



**INFORMATION HANDBOOK**  
**for**  
**PY2013 FULBRIGHT GRANTEES**  
**to**  
**KOREA**

Prepared by the  
Korean-American Educational Commission

Spring 2013

*We must try, through international education, to realize something new in the world—a purpose that will inspire us and challenge us to use our talents and material wealth in a new way, by persuasion rather than force, cooperatively rather than competitively, not with the intention of gaining dominance for a nation or an ideology, but for the purpose of helping every society develop its own concept of public decency and individual fulfillment.*

*J. William Fulbright*

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## KOREAN-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION

### I. Fulbright Program in Korea

#### A. Preface

The first Fulbright agreement between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America was signed on April 28, 1950. Thus, the Fulbright Program in Korea was to have started in 1950 but was interrupted by the Korean War. After the war Fulbright exchanges were administered by the U.S. State Department for some time. Finally the Korean-American Educational Commission (KAEC) was established in 1963 as a bi-national organization by an agreement between the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, and continues to administer the Fulbright Program in Korea.

KAEC is governed by a Board composed of five American and five Korean members appointed by official representatives of the two governments. Its daily operations are handled by a Secretariat with a staff headed by an Executive Director.

In addition to the Fulbright grant program, KAEC operates the U.S. Education Center, with website-based advising as well as individual and group sessions, providing objective and accurate study-abroad information to Korean students who wish to study in the USA.

Finally, KAEC represents Educational Testing Service (ETS) and works with the Prometric Corporation to provide computer-based and other testing for the TOEFL and GRE programs in Korea.

Please direct all inquiries regarding your Fulbright award, or requests for information that is not contained in this handbook to:

Korean-American Educational Commission  
Fulbright Building  
168-15 Yomni-dong, Mapo-gu  
Seoul 121-874, Korea

Tel: (82-2) 3275-4018  
Fax: (82-2) 3275-4028  
e-mail: [executive.assistant@fulbright.or.kr](mailto:executive.assistant@fulbright.or.kr)  
website: [www.fulbright.or.kr](http://www.fulbright.or.kr)

The Board and staff of KAEC are dedicated to making your Fulbright experience in Korea a success. We look forward to our association with you and pledge to be of assistance in any way we can. Call on us whenever you need our help.

## B. Introduction

This handbook contains information about the Fulbright experience in Korea. It focuses primarily on the practical issues a Fulbright grantee is likely to encounter, beginning with the preparations for departure to Korea and ending with the return to the U.S. It also provides an introduction to some aspects of Korean civilization. While sufficient for its limited purposes, we intend that you use this handbook in combination with other sources of information that convey a deeper understanding of Korea.

This handbook should be valuable to a variety of grantees with a broad range of experiences. Of course, it will be especially helpful for someone who is visiting the country for the first time. Even those who once lived in Korea or are of Korean heritage, however, may find themselves surprised by the Korea of today and should read this handbook carefully.

The circumstances of a Fulbright experience in Korea vary widely depending on the grantee's purpose, background, and period of stay. Some Fulbright grantees are lecturers, some are researchers, and still others are here as English teaching assistants. Some are senior scholars while others are students ranging from recent college graduates to Ph.D. dissertation researchers. Most Fulbright grantees are academics, but some are professionals at various stages in their careers. The length of stay in Korea ranges from four months to a full academic year. Lastly, although most Fulbright grantees come alone, other grantees are accompanied by a spouse or other family members, including school-aged children.

This handbook is written for all these Fulbright grantees with all of their varying needs and perceptions. Most of the information applies to everyone, but with varying degrees of relevance depending on individual circumstances. You must exercise your own judgment about the information provided herein, and especially its probable applicability to your circumstances. Ultimately, only you can decide what you need to know to make the most of your Fulbright experience.

Whether you need or don't need guidance on all the logistical topics, you are expected to read and familiarize yourself thoroughly with the *Award Terms and Conditions* appended to this handbook. In signing your Fulbright Award Authorization to indicate acceptance of the award, you will be certifying that you have read and understood all these terms and conditions and are prepared to abide by the stated procedures through which our mutual agreement will be implemented.

The handbook, however, by no means exhausts the information available on Fulbright in Korea. For instance, before you come, I hope you will visit our website ([www.fulbright.or.kr](http://www.fulbright.or.kr)), which offers a basic overview our program and activities, as well as a map, directions, and a list of holidays. We also hope you will keep in touch via email. We look forward to meeting you upon your arrival in Korea.

Jai Ok Shim  
Executive Director

Spring 2013  
Seoul, Korea

## II. Fulbright Grant Guidelines

### A. Pre-Arrival

#### *ARRIVAL TIMELINE AND CHECKLIST*

	At least... 4-6 months in advance	3 months in advance	2 months in advance	1 month in advance	Upon arrival
Grant Documents and Visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Verify, sign, and return the Fulbright Award Authorization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Obtain valid passports for yourself and all accompanying dependents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Obtain A-3 visas to Korea for yourself and for all accompanying dependents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inform KAEC of any plans or changes regarding your grant period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Familiarize yourself with the award the Award Terms and Conditions in Appendix A of this handbook</li> </ul>	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read this handbook</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discuss your housing arrangements with KAEC</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make plans for dependents' schooling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inform KAEC of your travel plans, pre-grant activities, and arrangements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Correspond with your host institution regarding your lecturing assignment or research logistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mail your educational materials to the correct address via APO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remind KAEC of your travel plans, and indicate whether or not you need to be met by a staff person at the airport</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confirm plans for transport from the airport to Seoul, housing, phone rental, etc. during the first few days in Seoul</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make an in-processing appointment with KAEC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contact KAEC to let us know that you have arrived safely and to confirm in-processing</li> </ul>

#### *KEEPING IN TOUCH*

It is always a good idea to keep KAEC informed about your plans for your stay in Korea. Please refer to the timeline above and do not hesitate to contact us at any time about anything related to your upcoming stay. The points of communication listed there might not cover all of your concerns and needs. Indeed, we need to hear from you about travel plans, housing questions, language school enrollment, research plans, school enrollment for dependents, arrival flight information, etc., as applicable. There's always a chance your plans can be improved with up-to-date information about current situations in Korea.

The easiest means to contact is via email. Your first point of contact in the office is the **Executive Assistant**, whom you should have already met through email ([executive.assistant@fulbright.or.kr](mailto:executive.assistant@fulbright.or.kr)).

## **PASSPORT**

You must have a passport that will remain valid for at least six months after your expected arrival date in Korea, and, ideally, for the entire period of your stay in Korea. (You can always renew your American passport anytime even if it has some months left to run.) If you do not have a passport meeting this requirement, apply for one as soon as possible by obtaining an application form at your local U.S. post office, public library, another municipal government office, or a regional passport agency. Please obtain more information by visiting the passport services website at <http://travel.state.gov> and clicking on "PASSPORTS" at the top of the page or calling the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) phone number: 1-877-487-2778.

Keep your passport in your personal possession at all times while traveling to or from Korea, and keep it in a secure place if you stay anywhere for an extended period. Report lost or stolen passports to the local police and to the American embassy immediately. If you do lose your passport, you must be able to account for the circumstances, preferably with a police report. Full-validity passports can no longer be issued at American embassies and consular offices abroad. All applications for passports are forwarded to the United States, and it takes between two and three weeks for a new passport to be made.

