

2026 AKS Graduate Fellowship Application Guidelines

The Graduate School of Korean Studies (GSKS), the Academy of Korean Studies(AKS), which is responsible to the Ministry of Education, is a research-oriented graduate school in the fields of humanities and social sciences pertinent to Korea. It was established in 1980 with the aim of nurturing scholars who will contribute to the development and globalization of Korean studies.

Since then, GSKS has been providing intensive research-oriented education through eminent professors' close mentoring of students. Currently, approximately 200 students, including 100 international students from 31 different countries, are enrolled in the Master's and doctoral degree program at GSKS.

The AKS Graduate Fellowship is GSKS' non-degree program which invites international graduate students to the AKS and supports them for six months, providing them with a momentum to grow to be a next generation of promising scholars in Korean studies.

AKS Graduate Fellows for the period from 1st September 2026 to 28th February 2027 are now being sought. Those who aspire to widen and deepen their knowledge of Korea by conducting research at GSKS are very welcome to apply.

1. Fellowship Benefits

- A. **Monthly stipend of 750,000 KRW** is provided.
- B. An economy-class **round trip airfare** at actual expense is provided within the limit set in the '2026 Fiscal Guidance of the Ministry of Economy and Finance'*, but cannot exceed 2,088,000 KRW per person.
 - * Please refer to the attachment.
- C. The **on-campus dormitory** is available free of charge.
- D. Fellowship Period: From **1st Sep 2026** to **28th Feb 2027** (6 months in total)
 - ※ Extension is not allowed.
- E. Fellows are required to **designate one of the AKS' professors** whose specialty is most relevant to their research topic as their academic advisor, who will guide them through the fellowship period.
- F. Access to the AKS facilities including the library and Jangseogak Archives is given.
- G. **Korean language courses are available free of charge.**

2. Eligibility

As of the beginning of the fellowship period (1 September 2026), applicants should meet all of the following criteria:

	Qualifications
Nationality	An applicant should be either a foreign national or a Korean national who has completed education outside of Korea which is compatible with Korea's elementary, middle, high school and college education.
Educational Background	Applicants must meet one of the following conditions: ① Applicants are enrolled in a Master's or a doctoral degree program at an overseas university ② Applicants completed coursework and are in the status of ABD (All But Dissertation) in a Master's degree program at an overseas university ※ ABD students in a doctoral degree program at an overseas university are NOT eligible for AKS Graduate Fellowship.
Research Topic	An applicant's research topic should pertain to Korea/Korean studies.

※ An applicant with Korean language proficiency is preferred.

※ Previous AKS Graduate Fellows are not eligible to apply again.

3. Maximum Number of Fellows Sought: 5

※ If there is no qualified candidate, no selection will be made.

4. Recruitment Schedule

Process	Deadline (KST)	Remarks
Online Application	10:00 Mon 27 April 2026 ~ 17:00 Fri 8 May 2026	gradaks.recruiter.co.kr
Announcement of Selection Result	17:00 Fri 26 Jun 2026	https://grad.aks.ac.kr/index.do?lang=eng

※ The schedule may change under the unexpected conditions.

5. Required Documents

No.	Required Documents	Within application period			After announce-ment of selection result	Remarks
		Online Submission at gradaks.recruiter.co.kr		E-mail Submission	Submission of Original Copies by Post	
		By Inputting Information	By Uploading Files			
1	Application form	<input type="radio"/>				
2	Personal statement		<input type="radio"/>			
3	Research plan		<input type="radio"/>			
4	Certificate of graduation and official transcripts for a bachelor's degree		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	
5	Certificate of enrollment (or coursework completion, or graduation) and official transcripts for a Master's degree		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	
6	Letter of recommendation			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
7	Certificate of enrollment and official transcripts for a doctoral degree		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	If applicable
8	Language proficiency certificate(s) (i.g. TOPIK, TOEFL, or IELTS)		<input type="radio"/>			If applicable
9	A copy of passport		<input type="radio"/>			
10	An ID photo		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	

※ Please note that failure to submit the above documents #1~#6 leads to disqualification.

※ Certificates must be written in Korean or in English. If not, they must be translated into either in Korean or in English and notarized.

