SSF Ref.no. 2025-025 Date: December 22, 2025

Announcement of 2026 Seoul Tech Scholarship

The Seoul Metropolitan Government is pleased to announce the 2026 Seoul Tech Scholarship, designed to support outstanding students from all countries in completing master's programs at graduate schools in Seoul. The program aims to nurture talented individuals who will contribute to the city's future industries.

1. Overview

☐ **Field of Selection**: Master's programs in science and engineering (STEM) at nine universities in Seoul

*For details on eligible departments: Refer to "Attachment 2: Detailed Information on Recruitment Majors."

☐ **Participating Universities (9)**

Konkuk University, Kyung Hee University, Korea University, Sogang University, Seoul National University of Science and Technology, Seoul National University, University of Seoul, Sungkyunkwan University, Soongsil University.

☐ **Number of Selected Students**: Approximately 30 students

☐ **Support Period**: Up to two years (renewable every six months after program commencement)

☐ **Support Details**: Full tuition coverage for the master's program (admission and tuition fees), academic incentives (living expenses, health insurance premiums, airfare)

2. Eligibility Requirements

- **Common Qualifications**: Applicants must meet all of the following criteria (① through ④):
- **Optional Qualifications**: For the language proficiency requirement (criterion ⑤, if applicable), refer to "Attachment 1: Admission Information for Universities."

① **Nationality**: Outstanding talents from all countries.

(※ Applicants who hold Korean nationality, or whose parents hold Korean nationality, shall not be eligible.)

② **Age**: Under 40 years of age (born on or after January 1, 1986)

③ **Education**: Applicants must have earned, or be expected to earn, a bachelor's degree from a university by August 31, 2026.

④ **Academic Performance**: Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

1) Percentage Score: 80 or higher
2) CGPA: 2.64/4.0, 2.8/4.3, 2.91/4.5, 3.23/5.0 or higher

- Transfer students will be evaluated based on the average of their combined grades from before and after the transfer.

⑤ **Language Proficiency**: Refer to "Attachment 1: Admission Information for Universities." for specific details on each university's admission criteria.

3. Submissions

☐ Required Documents

Category	Documents	Remarks
1. Application Documents (English or Korean)	① **Application Form** (Form 1)	Mandatory Online submission only
	② **Personal Statement** (Form 2)	
	③ **Study Plan** (Form 3)	
	④ **Letter of Recommendation** from a current university professor (Form 4) - Recommenders (e.g., advisor, department head) must objectively evaluate the applicant's academic performance, character, and achievements. The completed recommendation letter **must be sealed** and handed to the applicant.	Mandatory Postal submission Only
	⑤ **Applicant Agreement** (Form 5)	Mandatory

Category	Documents	Remarks
	⑥ **Consent to Collect and Use Personal Information** (Form 6)	Online submission only
2. Supporting Documents (English or Korean)	⑦ **Academic Transcript** (Original) - Must include both percentage grades and CGPA. ‣ If transcripts do not include percentage scores, submit a verification document (with an official seal) converting scores into percentages. ‣ Applicants should obtain their transcripts verification from their (expected) graduating university. If the university is unable to provide the documents, the Scholaro website (www.scholaro.com) may be used. ‣ Failure to submit percentage scores may result in disadvantages during evaluation. - Transfer students: Submit transcripts for both pre-transfer and post-transfer periods. - Expected graduates: Submit transcripts for the entire period up to the final semester before graduation. ‣ Submit the final transcript after acceptance (Failure to do so may result in cancellation).	Mandatory Online and postal submission required
	⑧ **Certificate of Graduation** (Original) - Must state the completion date of the bachelor's degree (Examples) Certificate of graduation, degree certificate, diploma, etc. - Expected graduates: Submit a certificate of expected graduation ‣ Must submit the final certificate after acceptance (Failure to do so may result in cancellation).	
	⑨ **Nationality Verification Documents** (Original) - Documents issued by the applicant's home country to verify nationality and family relationships (applicant and both parents). (Examples) Birth certificate, nationality certificate, family relationship certificate, or other official documents issued by the relevant country *Not accepted: Documents related to birthplace, residence, ethnicity, etc. ‣ If no specific nationality verification document is available, submit a copy of the passport (valid and within validity period; Apostille or consular verification is not required). ‣ If verifying parental nationality is difficult (e.g., due to death), provide additional documents to explain the situation (e.g., death certificate, divorce certificate).i ‣ If Korean nationality has been renounced, submit an official certificate of nationality loss.	
	⑩ **Apostille Confirmation** - Obtain Apostille confirmation for documents ⑦-⑨ along with their notarized translations. - For countries not part of the Apostille Convention, consular verification is required (from a Korean consul or a diplomatic mission to Korea).	