Although your passport is the only legally required form of identification, we recommend that you bring along an additional item of identification with a recent photograph such as a driver's license or university I.D. card. KAEC staff will photocopy your passport and visa during the in-processing meeting to keep on file in case for our records and in case you need it.

## **VISA**

U.S. citizen visitors to Korea who expect to stay 30 days or less need no visa. Americans in Korea for purposes other than tourism, and especially for activities which will involve a stay of more than 30 days, must have a visa. You should apply for the correct visa before you come and you should make your application well in advance of your planned date of travel to Korea to allow for processing time.

The Fulbright Program in Korea operates under the authority of a bi-national agreement between the governments of the Republic of Korea and the United States. This agreement entitles Fulbright grantees to the "A-3" or "agreement" visa status. This is a special visa status, which permits a stay in Korea for the full period of the award without extension requests or other administrative procedures. The "A-3" visa status also reflects the "official" nature of a Fulbright grantee's sojourn in Korea. **Thus, Fulbright grantees must operate on an A-3 Visa.**

The "A-3" visa status entails various privileges – most notably, exemption from the provisions of the residence control law. That means you will not need to apply for or obtain a residence certificate, report any changes of address to the local authorities, request routine extensions of stay every six months, or pay income or other taxes in Korea. But the same status also prohibits you from engaging in unauthorized activities while in Korea. Therefore, you must check with us before engaging in a new venture or whenever you are in doubt about whether or not you are allowed to do something you haven't done before.

You should request a visa application form from the Korean Consulate in your geographic region. When filling out the application form, in the space for "Type of Visa Applying for" write the following exactly: "A-3 Fulbright." For a list of Korean consulates in the U.S, see the list on the next page.

When you apply for an A-3 visa, do not indicate that you will be teaching, even if you are a lecturer. Always state that you are a Fulbright grant recipient. Include with the visa application a photocopy of the award authorization from KAEC and your award letter from KAEC. These documents will not be returned to you. If you have any questions, please contact KAEC before submitting the application.

If all else fails and you are unable to get the correct A-3 visa you may as a last resort come to Korea with no visa. As an American citizen, you will receive a 30-day visitor permit at the airport. Within that period the KAEC office will arrange for your visa status to be changed to the correct A-3 status. Also, some grantees

receive an A-3 visa, but for a "single entry" rather than "multiple entry." This is not a problem for beginning your grant, but be sure to call our attention to it after you arrive and before you leave Korea again. All grantees must bring their passports to the KAEC office for confirmation and photocopying during their in-processing appointment.

You should visit the nearest Korean Consulate by early to mid-June and no earlier than late May. This will ensure that KAEC has sent the appropriate list of all Fulbright Grantees to the consular offices and will expedite the processing of your A-3 Visa.

See the next page for a sample visa application form.

### ***KOREAN CONSULATES IN THE U.S.***

**Atlanta:** Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

**Boston:** Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont

**Chicago:** Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, Michigan, Indiana, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin

**Honolulu:** Hawaii, Samoa

**Houston:** Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana

**Los Angeles:** Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico

**New York:** New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware

**San Francisco:** Northern California, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming

**Seattle:** Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Montana

**Washington, DC:** District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia

**SAMPLE VISA APPLICATION FORM**

查證發給申請書 APPLICATION FOR VISA  
 CONFIRMATION OF VISA ISSUANCE NO : 公館(申請)番號:

寫真 PHOTO 35 × 45 mm	1. 姓 Surname 漢字姓名				
	2. 名 Given Names				
	3. 生年月日 Date of Birth Y年 M月 D日	4. 性別 Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	5. 國籍 Nationality	6. 出生地 Place of Birth	
7. 旅券番號 Passport Number	8. 種類 Classification 外交, 官用, 一般, 其他 DP OF <b>OR</b>	9. 發給日 Date of Issue	10. 發給地 Place of Issue [City printed in passport under "Issuing Authority"]	11. 發給機關 Issuing Authority [City] Passport Agency	12. 滿了日 Expiry Date
13. 婚姻與否 Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> 既婚 married <input type="checkbox"/> 未婚 single		14. 配偶者姓名 Spouse's Name		15. 配偶者國籍 Spouse's Nationality	
16. 職業 Occupation	17. 職場名 및 住所 Name and Address of Present Employer		18. 職場電話番號 Business Phone Number		
19. 入國目的 Purpose of Entry(explain fully) <b>Fulbright Grant (A-3)</b>		20. 入國豫定日 Probable Date of Entry		21. 滯留豫定期間 Desired Length of Stay	
22. 現住所 Home Address			電話番號 Phone No.		
23. 國內 滯留地 Address in Korea 電話番號 Phone No. <b>168-15 Yomni-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul 121-874 02-3275-4018</b>			24. 訪韓事實 Previous Visit (If Any)		
25. 過去 查證發給 與否 언제 When? 어디서 Where?		Have You Ever Been Issued a Korean Visa? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 查證種類 What Type of Visa			
26. 過去 查證發給 不許與否 언제 When? 어디서 Where?		Have You Ever Been Refused a Korean Visa? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 查證種類 What Type of Visa			
27. 旅行費用支拂者 Who Will Pay For Your Trip? <b>Fulbright Korea / Korean-American Education Commission</b>		28. 過去 查證取消與否 Has Your Korean Visa Ever Been Cancelled or Revoked? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
29. 最近 5 年間 旅行國家 Countries Where You Have Lived or Traveled During The Past 5 Years					
30. 同伴家族 Accompanying Family	國籍 Nationality	姓名 Name	性別 Sex	生年月日 Date of Birth	
31. 國內 保證人 連絡處 Guarantor Reference in Korea	姓名 Name	住所 Address	電話番號 Phone No.	關係 Relationship	
	<b>Jai Ok Shim</b>	<b>168-15 Yomni-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul 121-874</b>	<b>02-3275-4018</b>	<b>Executive Director (Fulbright Korea)</b>	
I declare that the statements made in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, that I will observe the provisions of the Immigration Law of the Republic of Korea and that I will not engage in any activities irrelevant to the purpose of entry stated herein. Besides, I am fully aware that any false or misleading statement may result in the refusal of a visa, and that possession of a visa does not entitle the bearer to enter the Republic of Korea upon arrival at the port of entry if he/she is found inadmissible.					
申請日 DATE OF APPLICATION :			申請人 署名 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT :		

## ***TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS***

Paid round-trip economy-class travel between your "home of record" and Korea is one of the standard benefits of a Fulbright award. Any restrictions on your entitlement to this benefit, and any travel entitlement of an accompanying dependent, are detailed in the Fulbright Award Authorization.

There are several policy guidelines that impose certain restrictions on the Fulbright travel benefit. While most of these guidelines are those applied to any travel paid for by U.S. government funds, KAEC, as a bi-national commission, also has some guidelines of its own. The guidelines are as follows.

Travel must be on a U.S. or Korean-flag carrier for all portions of the itinerary covered by the award. Exceptions are seldom permitted, and only with prior authorization from KAEC. Although travel may be arranged (within the limitations stated below) at the Fulbright grantee's convenience, any additional costs incurred for elective travel, stopovers en route or voluntary deviations from the approved route will not be reimbursed under the terms of the award.

Travel costs for accompanying family members normally are not included as a benefit of a Fulbright award, except for one primary dependent of a Fulbright senior scholar whose award is for a full academic year or ten (10) months (under current regulations, the dependent of a Fulbright student grantee is not eligible for a travel benefit regardless of the length of the award). This travel benefit normally is available only if the dependent will remain in Korea for a "substantive" part of the period of the Fulbright award, which KAEC interprets as 80% or more of the grant period. The grantee's individual Fulbright Award Authorization specifies whether or not this additional benefit is provided. When this benefit is included in the terms of the award, the same conditions apply as those described above for the grantee.

