

**Diversity in High Education:  
Driving Multilingualism in the Heart of East Asia**

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Although for years, nations in East Asia have been notorious for their general lack of English ability, Korea University has taken an innovative approach to promoting a multilingual culture in Korea through its ground-breaking Global KU Project.

As part of this initiative, Korea University ambitiously plans to conduct 50% of its courses cross all disciplines in English by 2010. Currently, this number exceeds 20%. Multi-lingualism and global leadership training for students lies at the heart of the Global KU Project, which has completely changed the way the university looks, thinks, and acts.

Since 2003, Korea University's 4-tiered approach to internationalized education has included dramatic changes in facilities, faculty, programs, and global campuses. The Korea University model is now studied and benchmarked by universities across Asia as a prototype for effective internationalization.

For example, all new faculty are required to lecture in English, and over 50 new faculty positions have been allocated for foreign faculty. All students are required to pass English proficiency exams in order to graduate. In addition, Korea University has forged unique partnerships with key overseas institutions to establish not only study abroad programs, but to construct actual Korea University facilities and dormitories on overseas campuses in order to better serve the needs of its students and its sister institutions.

Progressive and sometimes controversial in nature, Korea University and the Global KU Project offer ideas and insights for universities in non-native English-speaking societies throughout the world. Once Korea's most conservative and nationalistic university, Korea University now pursues a policy of 100% English-language education by 2025.

## THE GLOBAL KU PROJECT

For 100 years, Korea University has been the national leader in scholarship and service to society. But to advance its leadership more internationally in the next century, Korea University undertakes an ambitious initiative known as the “Global KU Project.”

Initiated in 2003, the Global KU Project has transformed an institution once famous as the most traditional and nationalistic of the Korea’s oldest and most prestigious universities. Changes in infrastructure, facilities, and programs are both philosophical and concrete, making the Global KU Project not just an interesting catch-phrase, but an active and successful plan for revitalizing Korea University’s potential worldwide. Some notable recent achievements include the construction of numerous buildings equipped with the world’s most advanced educational technologies, increased funding for major projects on campus and overseas, and expansion of international faculty and students.

Most importantly, Korea University maintains its historic position as the birthplace of Korean patriotism and intellectual thought while enthusiastically engaging the world.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### ON CAMPUS

- Ø Nearly 500% increase in student participation in international programs
- Ø Expanded exchange agreements with leading world institutions
- Ø Launch of the International Summer Campus program, 60 courses taught by professors from top world universities taught completely in English.
- Ø 20% of all regular classes taught in English (30% by 2005)
- Ø Requirements for all new faculty to lecture in English
- Ø All foreign-language classes fully taught in relevant languages
- Ø Study abroad requirements for all foreign language majors
- Ø Study abroad aid provided to 400 students each year
- Ø General education courses restructured to the Harvard University model
- Ø Funding for 50 international visiting professors from leading universities
- Ø Expansion of the successful International Internship Program (KU Business School) to all academic departments
- Ø Establishment of the undergraduate Division of International Studies
- Ø Establishment of the Global Leadership Center

### IN THE WORLD

- Ø Establishment of the world’s premier Center for Korean Studies
- Ø Construction of an International House with capacity for 400 students & scholars
- Ø Complete renovation of the International Summer Campus program
  - Creation of a foreign professor deanship
  - Positions for 30 overseas professors from top universities
- Ø Visiting chair professorships offered to 10 foreign professors
- Ø Global Campuses and facilities established in key international regions
  - University of British Columbia, Canada
  - Renmin University, China
  - Royal Holloway, University of London, UK
  - University of California, Davis, USA
  - Griffith University, Australia

## ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS

- Ø Joint sponsorship of the International Summer Campus by partner universities
- Ø Creation of the Asian Association of International Educators under KU leadership
- Ø A “KU-Bridge Asia Bae” full-scholarship for students from developing nations to study abroad at KU
- Ø An International Nobel Prize laureate lecture series