A. Online Application

- Applicant's information should be saved and required files uploaded at **gradaks.recruiter.co.kr**.
- Applicants should **designate one of the AKS' professors whose specialty is most relevant to their research topic as their academic advisor**, referring to the list of the AKS' faculty members at grad.aks.ac.kr - [대학원 소개 About the Graduate School of Korean Studies] - [교수진 소개 Faculty Information]
<https://grad.aks.ac.kr/cms/usr/wap/selectAplctnDataList.do?siteAplctnId=professorUksU srEng&listAll=1&menuNo=1010140000&lang=eng>

※ **Application without selecting a professor will be disqualified.**

- ※ The professor chosen by an applicant can be changed by the Graduate School of Korean Studies if the professor selected by the applicant is not available due to his/her schedule or if there is another professor whose research area deems more in line with the applicant's.

B. Personal Statement

- It should be about 2 pages in length in a free format and written in Korean or in English.
- The file(MS-Word, PDF, or Hangeul format) should be uploaded at the website.

C. Research Plan

- It should be about 3 pages in length and written in Korean or in English.
- Referring to the introduction of a Master's degree thesis in general, applicants should include a research subject, research purpose, analysis of the previous research, research contents, research method, expected effect/value of the research, research schedule, and bibliography.
- The file(MS-Word, PDF, or Hangeul format) should be uploaded at the website.

D. Certificate of graduation and official transcripts for a bachelor's degree

- A scanned copy should be uploaded at the website.
- Successful applicants who are finally selected are required to submit an original copy by post.

E. Certificate of enrollment (or coursework completion, or graduation) and official transcripts for a Master's degree

- A scanned copy should be uploaded at the website.

- Successful applicants who are finally selected are required to submit an original copy by post.

F. Letter of Recommendation

- A letter of recommendation should be written by an applicant's academic advisor during his/her Master's or doctoral degree program with a length of one A4 page, free format, in Korean or in English.
- A recommender should send the letter of recommendation by email to **grad_fellowship@aks.ac.kr** from his/her own email account within the application period. A letter of recommendation sent from an applicant's email account is not acceptable.
- Successful applicants who are finally selected are required to submit an original copy by post.

G. Certificate of enrollment and official transcripts for a doctoral degree (if applicable)

- A scanned copy should be uploaded at the website.
- Successful applicants who are finally selected are required to submit an original copy by post.

H. Official certificate of test results in Korean language proficiency (TOPIK) or English language proficiency (TOEFL or IELTS) (if applicable)

- It should be valid as of application deadline.
- A scanned copy should be uploaded at the website.

I. A copy of the first two pages of the applicant's passport

- A scanned copy should be uploaded at the website.

J. A color ID photo (3.5cmX4.5cm) taken within the recent 6 months

- In the photo, both ears must be shown and the background color should be white.
- A scanned copy should be uploaded at the website.
- Successful applicants who are finally selected are required to submit an original copy by post.

6. Important Notes

- A. All the certificates must be original copies (as opposed to xeroxed copies) written in Korean or in English.
 - If certificates are written in a language other than Korean or English, they must be translated into either Korean or English and notarized.
- B. Once submitted, documents will not be returned.

7. Documents Submission

- Successful applicants who are finally selected are required to send original copies of documents by post to the following address:

[In English]

The Graduate School of Korean Studies

The Academy of Korean Studies

Haogae-ro 323, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do

Republic of Korea (Postcode: 13455)

☎+82-31-730-8185

✉ grad_fellowship@aks.ac.kr

[In Korean]

우편번호 13455

경기도 성남시 분당구 하오개로 323

한국학중앙연구원 한국학대학원

☎+82-31-730-8185

✉ grad_fellowship@aks.ac.kr

8. Fellows' Obligations

A. Proof of Eligibility in Academic Background

- 1) Fellows must submit an original copy of the certificate or a letter from their home university that verifies their eligibility in terms of academic background, i.e. that they are

① enrolled in a Master's degree program; or

- ② completed coursework of a Master's degree program; or
- ③ enrolled in a doctoral degree program and not yet in the ABD(All But Dissertation) status **as of 1 September 2026.**

2) Submission Deadline: **21 September 2026** (Within 3 weeks after the fellowship period begins)

※ Failure to do so will lead to revocation of the fellowship.

B. Academic Advisor

- Fellows should designate one of the AKS' professors whose specialty is most relevant to their research topic as their academic advisor.

C. Taking Courses

- 1) Fellows must take at least one major-specific course taught by their academic advisor, or design an independent study with fellow's own topic and research plan with their academic advisor.
- 2) Credits are not given for courses taken. Instead, courses are graded S(Successful) or U(Unsuccessful), and fellows must obtain "S" for courses taken.