The round-trip tickets provided by the Fulbright Commission *must be used within a 1-year period between the arrival and departure date*. We will confirm that the arrival and departure dates of the round-trip ticket fall within a one-year period at the time you make the reservation. Grantees who plan to stay longer, either before or after the grant period, must make a one-way ticket reservation through our travel agent. After starting the Fulbright grant, KAEC will reimburse the round trip travel costs estimated by KAEC's travel agent based on the grantees' departure dates from the U.S. They are then responsible for making their own travel arrangements and purchasing tickets for the return portion of their trip.

You must advise us and our cooperating U.S. travel agent of your preferred itinerary well in advance of your anticipated travel date. At our instruction, based on your request, our agent will issue a ticket for your requested itinerary, with any modifications which may be required to conform to the guidelines stated above, and issue it at an electronic ticket. Our U.S. travel agent is:

Pana Travel Service  
Tel: 323-730-1900  
Fax: 323-730-4930  
Email: panatravel@sbcglobal.net  
Person to contact: Ms. Doran Lee

Within the limitations of the guidelines stated above, you may make any changes in the itinerary that you wish prior to your departure for Korea. However, these changes are permitted on the condition that any additional charges incurred will be solely at your own expense. Substantive adjustments in an itinerary after a ticket has been issued normally entail the payment of a penalty. In the interest of minimizing these additional charges, you should make every effort to finalize your travel plans before purchasing a ticket or requesting our agent to issue one for you.

All travel arrangements for dependents whose travel costs are not included in the benefits of your Fulbright award must be paid for independently. However, you may if you choose use the KAEC travel agent for these arrangements and pay the additional cost directly.

Please plan your schedule to arrive in Seoul on Monday through Thursday. Remember that travel from the U.S. will make you arrive *the day after* you leave. This schedule will allow for both airport pickup if necessary and for basic in-processing the day after you arrive. Arrival on a weekend or a Korean or US holiday is not recommended. It is generally more convenient for our staff if grantees plan to arrive during office hours rather than early morning or evening.

## ***BAGGAGE***

**Excess Baggage Allowance** - An excess baggage allowance is included in the terms of each Fulbright award. This allowance is for the entire round trip. You may use it up completely for the trip to Korea or save it all for the return trip home or divide it as you wish.

The excess baggage allowance may be applied to either accompanying or unaccompanied baggage. You may apply it to the costs of mailing items via either the international postal system or APO (see below). In any case, you will not be entitled to more than the actual cost incurred, up to the limit, and payment will be made only upon presentation of valid receipts. Any additional baggage costs are at your own expense. Hence it is wise to make full use of the airline's free accompanied baggage.

**Accompanying Baggage** - If possible, you should bring all clothing and other personal effects along with you on your flight to Korea. Check with your airline before packing about the maximum weight and size allowed per bag. Each passenger is allowed to have one or two pieces (depending on the airline) of carry-on luggage, which should be small enough to fit under a passenger seat (usually 20" x 12" x 8").

If you have more than the maximum weight allowance of personal belongings to bring on the flight, the best solution is probably to bring it with you on the plane as excess baggage. Airlines have a standard excess baggage charge, whether the bag weighs 10 lbs. or 50 lbs., so 50 is better. Check with the airline what the excess baggage charge will be. \$100 per bag is a common charge. Carrying your things with you is normally cheaper per pound and much faster and safer than international mail.

**Post Office** - Another way to send personal effects and any clothing you will not need immediately is via international mail. Use the KAEC office address for your packages. For anything sent by surface mail, you must allow at least two months for delivery. Appropriate personal effects, particularly used ones, are free of duty. Do not send new items in their original packing as they will be subject to what may be substantial duty charges. Do not send personal items by APO (see below).

**Unaccompanied Baggage** - If you must have a lot of household goods with you in Korea you may need to send some things as unaccompanied baggage, via sea or air. Unaccompanied baggage that does not reach Korea soon after your arrival may be subject to duty. Due to the cost and the potential difficulties, we strongly recommend that you not send unaccompanied baggage unless you feel it is absolutely necessary. If you plan to do so, please contact our office in advance.

## ***INSURANCE***

The recipient of a Fulbright award receives health and accident insurance coverage under a group policy arranged by the Department of State. This is a \$25 deductible policy providing coverage up to a maximum of \$50,000 per sickness or injury. Further details on the terms and conditions of this insurance coverage are provided in the brochure you should have received with your award letter (if you did not receive one, contact us by email immediately.) Note that insurance for personal effects, personal property, theft, loss, or damage is not provided as a benefit of your Fulbright award.

While the health and accident coverage is minimally adequate for a single person, you may wish to seek advice from your own insurance agent about the advisability of obtaining additional coverage. You should know, however, that the terms and conditions of the group policy stipulate that the State Department becomes the secondary insurer if the participant has other insurance. Also, the State Department insurance does not cover you at all for any time you are outside of Korea for personal or professional travel. In any

event, KAEC cannot assume liability for any medical expenses in excess of the maximum coverage or outside the coverage provided under the State policy.

As an additional point to consider when deciding whether or not to obtain additional coverage, medications previously prescribed in the U.S. or prescribed for pre-existing conditions do not qualify for reimbursement. Although most medications are widely available in Korea, we advise you to bring enough of any medications you may need with you for this reason. Note that A-3 visa holders cannot apply for Korean Health Insurance for foreigners, so additional coverage should come from a U.S. or international provider.

Health and accident insurance for dependents is not included in the State Department insurance policy nor provided as a benefit of a Fulbright award. Unless your dependents will be covered adequately under an existing policy, we strongly urge you to obtain some kind of supplemental coverage. KAEC cannot assume liability for any medical expenses incurred by accompanying dependents of Fulbright grantees.

We complete all the necessary paperwork to activate your State Department insurance coverage just prior to your arrival in Korea. The period of coverage will be adjusted as appropriate if there is any change in your authorized award period. Although you may wish to confirm in our office after you arrive that the insurance coverage to which you are entitled has been activated, you are not required to complete an application form or any other paperwork.

Payment of insurance claims under the State policy is on a reimbursement basis only. In Korea, you must always pay your own medical bills in cash and submit the receipts along with a properly completed claim form for reimbursement unless you visit Severance International Health Care Clinic in Seoul which can provide direct payment (not including co-pay) after your appointment. The insurer will make reimbursement to you directly by check or wire transfer to a bank account within the U.S. Normally it takes a number of months for the insurer to process claims. (Historically, reimbursement has been reliable but quite slow.) It is your responsibility to submit properly documented claims as soon as possible after receiving medical treatment.

## B. Arrival

### PORT OF ENTRY

As you will be ticketed to arrive in Seoul, you will be coming through Incheon International Airport, located approximately 40 miles west of Seoul. Incheon Airport is large, modern, and extremely convenient. All flights arrive in the same long terminal. Though there are several arrival doors, it is fairly easy to meet people. Your arrival should go smoothly.

You should schedule your arrival for Monday through Thursday. That's especially important if you have requested reception services from KAEC (see below). It also will greatly facilitate your initial orientation. Most flights from the U.S. arrive either in the early morning or in the evening.