Category	Documents	Remarks
3. Other Documents	⑪ **Official Language Proficiency Certificate** - Applicants must confirm the English or Korean language proficiency requirements for their intended university (or department) and submit the corresponding document. *Refer to the Admission Requirements in "Attachment 1: Admission Information for Universities." -TOPIK scores will be reflected as additional points. Applicants who hold a TOPIK certificate must submit it. ‣ Korean: Submit a TOPIK score report for **Sessions 96-104** (printout from the official test website). ‣ English: Submit a score report dated **after September 1, 2024** (based on the test date).	If applicable, Online and postal submission required
	⑫ **Other Documents** *Supporting documents for No. 7 (Achievements) in the application form - Verifiable materials, such as theses(abstracts), publications, awards, etc.	

☐ **Submission Method**:

Online Submission (~3.6. 4pm KST)	**Post Submission** (~3.25.)
https://forms.gle/dXMr7dLQ9F47F95n9	**Address:** Seoul Scholarship Foundation, 2nd Floor, 163 Mapo-daero, Mapo-gu, Seoul, South Korea Zip Code: 04130

☐ **Important Notes for Document Submission**

- **Language**: All documents must be written in English or Korean.
  - ‣ For documents in a local language listed under No.2 (Supporting Documents), submit both the original document and a notarized translation. Either the original document or the notarized translation must have an Apostille. However, for Document ⑫ Other Documents, translation is required but notarization is not mandatory.
- **Document issuance date**: Only documents issued after July 1, 2025 will be accepted.
- Submitted documents will not be returned.

- All documents submitted by post must be original. Submission of copies may result in disadvantages during the evaluation process.
- Applicants are fully responsible for any disadvantages caused by errors in the submitted documents, insufficient documentation, or false information.
- If postal documents are submitted more than once, the evaluation will be based on the documents that arrive last by March 25.
- The final submission will only be accepted only when both online and postal submissions have been completed.
- Applicants may be contacted individually for additional documents required by specific graduate schools. Please refer to each school's admission information for further details.

4. Selection Process and Schedule

☐ Selection Process

Application Submission	→	Postal Submission	→	1st Review (Document Screening)
December 22 - March 6		By March 25		April
Submission Point: Google Form		Submission Point: Seoul Scholarship Foundation		Seoul Scholarship Foundation

2nd Review (University-Specific Selection Process)	→	3rd Review (Final Deliberation)	→	Final Results Announcement & Graduate School Enrollment Instructions
April - June		June		July
Review by each graduate school		Seoul Scholarship Foundation		Final selected graduate school

☐ Important Notes

- For certain graduate schools, successful applicants may be required to pay the application fee as per the school's instructions (Refer to "Attachment 1: Admission Information for Universities").
- Additional points will be awarded to applicants based on TOPIK certification, research topic and nationality.

Applicant Qualifications			National Relations	
TOPIK Level		Core Industry Talent	6.25 War Participant Countries Sister/Friendship Cities	ODA Recipient Countries
Advanced (Level 5–6)	15	10	4	3
Intermediate (Level 3–4)	10			
Beginner (Level 1–2)	5			

※ The table outlines the additional point scores for the expanded criteria.

※ Applicants whose master's research plan is related to Seoul's six core industries will receive additional points.

