



Korea



• Admission Qualifications for Post-secondary Schools

Course	Qualifications	Course Length
Doctoral	The applicant who has completed a master's degree	At least 2 years
Master's	The applicant who has completed a bachelor's degree	At least 2 years
Undergraduate	The applicant who has completed primary and secondary education in his/her country of origin (12 years total)	4~6 years
College	The applicant who has completed primary and secondary education in his/her country of origin (12 years total)	2~3 years
Language Course	The applicant who has completed secondary education or beyond	1~2 year(s)
Exchange Student	Anyone enrolled at a partner university	1 semester ~1 year
Short-term Self-funded Study	Study at a Korea university on an exchange program with the home university and/or a student on leave or who has graduated from the home university	1 semester ~1 year
Vacation Study for Foreigners	Foreign students participating in programs related to Korean Language or Korean studies held during the summer or winter vacations	2~3 months

※ Students from countries with school systems which are less than 12 years should submit documentary evidence to prove the completion of complete schooling from elementary school through high school to the President of the university they intend to enroll in.

3 Applying for and receiving a visa

Students wishing to study abroad must first receive a university admission letter and prepare the necessary documents for entry into Korea. You must then obtain a visa from a Korean embassy or consulate in your country of residence. The type of visa required differs according to the type of study you undertake at your chosen Korean university (for example, regular degrees, Korean culture program, or language training). Foreign students who will pursue a standard degree must receive a D-2 visa, whereas students who plan on enrolling in non-degree seeking programs (such as Korean language study or other foreign language study) will need to obtain a D-4 visa. Excluding extraordinary circumstances, all foreign students must first obtain a certificate of visa issuance approval before applying for a visa in order to accelerate the visa issuance process.

(1) Certificate for Confirmation of Visa Issuance

What is certificate for recognition of visa issuance?

Upon request for visa issuance approval by a foreign visa applicant or a Korean national trying to invite a foreigner, the Minister of Justice or the head of the Immigration Office can do a preliminary inspection on the subject. Should they deem it necessary after the inspection,

they may issue a certificate of visa issuance approval (or visa issuance approval number) prior to the actual visa issuance by the head of the overseas consulate.

Procedure

- A foreigner who intends to enter Korea or a Korean trying to invite a foreigner can apply for a certificate of visa issuance approval to an Immigration Office (including local branch offices) within their jurisdiction along with the required documents for visa issuance.
- Send the certificate of visa issuance approval (or visa issuance approval no.) to the person intending to enter Korea
- Upon receiving the certificate of visa issuance approval (or visa issuance approval no.), the person can obtain a Korean visa by presenting it to the Korean consulate.

※ The certificate of visa issuance approval is valid for 3 months and can only be used for a single visa issuance only.

Eligible subjects of visa issuance approval

- Nationals of countries that lack diplomatic relationship with Korea or otherwise specially designated countries
- Those eligible for Korean Arts and Culture (D-1), Student (D-2), Industrial Trainee (D-3), General Trainee (D-4), Long-Term News Coverage (D-5), Religious Worker (D-6), Intra-Company Transferee (D-7), Corporate/Foreign Investor (D-8), International Trade (D-9), Professor (E-1), Foreign Language Instructor (E-2), Researcher (E-3), Technical Instructor/Technician (E-4), Professional (E-5), Artist / Athlete (E-6), Foreign National of Special Ability (E-7), Non-Professional (E-9), Coastal Crew (E-10), Family Visitor (F-1), Resident (F-2), Dependent Family (F-3), Overseas Korean (F-4), Miscellaneous (G-1), and Work and Visit (H-2)
- A person whose necessity is acknowledged by the Minister of Justice

※ Those not eligible for visa issuance approval

- Those with Diplomat (A-1), Foreign Government Official (A-2), International Agreement (A-3), Visa Exempted (B-1), Tourist/Transit (B-2), Resident (F-2), Overseas Korean (F-4), Permanent Resident (F-5), Marriage Migrant (F-6), Working Holiday (H-1).

※ Notification of Confirmation of Visa Issuance

- Confirmation of Visa Issuance number is notified through e-mails in principle.
- As an exception, Confirmation of Visa Issuance is directly issued for unavoidable circumstances where notification of Confirmation of Visa Issuance number is not possible.

※ You need to give a correct e-mail address for notification of Confirmation of Visa Issuance when applying for Confirmation of Visa Issuance.

(2) Student visa (D-2)

⊙ Eligible Applicants

Study and research at educational, academic institutions (community college or higher)

- A person who wants to study, research or enroll in a full-time program (i.e. Bachelor's, Master, Ph.D.) at academic institutions (community college or higher) established under either the Higher Education Act or the Special Act.