The English website for Incheon International Airport: <http://www.airport.kr/eng/>

### SAMPLE ARRIVAL CARD

Flight attendants will distribute arrival cards during the flight to Korea. On the arrival card, for "occupation" you can put "grantee," and for "Purpose of Visit" you can put "Fulbright." We recommend that you use the KAEC office address as your address in Korea when completing the arrival card. Don't forget to have the address handy. See the sample at right.

### IMMIGRATION

Immediately upon arrival you must first go through immigration where you will be requested to show your passport and the arrival card that you will have filled out on the plane. Even if you have a tourist visa or no visa, you should experience no difficulties. Of course, the immigration officer may advise you that you must complete "alien registration" within 90 days or leave within 30 days. In that case, be sure to advise us of your status of entry at the earliest opportunity. If you have entered the country in any visa status other than "A-3," we will arrange to have your status of entry adjusted as part of the initial orientation procedure. As noted previously, Fulbright grantees must be in the "A-3" status to pursue their authorized projects in Korea.

대한민국 입국신고서 / ARRIVAL CARD ①																							
REPUBLIC OF KOREA 入國申告書 IMMIGRATION SERVICE																							
뒷면 안내사항을 참조하십시오.																							
한글성명 / Surname / 姓		漢字姓名																					
LAST NAME		(leave blank)																					
Given Names / 名																							
FIRST, MIDDLE NAMES (as printed in your passport)																							
생년월일 / Date of Birth / 生年月日	수민등록 뒷번호	남/MALE/男	M																				
Year/年	(leave blank)	여/FEMALE/女	F																				
국적/Nationality/國籍		여권번호/Passport No./旅券番號																					
USA		(your passport #)																					
한국내 주소 / Address in Korea / 韓國內 住所																							
168-15 Yomni-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul 121-874																							
(Tel: 02-3275-4000)																							
직업·직장명/Occupation/職業		여행목적/Purpose of visit/旅行目的																					
GRANTEE		FULBRIGHT																					
출발지(국가/도시) / 出發地		입국편명·선명 / 入國便名·船名																					
Last City / Port of Boarding		Flight No. / Vessel on Arrival																					
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공용란(公用欄) Official Use Only		서명 / Signature / 署名																					
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체류지	체류기간	원기																					
타	82	015	030																				
			구분																				

## ***BAGGAGE CLAIM***

After passing through immigration you must claim your baggage at the appropriate carousel and go through customs. Baggage carts are available free of charge and can be taken as far as the airport parking lot. Porters are available once you reach the arrival area, though most people don't use one. If you need one, you should find the charge for the porter posted on the back of the cart.

## ***CUSTOMS***

As long as you follow a few simple rules, you should not experience any problems in clearing customs. Nine times out of ten you are likely to be just waved on through without your bags even being opened. However, Korea can have stringent customs procedures on occasion. Although the "Green Channel" (no goods to declare) and "Red Channel" (goods to declare) system is in use, you may be asked to open your bags and "show and tell" regardless of the channel you are using. Take the request in stride, and be nice even if you consider the request to be annoying. As in so many other situations, a measured response will be more advantageous in the long run. See a sample customs declaration form on the next page.

Most Fulbright grantees are able to use the "Green Channel," as they have nothing special to declare. Ordinary personal effects brought with you are not subject to duty provided you have what could reasonably be defined as "normal" quantities. Certain items, especially "luxury goods" highly sought after in Korea (such as sets of golf clubs), may be taxed heavily regardless of the quantity or the circumstances under which the items are brought into the country. It's best to leave all such items at home. Or if you must bring them with you, you should use the "Red Channel" and appear sincere. Perhaps you will be lucky.

Normally a Fulbright student or scholar is permitted to bring any item with a plausible "educational purpose" into Korea without paying duty on it, including a laptop and printer. Although the customs official has the final discretionary authority in determining what to allow, tourist cameras, radios, CD players and other items of this kind, particularly if obviously intended for personal or recreational use, normally will be permitted without special comment. Some customs officials are stricter than others, of course, and if you have several items in each category you will be met with raised eyebrows at best. If you have brand new items, especially if they are in their original packing, you are begging to pay duty. To avoid drawing unfavorable attention to your goods, therefore, keep duplicate items to an absolute minimum, and take any new items out of their original packing. Or, better yet, bring used rather than brand new items whenever possible.

The English website for Korean Customs: <http://english.customs.go.kr/>.

**CUSTOMS DECLARATION BY TRAVELER**

※ Please tick in the appropriate box(  ) with "✓" mark on each following question.

**GOODS**

▶ Are you bringing into Korea ? YES NO

1. Weapons such as firearms, knives, crossbows, any explosives, bullets or poisonous / radioactive substances.  YES  NO
2. Illicit drugs such as opium, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA, cannabis, or any medicines such as diet pills that may be prohibited or subject to restrictions by law  YES  NO
3. Animal(including meats, leather, fur, etc.), plants, fruits, vegetables, or other agricultural / forestry / fishery products and any other types of foodstuff.  YES  NO
4. Internationally protected endangered animals, plants, or their products (tigers, cobras, turtles, crocodiles, corals, bear's galls, musk, orchids, cacti, etc).  YES  NO
5. Korean or foreign currencies of value over US \$10,000  YES  NO
6. Counterfeit currencies, notes or securities  YES  NO
7. Pornographic materials(book, CD, photos, etc)  YES  NO
8. Commercial goods for sale and corporate goods  YES  NO
9. Goods exceeding duty-free allowance  YES  NO

**OTHERS**

10. Have you visited any place of infectious/ livestock diseases, or livestock breeding farm outside Korea?  YES  NO
11. Do you have any goods which you are asked to carry in by other people?  YES  NO

※ If you have a question about Customs Declaration by traveler and duty-free allowance, please ask the customs officer for detailed information.

I have made a correct and truthful declaration.

Traveler's Signature :

' Welcome to Korea '

**CUSTOMS DECLARATION**

◇ All arriving travelers must complete this Customs Declaration Form ( Only one written declaration is required per family )

Family name		
Given or first name		
Passport No.		
Nationality	SEX <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Birth date (yy/mm/dd)
Flight No.		Entry date (yy/mm/dd)
Accompanying family members	person(s)	Occupation
Countries visited prior to entry to Korea	1.                      2.                      3.	
Purpose of Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Sightseeing <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Official <input type="checkbox"/> Study <input type="checkbox"/> Others	
Intended length of stay in Korea(visitors only) : (        ) years (        ) months (        ) days		
Phone number ☎ :		E-mail :
Address in Korea(Hotel, etc) :		

**ATTENTION**

- We thank you for your cooperation in customs inspection or frisking to identify terrorism materials including firearms, knives, any explosives, poisonous / radioactive substances, etc. which are hazardous to social security, thus prohibited to be carried in.
- Carriage of goods entrusted by other people is highly likely to be linked with terrorism materials, narcotic/drug, or smuggling items. Please make sure to declare it, since it is subject to punishment according to the relevant laws.
- Please complete the "Customs declaration by traveler" on the reverse side of this form and submit it to the customs officer.
- False reporting may lead to punishment for the violation of The Customs Law.

**DUTY-FREE ALLOWANCE**

- One bottle(less than 1ℓ and valued at under US\$400) of alcoholic liquors, 200 pieces of cigarette, and 2 ounces of perfume. (Minors(19 or under) are not allowed to bring in alcoholic liquors or cigarettes.)
- Goods for personal use that are purchased abroad or domestic duty free shop whose total value does not exceed US\$400.

※ For agricultural / forestry / fishery products, the total value must be 100,000 korea won or less.