D. Presentation

- 1) Towards the end of the fellowship period, there will be a presentation session where fellows must present their research findings.
- 2) If fellows must leave Korea before the fellowship period ends due to the compelling issue, they should have an individual presentation. Time and place of the individual presentation must be settled by the fellow himself/herself and his/her academic advisor and informed to the Office of Academic & Student Affairs at least 1 week ahead.

E. Final Report

- 1) Completing their research, fellows must submit either a thesis or a report summarizing their research findings to both the Office of Academic & Student Affairs and their academic advisors before they leave the country.
- 2) A thesis or a report must be **minimum 16,000 letters(including spaces) in length when written in Korean, and minimum 5,000 words when written in English, excluding the bibliography.**

F. When publishing a thesis or a book with research findings achieved during the fellowship period, fellows must state that they are the outcome of the research conducted with the support of the Graduate School of Korean Studies, the Academy of Korean Studies

G. Stay in Korea

- 1) It is advised that fellows subscribe to a health insurance at their own expense for the fellowship period to provide against medical or accidental emergencies.
- 2) Fellows must stay in Korea and concentrate on their research during the fellowship period. Exceptions can be made when fellows temporarily leave the country in order to present their research findings at an academic conference abroad with a prior approval of the Dean of the Graduate School of Korean Studies.
- 3) Towards the end of the fellowship period, fellows must submit the Certificate of Entry & Exit issued by the Community Service Center to the Office of Academic & Student Affairs and prove their stay in Korea.
- 4) During the fellowship period, fellows are not allowed to be engaged in other occupations for financial purposes.
- 5) During the fellowship period, fellows are not permitted to register at another educational institutions in Korea.

H. As for items not stipulated here, fellows must abide by the rules and regulations of the AKS and decisions of the Graduate School Committee.

I. Every obligation (especially submission of a final report, presentation of research findings, and submission of the Certificate of Entry & Exit) must be completed at least 2 weeks before departure.

- The e-ticket for returning flight as well as its purchase details should also be presented at least 2 weeks before departure.

9. Provision of Monthly Stipend and Airfare

A. Monthly Stipend

- 1) The monthly stipend is provided in the beginning of each month, except for the first month of the fellowship period, when the monthly stipend is provided after

fellows' Foreigner Registration Cards are issued by Seoul Immigration Office and their Korean bank accounts made.

- 2) When the deduction cause arises such as delayed entrance, early departure, or staying abroad, the stipend will be deducted at the rate of 25,000 KRW per day.

B. Airfare

- 1) Round trip airfare is provided in the final month **after all of the fellow's obligations is completed.**
- 2) Only one way airfare (within 50% of the round trip airfare) is offered in the following cases:
 - a) If fellows arrive in Korea before the notification of the selection result and reside in the country
 - b) If fellows stay in Korea after their visa for the fellowship expires
- 3) Airfare is not provided under the following cases:
 - a) If fellows fail to complete the required number of classes (15 weeks) and give up their research
 - b) If fellows fail to make a presentation or submit their final report
 - c) If fellows obtain "U(Unsuccessful)" for courses taken

C. In the following cases, the provision of the AKS Graduate Fellowship can be cancelled and monthly stipend as well as airfare provided can be redeemed according to the decision of the Graduate School Committee:

- 1) If it turns out that the provided information on the application form is false and that the applicant is not qualified
- 2) If fellows fail to meet obligations specified above
- 3) With other reasons the Graduate School Committee acknowledges

10. Contact Us

- Tel: +82-31-730-8185
- Email: grad_fellowship@aks.ac.kr

Attachment: Maximum Round-trip Airfare Per City

[Attachment]

Maximum Round-trip Airfare Per City

(Unit: Korean Won)

Country	City	ECONOMY CLASS (Round-trip fare)
J a p a n	T o k y o	669,900
	O s a k a	554,300
	F u k u o k a	436,500
	S a p p o r o	767,500
	N a g o y a	605,600
	N i g a t a	650,900
	K o m a t s u	573,400
	O i t a	472,600
	O k i n a w a	730,900
	K a g o s h i m a	514,200
	A o m o r i	728,800
	O k a y a m a	508,600
	S e n d a i	715,400
	M i y a z a k i	535,800
C h i n a	B e i j i n g	723,000
	S h a n g h a i	684,000
	S h e n y a n g	604,600
	Q i n g d a o	560,400
	C h e n g d u	1,118,200
	Z h e n g z h o u	781,200
	C h a n g s h a	933,000
	D a i l a n	546,800
	G u a n g z h o u	1,041,400
	J i n a n	670,800
	N u d a n j i a n g	715,800
	S h e n z h e n	1,063,800
	Tunxi(Huangshan)	752,400
	T i a n j i n	672,400
W e i h a i	546,000	