◎ Maximum length of stay

Up to 2 years for each extension of stay

◎ Application Centre

By principle, you must apply at a Korean diplomatic mission in your country or in a country where your last school is located.

◎ Required Documents

※ Please indicate your English name on the Korean version and enclose a photocopy of your passport.

COMMON DOCUMENTS

- ① Visa application form (form #17), copy of passport, 1 passport photo (taken within the last six months)
- ② Copy of Business Registration Certificate (or distinct number certificate) of a respective academic institution
- ③ Standard Acceptance Letter (issued by the dean/president of the university)
 - ☞ However, government scholarship students invited by the Ministry of National Defense or National Institute for International Education may substitute this document with an invitation letter issued by the Minister of National Defense or the Director of the National Institute for International Education (such as a certificate verifying scholarship status of a foreign student invited by the government).
- ④ Documents proving your family relations (only needed when submitting documents such as certificate of your parent's bank balance)

Examples of Family Relations Certificates

China: Family Relations Registry or notarized document proving family relations, **Philippines:** Family Census, **Indonesia:** Certificate of family relations (KARTU KELUARGA), **Bangladesh:** 점머 까까즈 or 점마 싸이드티켓, **Vietnam:** 호적부 (So Ho Khau) or Birth Certificate (Giay khai sinh), **Mongolia:** Certificate of Family Relations, **Pakistan:** Family Certificate, **Sri Lanka:** பாவலர் Certificate, **Myanmar:** Family Relations Certificate (잉타웅수사옌), **Nepal:** 전마달다, **Kyrgyzstan/Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan/Ukraine/Thailand:** Birth Certificate

⑤ Documents for proving your highest level of education

- As a rule, students should submit original copies of all documents for proving your highest level of education. However, a copy of your diploma or other proof of degree can be accepted if a relevant school authority signs the document verifying its authenticity. When submitting a proof of degree document obtained by an individual directly from an institution, only documents which are not past their validity period will be recognized. This period of validity is usually 30 days, but extensions are possible.
- Citizens of the following 21 countries, as well as students who have received degrees from universities in foreign student critical management countries, must choose one option from A, B, or C when submitting proof of highest level of education. (For China, only C is available)
 - Above mentioned 21 countries: Ghana, Nigeria, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Iran, Egypt, India, Indonesia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines
 - Foreign student critical management countries: Guinea, Mali, Ethiopia, Uganda, Cameroon

- A) An apostilled copy of diploma
 - B) A copy of diploma verified by a Korean consulate in the country of the university that issued diploma, or a copy of diploma verified by your country's diplomatic mission in Korea
 - C) For China, an authorized document such as a diploma issued by a degree/diploma certification center run by the Chinese Ministry of Education (limited to individuals who received a degree in China)
- ※ Graduates of technical high schools which do not issue certified documents such as diplomas must submit one of the following:
- i) Certification of graduation issued by the school (must be verified by provincial-level office of education and Korean diplomatic mission in China), or
 - ii) A certificate of graduation issued by provincial-level office of education (must be verified by Korean diplomatic mission in China)
- ※ In the case of individuals who received a diploma from a South Korean university, diplomas which have not received official verification will be accepted
- For individuals not from the above mentioned 21 countries, in cases of suspected forgery, documentation corresponding to A~C (specified above) may be demanded at the discretion of the director of the immigration office (or local branch director).
- ⑥ Proof of financial ability
- Sufficient funds to support yourself for one year of tuition and living expenses

• Required documents according to course of study

Specific Research Program	⑤ Documents proving your highest level of education (must hold a master's degree or higher)
	⑥ Proof of financial ability (i.e. bank statement, verification of research allowance)
	⑦ Documents proving specific research program (i.e. certification of research student status issued by university president)
Exchange Program	⑤ Exempted from submitting documents proving your highest level of education (however, individuals must submit proof of language ability)
	⑥ Proof of financial ability (on the assumption that tuition is paid in country of origin)
	⑦ Letter of recommendation from the dean of the university you attend in your home country
	⑧ Document proving your status as foreign exchange student (i.e. official invitation letter from university or agreement of student exchange between universities)
	⑨ Document verifying you have completed at least one semester at your home university (i.e. proof of enrollment issued by home university)
Entrusted Foreign Soldier Trainee Invited by Ministry of National Defense	④ Proof of family relations - exempt
	⑤ Proof of your highest level of education - exempt
	⑥ Proof of financial ability - exempt
	⑦ Letter of invitation issued by the Ministry of National Defense

※ Additional required documents can be demanded on a case by case basis