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**ARRIVAL INFORMATION**

Once past customs you will go through the exit door out of the controlled arrival area into the public arrival area, where anyone meeting you should be waiting. There are four exits from the customs area into the public area, A, B, E, and F (there is no C or D). However, the flight arrival information on the display boards will indicate which of the four areas you should be exiting from, so there should be no difficulty in being met. If you are to be met and the person to meet you is not there right outside the doors where the exiting passengers meet the public, stay there until someone finds you – it's much easier than your wandering around a four-acre airport terminal mumbling "Fulbright? Fulbright?" The only thing you might do is to check the display above the door you came out of to make sure you really are at the door where people on your flight are supposed to exit, because that's the door where anyone will be waiting.

If you arrive between Monday and Thursday, you may request arrival services from KAEC (well in advance) and if you do you will be met at the airport by the KAEC driver. Once in the public arrival area, look for

someone holding an 8x11 sign saying "FULBRIGHT." Occasionally the KAEC driver may be late in arriving at the airport due to traffic conditions or the earlier-than-anticipated arrival of your flight. If you have requested arrival services, be sure to wait a reasonable length of time for the driver to show up.

If you have friends or relatives who are planning to meet you, of course, it is preferable that you not request arrival services from KAEC as well. Those of you who are somewhat at home in Korea may prefer to manage your arrival on your own. Particularly if you are traveling light and have your own arrangements for the first night's lodging, there is no need for you to request arrival services. Arrival services are not available on weekends.

If your assignment is in the Seoul vicinity, you should have received confirmation that you will go directly to your permanent lodging. For those outside of Seoul, please inquire whether KAEC could offer any assistance with lodging and onward travel arrangements well in advance.

You should have no problem managing on your own even if no one meets you at the airport. If you are not being met, plan to exchange at least \$100 into Korean won. As the rate of exchange at the airport banks is the same as at the banks in Seoul, you need not be reluctant to exchange more if you wish. (If a Fulbright dispatcher is meeting you, you will not need to change money immediately because you will receive your settling-in allowance from him in cash.)

If you are on your own, go to the information desk for any help you may need. Communication in English is normally not a problem at those desks. Follow the signs to the limousine bus service desks outside the arrival area. Economical limousine bus service is available to many points in the city – indeed, to many points throughout the country. The hotel nearest to the Fulbright building (a 5 minute walk) is the Best Western Seoul Garden Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn). Buses board right outside the terminal. Make sure the bus you board is going near your destination, and ask the driver to inform you where to get off. There are both "City Buses" and "Hotel Limousine Buses." The city buses tend to be slightly cheaper; for example, the city bus to the Seoul Garden Hotel costs W9,000 while the Hotel Limousine Bus costs W14,000. All of the bus routes available are listed on the airport website:

<http://www.airport.kr/airport/traffic/bus/busList.iiia?flag=E>.

We do not recommend taking a taxi into the city, as it will cost W60,000 or more.

No matter where you spend the night on your arrival in Korea, don't forget to inform KAEC of your arrival and whereabouts on the first working day after your arrival. You should have already scheduled your in-processing appointment for soon after your arrival date, so we will be seeing you soon.

### ***EARLY ARRIVAL***

Early arrival normally requires KAEC support of some kind, including visa sponsorship. For that reason, you must request prior approval by email from KAEC well in advance of the requested arrival date. In making the request you must indicate the reasons for an early arrival. Unless there are serious complications, such as the unavailability of housing, we normally approve requests for early arrival, especially if it would facilitate your Fulbright project.

Some grantees choose to come quite early, up to two months early, in order to undertake Korean language study during the summer prior to the formal beginning date of the award, or to participate in some other activity. In that case the KAEC will fund your travel to Korea as promised in the award document, but will not be responsible for housing or a stipend or other allowances until the award beginning date. Such summer language study can be reimbursed on a receipt basis after the beginning of the award period. **However, you must obtain approval from KAEC prior to enrolling in the course.** Please see section **2c: Language Study Allowance**.

Otherwise, if early arrival is approved, normally your award period will begin on the date of arrival and stipend payments and other benefits will be initiated (except for language study as indicated above) as soon

as you have completed in-processing. Even if the award period is advanced in this way, however, the number of months of the award period remains the same as stated in the award document. Though the period of Fulbright visa support may be extended later, additional funding is seldom available. In this respect, an early arrival implies either an early departure or an extension of the visa period without additional funding. In short, permission for an early arrival does not entail any commitment on KAEC's part to extend the funded period of the award. In addition, if lecturing, you are committed through the end of the semesters involved, no matter how early you may choose to arrive.

If you arrive very early or very late you may not receive the same amount of attention and service from KAEC as those who arrive at the "normal" time (mid July through mid September, for most grantees). This is true especially for those who arrive early in the summer when summer training activities, staff vacation schedules and other factors put a strain on the KAEC staff. It is customary for the position of Executive Assistant to change hands in August, according to the U.S. school year cycle. Therefore, anyone who arrives early must be prepared to be somewhat more self-reliant during the first few weeks until the regular program year cycle gets underway at the beginning of the next semester.

### ***LATE ARRIVAL***

Normal academic-year grantees are expected to be in country no later than the beginning of the fall semester on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Late arrivals are strongly discouraged. While some flexibility is possible for researchers and students, lecturers must be certain to arrive in time to be prepared for the beginning of the fall semester on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September or the spring semester on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Most lecturers prefer to arrive two weeks or at least one week in advance in order to establish contacts and get their bearings before beginning to teach. By regulation, all grants, including researchers, must begin before March 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year and cannot be deferred to a subsequent academic (program) year. If circumstances require that you delay the start of your grant, you must submit an official letter of request to KAEC, detailing your reasons for requesting a postponement as well the approximate date you plan to begin your grant. Please submit these letters via email to [executive.assistant@fulbright.or.kr](mailto:executive.assistant@fulbright.or.kr).

## C. In Korea

### *ORIENTATION PROCESS*

Because grantees arrive in Korea at different times, KAEC does not hold formal group orientation sessions or meetings. Your orientation begins with your receipt and reading of this handbook, and continues with sustained contact with the office throughout your adjustment to Korea and for the duration of your grant period. The primary objectives of the orientation process are to acquaint you with the activities of the Fulbright program in Korea, to confirm your understanding of the arrangements of your award and to assist you with sundry logistical matters, especially anything immediately related to your initial adjustment to life in Korea.

There are various social occasions during the year which function as further orientation and networking. For example, the Fulbright Forum lecture series provides an opportunity to learn about other grantees' work as well as a social occasion.

As this Handbook is a key part of the orientation process, we recommend that you bring it with you to Korea along with any other explanatory materials you have received from us. There will probably be many occasions when you will need to refer to this handbook throughout your stay in Korea. The section titled "Award Terms and Conditions" requires special attention. Do not hesitate to ask for clarification at any time on any points you might find unclear.

The information provided prior to your arrival in Korea and even the supplemental information you will receive during the various phases of in-country orientation will touch on only the most important matters as suggested by our experiences with past Fulbright grantees. Inevitably, situations not covered in this handbook or in other materials will arise either in connection with your unique circumstances or from unanticipated developments. You are responsible for seeking advice and assistance from KAEC whenever a problem arises. We hope to hear from you regularly, especially in the case of any unexpected incidents.