※ Seoul's six core industries: ①AI, ②Biotech, ③Fintech, ④Quantum technology, ⑤Robotics, ⑥Seoul's five creative industries-Games; Webtoons & Character IP; Independent Creators (Creator Media); Film/TV/Drama/OTT; Extended Reality (XR)

Eligible Countries (Cities) in 2026

- **Korean War Participant Countries** (Applicants must be nationals of these countries.)
  Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, the United States, Türkiye
- **Friendship and Sister Cities of Seoul** (Applicants must be graduates or expected graduates of universities in these cities and hold the nationality of the respective country.)
  List of the Cities: https://english.seoul.go.kr/policy/international-exchange/sister-friendship-cities/
- **ODA Recipients Countries**
  For the list of eligible countries, please refer to the *image1* at the end of this announcement.

5. Scholarship Support Criteria

☐ **Support Period:** 6-month intervals (up to 2 years)

☐ **Support Details: Approximately KRW 20 million per recipient annually**

Category	Details
Tuition	① Admission Fee: Full coverage ② Tuition Fee: Full coverage (jointly supported by the graduate school)
Academic Incentives	① Living Expenses: KRW 1,000,000 per month ② Health Insurance Premiums ③ Airfare: One-way ticket for entry (economy class, departure from home country, transfer ticket is accepted)

☐ **Support Criteria**

- During the scholarship period, recipients must continue their master's coursework at their final selected graduate school.
- Scholarships will be renewed if recipients maintain full-time enrollment and achieve an average GPA of 80 or higher each semester.
- Tuition will be paid directly to the graduate school, and academic incentives will be deposited in KRW into a personal bank account opened in Korea.
- Living expenses and health insurance premiums will be disbursed after verifying the recipient's stay duration for the previous month and their insurance payment history.

  ※ Living expenses may vary depending on the duration of stay in Korea.

- Airfare for one economy-class ticket (one time) will be reimbursed upon admission to the master's program.

☐ **Criteria for Payment Suspension and Refund**

Category	Details
Return of Scholarship	① Tuition: If a student suspends their studies after tuition has been paid, the tuition for the semester will be refunded in accordance with the graduate school's regulations. ② If a recipient is found to have been selected through false or fraudulent means, they must return the full scholarship amount provided by the foundation.
Payment Suspension	① Receiving overlapping scholarships either on or off campus (excluding compensation-based scholarships). ② Switching graduate schools, degree courses, or majors after selection as a scholarship recipient. ③ Taking a leave of absence, withdrawing, or terminating studies (completion, voluntary withdrawal, expulsion, graduation, etc.). *Up to two leaves of absence are allowed. ④ Failure to fulfill obligations (e.g., not submitting required documents or unauthorized absence from required graduate program activities). ⑤ Failure to meet the criteria for continued scholarship support. ⑥ A request from the graduate school to suspend payments for academic reasons.

6. Inquiries and Contact Information

☐ **Inquiries**:

Seoul Scholarship Foundation at sts@hissf.or.kr

☐ **University (Major) Information**:

Refer to "Attachment 1: Admission Information for Universities."

