include, but are not limited to, international peace and security, international political economy, foreign policy, international law, and global governance, particularly within the context of human rights and sustainable development.

Korean Studies

The Doctoral Program in Korean Studies offers opportunities for students interested in the transformation of Korea with multidisciplinary approaches from sociology, political science, economics, history and cultural studies. With an emphasis on cutting-edge research themes, comparative perspectives and innovative methodologies, the program provides a platform to research contemporary issues in Korea, including political transitions, industrial innovations, and social transformations within the context of shifting global challenges. The courses in the program are offered in English with opportunities for high-level Korean language and reading classes for students who prefer intensive language training. Our students work closely with their advisors to develop original, future-oriented research programs that leverage students' skills, interests, experience, and knowledge.





Special Program

BK21 Program of Glocal Studies (2020.09~2027.08)

Supports scholarships, special lectures, short-term and long-term research trips, special workshops

- Government-funded, 7-year graduate student education
- Fosters future leaders in glocal conflict management

CAMPUS Asia Plus Program

- Korea-China-Japan Trilateral Cooperation in Higher Education
- Career Programs for Experts in Risk Management
- Dual & Exchange Programs: Kobe University & Fudan University
- Tuition fees waived, support for living, airfare, language training

Digital Commerce Expert Program (MA and PhD)

Scholarships, certificates, joint research projects, special lectures, internships

- Nurture digital commerce specialists at MA and PhD levels (IC majors and Korean nationals)

Global Human Rights Program

- Trains human rights experts through inter-disciplinary studies
- Supports 2–6-months internships (airfare and accommodation)
- Provides mentoring and career development, special lecture series

Certificate Programs

KU GSIS will award the certificates to students who have received a GPA of 4.0 or above in 3 or more courses in the designated list.

- Certificate of Completion in East Asian Studies
- Certificate of Completion in European Studies
- Certificate of Completion in Korean Studies
- Certificate of Completion in Human Rights Studies
- Certificate of Completion in Digital Commerce
- CAMPUS Asia Joint Certificate in Risk Management

Internships

KU GSIS offers diverse internship opportunities that enable students to apply classroom knowledge in real-world international settings. Through internships with international organizations, government agencies, research institutes, NGOs, and global companies, students gain valuable professional experience while strengthening practical skills, cross-cultural communication, and global perspectives. These opportunities help prepare students to become confident and capable professionals in the international arena.

Dual Degree & Exchange Programs

KU GSIS offers diverse dual degree and exchange programs with distinguished partner institutions around the world, giving students the opportunity to study in diverse academic and cultural environments. Through these programs, students can broaden their academic perspectives, strengthen cross-cultural communication skills, and build valuable global networks while earning academic credits—or dual degrees from both KU GSIS and partner universities. These transformative experiences prepare students to navigate complex international challenges and pursue successful careers in an interconnected world.

 School of International Service, American University, United States	 Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Japan	 School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University, China
 Master of Advanced International Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Austria	 Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan	 School of Finance and Management at SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom

Scholarships

- ✓ Admission Scholarship
- ✓ BK21 Scholarship
- ✓ Academic Scholarship for Excellence
- ✓ CAMPUS Asia Scholarship
- ✓ Research / Teaching Assistant Scholarship
- ✓ International Student Scholarship
- ✓ NIIED Scholarship
- ✓ Pony Chung – KU GSIS Invitation Scholarship
- ✓ KOICA Scholarship
- ✓ Internship Scholarship

KU GSIS offers scholarship opportunities to help outstanding students reduce their financial burden and focus on their studies and research.

In addition to university scholarships awarded based on admission results and academic achievement, students can also receive scholarships from government agencies and external organizations, as well as financial support linked to international exchange programs. These opportunities are designed to reflect the diverse backgrounds and needs of both domestic and international students, providing a strong foundation for academic growth and the development of future global leaders.

Internship Partners

- 




- UNICEF Vientiane
 - UNESCO Bangkok
 - UNESCAP Bangkok
 - OECD Paris
 - Vanderlande Logistics Korea

KU-IO Fellowship Program

GSIS Students who are participating in internship programs of partner international organizations are given a monthly living allowance scholarship.

Student Activities

Learning at KU GSIS extends beyond the classroom. Students from diverse national and cultural backgrounds participate in seminars, special lectures, academic events, student-led projects, sports and cultural activities.

Through these experiences, students expand their knowledge, exchange perspectives on global issues, and develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Student associations and clubs also offer valuable opportunities to build lasting friendships with peers from around the world.

KU GSIS is a dynamic community where students learn, connect, and grow together.

KU GSIS Student Societies

Human Rights Society	East Asia Society
EU Society	Society for Climate Change and Sustainable Development
Southeast Asia Society	Latin America Society (LAS)
Korean Studies Society (KSS)	



Alumni Pathways

KU GSIS is making an impact across a wide range of fields around the world, drawing on their in-depth understanding of international affairs and strong professional expertise.

Our graduates pursue careers in international organizations, government and public institutions, global corporations, financial institutions, research centers, NGOs, media, and academia. The academic knowledge, analytical skills, and cross-cultural communication abilities developed at KU GSIS provide a strong foundation for addressing complex global challenges and succeeding in international environments.



Yoojeong Jeong | UNHCR / International Criminal Court



Writing my master's thesis on refugee situations at KU GSIS was one of the biggest turning points in my journey. It sparked a deep urge to go into the field and witness firsthand how refugees actually live. Revising it for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal was a challenge that sharpened my writing in ways I still rely on today. My desire to work directly with displaced communities led me to join UNHCR and ultimately to my current position, where I tackle the root causes of refugee situations. KU GSIS is where my dreams took shape and my career truly began.

Seunghee Woo | Good Neighbors



For me, KU GSIS was where I took my first step into the field of development. In particular, the wide range of international academic programs offered by the School gave me opportunities to go beyond Korea, meet people from diverse countries, exchange ideas, and broaden my perspective.

Saeil Kim | KOICA / World Bank



My studies and experiences at Korea University GSIS marked an important starting point in my career in international development cooperation. Studying at Kobe University through the CAMPUS Asia Program broadened my global perspective. The academic training I received at KU GSIS—including quantitative methods, macroeconomics, and econometrics—also laid a solid foundation for my work in statistics and data analysis at KOICA and the World Bank. KU GSIS opened the door to meaningful career opportunities in international organizations and development cooperation.

CHRIS ZIEGLER | UNDP Seoul Policy Center



The broad range of classes I took helped me a great deal in my current work. Because my job is broad in nature and involves many different tasks, being exposed to a variety of topics and approaches at GSIS was especially valuable. My main advice to students interested in working for international organizations is to start early and apply for internships.

Admissions

Procedure	Fall semester	Spring semester
Online Application & Documents Submission	March ~ April	September ~ October
Interview	May	November
Admission Decision Notification	June	December
Tuition payment	July	January
Orientation & Course Registration	August	February

Join a dynamic international community where diverse perspectives, academic excellence, and global opportunities come together. Korea University . KU GSIS welcomes talented and motivated students who aspire to deepen their understanding of global affairs and make a meaningful impact on the world. Take the first step toward your future and discover new possibilities at KU GSIS.



Advancing Global Insight, Shaping International Leadership



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