### *KAEC IN-PROCESSING*

Before your arrival, you should schedule an in-processing appointment with the Executive Assistant. If you have not done this, contact him/her as soon as possible to schedule an appointment **within the first week of your grant**. You may email [executive.assistant@fulbright.or.kr](mailto:executive.assistant@fulbright.or.kr) or call +82-(0)2-3275-4004.

When you come to the office for your scheduled in-processing appointment, you and all your accompanying dependents should bring your passports. One of the purposes of in-processing is to get your documents and contact points in order which involves obtaining or applying for the following:

**FULBRIGHT ID CARD** - This identification card is made in our offices and a photocopy is sent to the Immigration Office to certify your Fulbright status and to signal to Immigration the start and finish dates of your grant. In most cases, your Fulbright ID card can be used as ordinary identification and it should be carried with you at all times.

**CHANGE OF STATUS/MULTIPLE RE-ENTRY PERMIT APPLICATION** - You will need to apply for a change of status if you did not obtain an "A-3" visa prior to departing for Korea. You need to make sure that if your visa says "single entry," you get a multiple re-entry permit. A multiple re-entry permit is equivalent to a multiple-entry visa; it will enable you to leave Korea temporarily and return without losing the "A-3" status. KAEC will apply to the Immigration Office on your behalf.

**BUSINESS CARDS** - We can have business cards with the Fulbright logo printed for you at your expense. The current price is about W15,000 per 200 for the standard card. The cards cannot be printed until you have arrived and confirmed contact information at your host institution.

**BANK ACCOUNT** – As of 2011, foreigners without alien registration numbers must usually obtain the help of a Korean citizen willing to verify their identity and provide their own national identification number as surety. There are a few ways to get around this; please see **FINANCES AND BANKING** later in this section. Opening an account using a foreigner ID number (외국인등록증) is much less complicated and provides much more freedom. We suggest obtaining an Alien Registration Card prior to setting up a bank account.

**OTHER INFORMATION** – You will also receive a packet of maps and travel guides, a housing guide and contract should you enter Fulbright housing, general instruction about the usage of the Fulbright name in online media, and information about using the central library at Yonsei University upon request.

**CELL PHONE** – In case you need assistance acquiring a cell phone, a KAEC staff member may be able to advise you on telecommunications providers and recommend sales centers. However, KAEC cannot provide registration services, meaning that rates might run steeper for you as a foreigner than a Korean national. Please see the **CELL PHONES** section of **III. Resources for Daily Life**. We advise you to report your cell phone number or another number at which you can be reached to KAEC as soon as possible.

**ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD** – As of August 1, 2010, the Korean Ministry of Justice has made changes which allow Fulbright grantees, for the first time, to obtain a **Foreigner ID Number** (외국인등록증) which is listed on an **Alien Registration Card** (ARC). This can be very beneficial when it comes to making online transactions with Korean websites, and especially when obtaining a smart phone in Korea. Our office can process your application for this card, which usually takes approximately 14-16 days to complete. You will need to fill out two forms at our office, and also provide the following items when you apply:

1. A 3 cm x 4 cm color photo of yourself
2. U.S. Passport
3. Fulbright ID
4. 20,000 won

This process may also be done independently at a local immigration office, if you so choose (and it is usually easier for those grantees with Korean language proficiency to do so). The Seoul area immigration office locations are listed below.

## Search immigration-related offices

[HOME](#) > Search immigration-related offices

▮ **Section**  ▾
 ▮ **Region**  ▾

▮ **Name**

▮ **Gu/Gun**

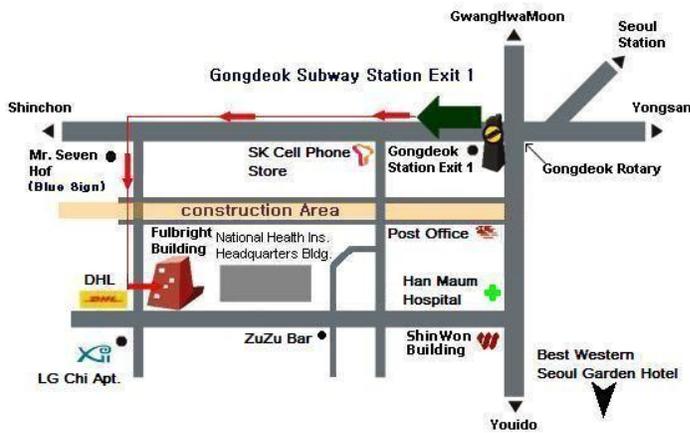
**SEARCH**

### List of immigration-related offices

No	Name	Address	Phone No
4	Incheon Airport Immigration Office City Air Termin	159-6, Samseongdong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul	02-551-6922-6923
3	Incheon Airport Immigration Office Gimpo Branch Of	712-1, Bangwhadong, Gangseo-gu, Seoul	02-2664-6202
2	Seoul Immigration Office	319-2, Sinjeong 6 dong, Yangcheon-gu, Seoul	02-2650-6211-6215
1	Seoul Immigration Office Sejongno Branch Office	SK Hub Bldg. 2F, 89-4, Gyeongundong, Jongno-gu, Seoul	02-732-6220

\* You can contact the Seoul Immigration Office's 외국인등록증 administrator directly at 02-2650-6226.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE FULBRIGHT OFFICES**



To reach the Fulbright Building by subway, come to Gongdeok Station at the intersection of lines 5 and 6, the Gyeongui Line, and the Airport Railroad Line. Gongdeok is the closest subway station to the Fulbright Building. You'll see a "Tous les Jours" bakery ahead on your left when you exit the station. Walk down the street, cross the intersection, and continue straight down this street, keeping the road to your right. After a few minutes, you'll come to 'Mister Seven' bar, which is a blue building and is located on a corner. At the bar, turn left. You will be able to see the Fulbright Building a short way down the road on your left. Administrative offices are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Floor. If you get lost and need directions, please call (02) 3275-4018 or 3275-4004. This map and directions are also available on our website at [www.fulbright.or.kr](http://www.fulbright.or.kr).

To reach the Fulbright Building by car, you will need to come to the Gongdeok intersection. The cards below may come in handy when taking a taxi to the Fulbright Building. If you wish, print this page and keep a copy in your wallet for reference. You will receive a laminated card either at your pick-up from the airport or at your in-processing appointment.

풀브라이트 빌딩 주소:	Fulbright Building Address:
서울시 마포구 염리동 168-15 풀브라이트 빌딩	168-15 Seoul Mapo-gu Fulbright Building
우: 121-874	Zip code: 121-874
Directions:	
한미교육위원단에 가주세요. 공덕 오거리에서 건강보험공단 빌딩 옆에 있습니다.	

공덕역 1번출구	공덕 오거리
Gongdeok Yeok, Il-beon chul-gu	Gongdeok O-geori
(Gongdeok Station exit 1)	(Gongdeok 5-way Intersection)
건강보험공단 빌딩	
Keonkang-boheom-kongdan Building	
(Health Insurance Headquarters)	

**MEETING YOUR HOSTS**

One of the first things you must do after arriving in Korea is to get in touch with your host institution. If you have established a contact at the institution prior to your arrival, which is strongly recommended, getting in touch after your arrival will pose few difficulties. If you do not have a good contact prior to your arrival, we will assist you to set up an appointment to visit your host institution at the earliest opportunity.

Early contact with the host institution is particularly important for lecturers. Even though you will have discussed your lecturing assignment, course load, and class schedule with your host institution in advance by email, you will need to clarify the final details of your assignment including classrooms, office and any other required procedural matters at the institution. Most lecturers receive partial stipend payments from the host institution under cost-sharing arrangements, and this necessitates the completion of some paperwork and setting up a bank account through KAEC or the host institution, and then sharing the information.