DAC List of ODA Recipients | Effective for reporting on 2025 flows

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	LOW INCOME COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT LDCs (per capita GNI <= $1 135 in 2022)	LOWER MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHICH ARE NOT LDCs (per capita GNI $1 136 - $4 465 in 2022)	UPPER MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHICH ARE NOT LDCs (per capita GNI $4 466 - $13 845 in 2022)
Afghanistan (L)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Algeria	Albania
Angola (LM)	Syrian Arab Republic	Bhutan	Argentina
Bangladesh (LM)		Bolivia	Armenia
Benin (LM)		Cabo Verde	Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso (L)		Cameroon	Belarus
Burundi (L)		Congo	Belize
Cambodia (LM)		Côte d'Ivoire	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Central African Republic (L)		Egypt	Botswana
Chad (L)		Eswatini	Brazil
Comoros (LM)		Ghana	China (People's Republic of)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (L)		Honduras	Colombia
Djibouti (LM)		India	Costa Rica
Eritrea (L)		Iran	Cuba
Ethiopia (L)		Jordan	Dominica
Gambia (L)		Kenya	Dominican Republic
Guinea (LM)		Kyrgyzstan	Ecuador
Guinea-Bissau (L)		Lebanon	El Salvador
Haiti (LM)		Micronesia	Equatorial Guinea
Kiribati (LM)		Mongolia	Fiji
Lao People's Democratic Republic (LM)		Morocco	Gabon
Lesotho (LM)		Nicaragua	Georgia
Liberia (L)		Nigeria	Grenada
Madagascar (L)		Pakistan	Guatemala
Malawi (L)		Papua New Guinea	Guyana[2] (H)
Mali (L)		Philippines	Indonesia
Mauritania (LM)		Samoa	Iraq
Mozambique (L)		São Tomé and Príncipe	Jamaica
Myanmar (LM)		Sri Lanka	Kazakhstan
Nepal (LM)		Tajikistan	Kosovo
Niger (L)		Tokelau*	Libya
Rwanda (L)		Tunisia	Malaysia
Senegal (LM)		Ukraine	Maldives
Sierra Leone (L)		Uzbekistan	Marshall Islands
Solomon Islands[1] (LM)		Vanuatu	Mauritius
Somalia (L)		Viet Nam	Mexico
South Sudan (L)		Zimbabwe	Moldova
Sudan (L)			Montenegro
Tanzania (LM)			Montserrat[3] (H)
Timor-Leste (LM)			Namibia
Togo (L)			Nauru[4] (H)
Tuvalu (UM)			Niue*
Uganda (L)			North Macedonia
Yemen (L)			Palau
Zambia (LM)			Panama[2] (H)
			Paraguay
			Peru
			Saint Helena*
			Saint Lucia
			Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
			Serbia
			South Africa
			Suriname
			Thailand
			Tonga
			Türkiye
			Turkmenistan
			Venezuela[5]
			Wallis and Futuna*
			West Bank and Gaza Strip

(1) General Assembly resolution A/73/L.40/Rev.1 adopted on 13 December 2018 decided that São Tomé and Príncipe and Solomon Islands will graduate six years after the adoption of the resolution, i.e., on 13 December 2024. Angola's graduation from the LDC category was deferred to February 2024. São Tomé and Príncipe graduated from the LDC category on 13 December 2024; the graduation of Solomon Islands was deferred to 13 December 2027 (A/RES/77/323). At the Committee for Development Policy's 2024 Triennial Review, Angola no longer met the graduation criteria from the LDC category.

(2) Guyana and Panama exceeded the high-income threshold in 2022. In accordance with the DAC rules for revision of this List. If they remain a high-income country until 2025, they will be proposed for graduation from the List in the 2026 review.

(3) The DAC agreed to defer the decision to graduate Montserrat until October 2025, based on reliable GNI per capita data to be submitted by the latest on 1 July 2025. If the data show that Montserrat remained a high-income country, it will be proposed for graduation for 2026.

(4) The DAC approved the graduation of Nauru from the DAC List of ODA Recipients but agreed to defer the date of effect of its graduation until 1 January 2026. In January 2026, the DAC will update the DAC List of ODA Recipients to reflect Nauru's graduation.

(5) Venezuela has been temporarily unclassified by the World Bank in July 2021 pending release of revised national accounts statistics. Estimated placement on the List.

*Countries and territories not classified in World Bank income groups. Estimated placement on the List.

Note: L, LM, UM and H shown after country names refer to the latest World Bank income classifications of: LDCs and any high-income countries that have not yet met the criteria for graduation. For the World Bank's current 2024 fiscal year, low income (L) economies are defined as those with a GNI per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method, of USD 1 135 or less in 2022; lower middle-income (LM) economies are those with a GNI per capita between USD 1 136 and USD 4 465; upper middle-income (UM) economies are those with a GNI per capita between USD 4 466 and USD 13 845; high income (H) economies are those with a GNI per capita of more than USD 13 845.

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