Country	City	ECONOMY CLASS (Round-trip fare)
	W u h a n	885,200
	X i a m e n	933,000
	X i a n	965,800
	Y a n j i	650,000
	U r u m q i	1,322,800
	K u n m i n g	1,178,000
	H e f e i	870,000
	S h e n z h e n	1,063,800
	H a n g z h o u	801,200
	N a n j i n g	746,000
	Y a n c h e n g	884,900
	Y a n t a i	546,000
	C h o n g q i n g	1,089,600
	G u i l i n	1,101,200
	C h a n g c h u n	645,800
	H a r b i n	715,800
	H a i k o u	1,377,800
	Z h a n g j i a j i e	1,501,800
Mongolia	U l a a n b a a t a r	1,071,000
Taiwan	T a i p e i	626,600
Hongkong	H o n g k o n g	944,600
Macao(Macau)	M a c a o (M a c a u)	944,600
Philippines	M a n i l a	944,600
	C e b u	1,092,000
	C l a r k F i e l d	944,600
Thailand	B a n g k o k	1,377,600
	P h u k e t	1,451,400
	C h i a n g M a i	1,451,400
Vietnam	D a n a n g	1,275,600
	N h a T r a n g	1,403,100
	H o C h i M i n h	1,275,600
	H a n o i	1,275,600
	P h u Q u o c	1,548,000
Cambodia	P h n o m P e n h	1,345,200
	S i e m R e a p	1,320,000
Myanmar	Y a n g o n	1,531,000
Singapore	S i n g p a o r e	1,512,600
Malaysia	K u a l a L u m p u r	1,512,600
Indonesia	J a k a r t a	1,725,200
	D e n p a s a r	1,725,200

Country	City	ECONOMY CLASS (Round-trip fare)
Sri Lanka	C o l o m b o	2,050,000
Maldives	M a l e	2,667,100
N e p a l	K a t h m a n d u	2,236,000
I n d i a	M u m b a i	2,293,000
	D e l h i	2,177,000
A u s t r a l i a	S y d n e y B r i s b a n e	3,472,500
	C a i r n s	1,900,000
P a l a u	P a l a u	1,243,400
F i j i	N a d i	2,484,200
New Zealand	A u c k l a n d	3,569,600
U S A	H o l o l u l u	3,066,200
	Los Angeles San Francisco S e a t t l e	3,492,200
	L a s V e g a s	3,656,100
	New York B o s t o n Washington A t l a n t a	4,769,000
	C h i c a g o D a l l a s	4,605,700
	G u a m	837,800
	S a i p a n	880,000
C a n a d a	T o r o n t o	4,749,700
	V a n c o u v e r	3,492,200
Arab Emirates	D u b a i	2,440,700
I s r a e l	T e l A v i v	3,008,900
F r a n c e	P a r i s	3,488,500
U K	L o n d o n	3,488,500
Netherlands	A m s t e r d a m	3,020,200
G e r m a n y	F r a n k f u r t	3,488,500
I t a l y	R o m e	3,020,200
	M i l a n o	

Country	City	ECONOMY CLASS (Round-trip fare)
	V e n i c e	3,020,000
A u s t r i a	V i e n n a	3,020,200
S p a i n	M a d r i d B a r c e l o n a	3,488,500
Czech Republic	P r a h a	3,020,200
T u r k e y	I s t a n b u l	3,764,700
Switzerland	Z u r i c h	3,488,500
R u s s i a	M o s c o w Saint Petersburg	3,158,600
	V l a d i v o s t o k	962,000
	I r k u t s k	1,378,000
	K h a b a r o v s k	900,000
Uzbekistan	T a s h k e n t	2,061,200
Kazakhstan	A l m a t y	1,864,800
C r o a t i a	Z a g r e b	3,488,500

※ The above rate is set in the 2026 Fiscal Guidance of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. However, the provided round trip airfare cannot exceed 2,088,000 KRW per person.

※ The maximum airfare from/to the city not shown in the above table is decided as the same rate of the nearest city.