If your host institution will be providing housing, this is an additional reason for making contact early. Normally, KAEC will arrange for you to move into the university housing. Some Fulbright grantees are taken directly to university housing upon their arrival in Korea. This will depend on the arrangements made with your host institution. Communication about housing may come through either the host institution or KAEC depending on the arrangements, which vary from year to year for each program.

For researchers and students, there is less urgency about making the first contact with the host institution. Nonetheless, it is a serious breach of etiquette in Korea not to contact your host as soon as possible after your arrival.

Some Korean universities are notorious for not answering correspondence, including letters from Fulbright grantees anxious to confirm the details of their assignment or other arrangements being made on their behalf. In this age, the cause might not be neglect but the failure of foreign emails to clear the server's spam filters. For crucial arrangements the KAEC office can contact the Korean institution directly on your behalf. In fact, the KAEC office routinely contacts both academic and administrative coordinators prior to grantees' arrival. If you suspect someone has failed to receive your correspondences, please let us know.

In the case that your contacts have received your emails but seem hesitant to reply to specific questions, it may be that they require approval from a committee or higher authority before giving a definite answer and in the meanwhile plan to wait expectantly for the opportunity to give you more information. Once you establish that a point needs clarification, it is best to anticipate multiple possible outcomes rather than push for a hazarded guess that misrepresents the reality you will find once you arrive.

Korean institutions may not provide as much detailed information as you would like before your arrive, but they will take care of you well once you are in the country. It is best to make a thorough study of the host institution website in English or Korean if possible once your host affiliation is settled and ask questions about any concerns raised by the content of either the host institution or KAEC.

Especially if you are not going to be providing services as a lecturer you should not expect too much of a response from the institution. Visiting researchers and students may be welcome in the abstract, but the faculty and staff of the institution may not place a high priority on making arrangements for their reception. Once you have arrived in Korea and made a personal contact, the situation probably will improve. In reality, visiting researchers and students at any university in the world may feel isolated or ignored at times and better integration into the academic community requires special effort on your part.

For students, host institutional affiliations are sometimes arranged after arrival in Korea. Most universities are willing to offer an affiliation, but usually it is handled on an ad hoc basis with the support of an interested faculty member rather than through the more formal process involved in obtaining affiliations for lecturers and senior researchers. For that reason, it helps to have a letter of introduction to a faculty member at the institution where you hope to obtain an affiliation. If one of your professors at your home institution has a contact at a Korean institution, ask for a letter of introduction. Otherwise, KAEC will provide you with one, though a formal letter from Fulbright may be less effective than a personal Korean contact. No official paperwork needs to be added to your file if you'd like to add an additional affiliation, but please let us know when you add an affiliation so we can make a mark of it in our records.

### ***FINANCES AND BANKING***

All grantees must open a Korean bank account as soon as possible after arrival to facilitate the deposit of any grant monies or reimbursements. If you will be in Seoul, we suggest you open a bank account at Woori Bank (우리은행), a well-known bank with branches around the country, on Yonsei University's campus in the basement of their student union building. At this bank, and at the Shinhan Bank (신한은행) branch in Ewha Womans University's ECC Building, previous Fulbright grantees have been able to open a bank account with only a passport. Although Citibank also has branches in the U.S., the branch near the Fulbright offices does not allow foreigners to open accounts and despite having the same name, the bank does not

allow direct access to accounts already opened in the U.S. If you try to open a bank account somewhere else on your own, you will most likely need an Alien Registration Card.

All payments of Korean currency which are due to you under the terms of your award will be deposited directly into your Korean bank account by KAEC once your account is opened and you have informed our accountant of the bank and account number. All payments of U.S. dollars which are due to you under the terms of your award will be paid to you in the form of U.S. dollar checks drawn on an American bank, and normally those will be held for you to pick up in person from the accountant, unless you live outside of Seoul and have made other arrangements. You will find that U.S. dollar checks are difficult to cash in Korea. KAEC does not make electronic deposits of any funds to U.S. accounts. However, it is easy to mail your dollar checks for deposit to a dollar account in the U.S., so we recommend that you not close your account at home.

Korea has recently changed from a largely cash-based society to one operating on credit, with most people preferring to swipe a debit card than carry cash. Even transportation systems have been consolidated so that one pre-paid card works in subways, buses, and taxis; certain bank customers now even have the option of using their debit cards as transportation cards with direct deductions from their checking account. Even so, credit or debit cards issued in Korea are more readily accepted than out-of-the-country credit or debit cards. Major hotels and their restaurants, however, will raise no question. Even some smaller restaurants sometimes take out-of-country credit cards; it would be wise to check before you eat. Some smaller stores do not take credit cards at all, and of course street vendors require cash. ATM machines at banks and convenience stores may or may not accept foreign cards.

Your leftover Korean won may be taken out of your bank account and easily converted into U.S. dollars (cash or travelers' checks) at your bank or at Incheon International Airport, which saves significantly against transferring funds to U.S. bank accounts and paying the fees incurred on both sides. Anyone with a U.S. passport can use won to purchase up to US\$10,000 in dollar travelers' checks per trip, so Fulbright grantees are unlikely to face difficulties in repatriating their Korean currency. Travelers' checks can be purchased at a lower exchange rate than cash, so we recommend exchanging your won for travelers' checks.

### ***FULBRIGHT HOUSING***

Independently obtained housing in Seoul, a city of around 30 million people in the greater metropolitan area, is immensely expensive and difficult to arrange. As one of the significant benefits of your Fulbright grant, housing for most senior lecturing grantees will usually be arranged on their behalf by KAEC before they come to Korea. In these cases, housing will be assigned as part of the grant at no cost other than for utilities. As university housing is not usually available for research-only Senior grantees, KAEC will provide a monthly housing allowance, instead. Junior researchers will be assigned Fulbright-provided housing on a first come, first serve basis. **This priority housing list order is based upon when the grantee arrives in Korea.** Please email the Executive Assistant to let him/her know whether or not you would like to live in Fulbright Housing, and specify in which building you would like to be placed. Please note, if you have been granted Fulbright housing but choose to delay your arrival date past late August, you will forfeit this housing and the unit will become available to the next person on the waiting list. Those not assigned to Fulbright housing, will receive a monthly stipend to offset the costs of monthly rent. Temporary housing options exist for grantees willing to wait for an opening after the start of their grants, with information available upon request to KAEC.

In 1999, KAEC purchased the 6-floor Fulbright Building and remodeled it to suit program needs. The building contains the U.S. Education Center and Fulbright Testing Services on the first 2 floors, the administrative offices on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors, housing for grantees. There are a total of 6 units, primarily one-bedroom apartments appropriate for singles or (the slightly larger ones) for couples without children (faculty or graduate students). Researchers receive priority for housing in these units, but some lecturing senior grantees may live in them under special circumstances.

The apartments in the Fulbright Building are small (perhaps 360 square feet) but furnished and self-contained apartments. Most of them are three-room units, comprising a bedroom, a bathroom (with enclosed shower), and a living/kitchen area. They have basic furniture, including a four-burner gas stove with an oven, refrigerator, microwave, an old TV, desk, bookcase, bed, chairs, a small dining table, utensils and dishes. Each residential floor also has a washer and dryer for use at no charge. The units have separate air conditioning units and are heated by separate boilers and under-floor (*ondo*) heat. The Fulbright Building apartments are conveniently located near Gongdeok Station and not far from several universities, including Sogang, Hongik, Yonsei, and Ewha Woman's Universities.

KAEC has also arranged several other apartments located at Yegeon Villa, small apartment building in the Seogyo-dong area and a convenient 5-minute walk from Hapjeong Station (lines 2 and 6). These apartments are similar in set-up as described above, and they include small balconies overlooking the narrow streets of a quiet residential neighborhood. All apartments have recently been renovated.

Note that no overnight guests are allowed in Fulbright housing without first obtaining approval from the Executive Director.

The contract for Fulbright Housing includes the following terms:

**Expectations for Maintenance** - Furniture and household items must be kept in working order. Please consult KAEC concerning problems, alterations, and pets. If you'd like to hang something, Fulbright Building residents must first ask the building manager to place a nail into the wall as new wallpaper was installed in August of 2007. Residents are required to dispose of unwanted items they have acquired and to clean the room before checking out of the unit.

**Responsibility for Bills** - Residents of Fulbright housing units will be responsible for paying the following monthly bills: gas, phone line, cable TV, and electricity (issued by KAEC). In case residents leave or arrive mid-month, KAEC will calculate the amount owed on a per-diem basis and request payment.

**Housing Deposit Regulations** - An entrance deposit of 200,000 won must be made in cash on or before the date of entry to Fulbright housing. After the completion of the grant period, the deposit will be held to cover any remaining unpaid bills. Once all bills are settled, KAEC will return the remainder of the deposit to the grantee at the address listed on file or in person within 2 months of the end of the grant. The housing deposit may also be used against fees incurred for damages to the unit or items in it.

### ***OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRAVEL***

You are encouraged to take advantage of your stay in this part of the world to visit at least one other country during your award period. For lecturers, travel will normally have to be arranged during one of the breaks in the academic year. Researchers and students will have more flexibility. For those on a tight schedule, an obvious alternative is to visit another country either on the way to Korea or on the trip home. Flights from Seoul (Incheon) to all major destinations in Asia are readily available.

For all overseas travel during the period of your award, prior approval must be obtained, first from your host institution and then from KAEC. You also are required to provide KAEC with a telephone number and address where you can be reached in case of emergencies using the KAEC-issued Leave of Absence Form. You should remember that your Department of State health insurance does not cover you for any period that you are out of Korea. You should also make sure your A-3 visa says "multiple entry" or that our office helps you obtain a valid re-entry permit. **Keep in mind that international travel immediately after your arrival in Korea is not permitted; likewise, international travel immediately before your departure from the country constitutes an early termination** (see page 24 for more information on Early Terminations).

Overseas travel during the period of the award may be authorized for the following purposes:

**To lecture in other countries under Fulbright or State Department auspices.** When a Fulbright lecturer is invited for lectures or consultations in another country by request and previous arrangement, the inviting Fulbright Commission or State Department Public Affairs post normally provides travel (international and local) and necessary living expenses to the guest lecturer. The institutions benefiting from such lectures or consultations sometimes will share the cost. Written notice of such trips should be given to KAEC in advance using the Leave of Absence Form.

**To conduct research or attend professional conferences in other countries with or without Fulbright sponsorship.** Fulbright grantees who must be absent from Korea for academic reasons must submit a formal request in writing to KAEC along with the Leave of Absence Form at least two weeks prior to the intended date of departure giving a detailed explanation and justification for the leave, and must obtain KAEC's approval. The trip should be to fulfill a professional objective such as research related to approved research or participation in a professional conference. These conferences may be regional or international, or they may be conferences and field research arranged by the grantee in cooperation with colleagues in his or her field of study in educational institutions in a neighboring country. No matter how justifiable, KAEC cannot pay for transportation or conference registration fees or related expenses for such purposes.

**For private travel as a tourist.** KAEC will grant permission to leave the country for vacation purposes provided there is no conflict with the grantee's academic schedule in Korea. All costs of such trips will have to be covered from the grantee's private funds. Written notice of such trips should be given to KAEC in advance using the Leave of Absence Form.

NOTE: Unless the overseas travel is for professional purposes as indicated above, an adjustment will be made in award benefits if your absence from Korea exceeds an authorized "grace period," which is up to three weeks or 21 calendar days for awards of 9 to 12 months, up to two weeks or 14 calendar days for awards of 4 to 8 months, and no grace period will be allowed for the award up to 3 months. A grantee will not be permitted to leave the country during the first or last month of his or her grant unless for professional purposes. Grantees are also encouraged to use their days out of the country in several trips instead of one and to leave a few days reserved for an emergency trip back to the US. Grantees who extend their grant will not be allowed to leave the country during the extension period. In addition, all travel overseas for any purpose must have the prior approval of the KAEC office. We do not wish to appear as "watchdogs," but you are on a U.S. government grant subject to certain regulations and procedures. **Any unapproved international travel will result in penalty and is possible grounds for termination.**

**Special note about travel to China during the grant year:** Regulations make it exceedingly difficult for Americans to obtain a tourist visa to China while already living in Korea—especially if there will be fewer than six months of your grant remaining when you depart for China. As such, it is **strongly recommended** that those contemplating (even casually) any travel to China, to take the necessary steps to secure a valid Chinese visa before departing the United States.

### ***KOREAN LANGUAGE STUDY ALLOWANCE***

For student grantees, a language study allowance of **W1,800,000** will be available to partially offset the costs of language study during the period of your award. This benefit will be available only to those students who need language study and who are pursuing a university or approved institution language study program. Individual tutoring with pre-approved instructors can also be covered by your language study allowance. This allowance will be provided on a receipt basis although direct payment by KAEC following a grantee's full registration/enrollment in several university language programs may be possible. Please note that grantees are responsible for receiving Commission approval prior to spending their allowance funds, and that it is up to each grantee to choose the enrollment or study plan that best fits his/her language or research needs. There is no required pre-application for this allowance.

Some grantees opt to arrive in Korea prior to starting their grant to take language courses. Summer programs are generally discouraged as they often compose of cultural items and thus cannot be covered. If you chose to arrive early for language studies, please be advised of the following circumstances:

1) If a grantee is in Korea longer than 12 months, as is often the case for early language studies arrivals, it is the responsibility of the grantee to secure their own travel arrangements. Since KAEC nominally provides economy round-trip tickets with one year validity usually, grantees must find their own tickets but are subject only to minimal fare reimbursement as estimated by our travel agent. We advise you to contact our travel agent PANA Travel and arrange it through them to save effort and avoid complications.

2) Tuition for language courses will be reimbursed only after activation of the Fulbright grant, and the course must be approved by us prior to registration.

3) A grantee should obtain a proper visa arranged by the institution of the language program. In other words, KAEC will change your Visa to A-3 upon initiation of your grant.

While KAEC believes that awardees should study at a well-established, university-based language program, applicants who are unable to find a course that caters to their advanced language skills or who have unique scheduling conflicts may enroll at Gananda Korean Language Institute. Different programs start at different times, so it will be up to you to independently determine which program suites your particular learning needs. Some institutions even offer discounts for Fulbright grantees.

All of the following institutions offer classes that fit the guidelines mentioned above:

- [The Korean Language Education Center at Seoul National University](#)
- [Korean Language Institute at Yonsei University](#)
- [Sogang University Korean Program](#)
- [Korea Language and Culture Center at Korea University](#)
- [Ewha Women's University's Ewha Language Center](#)
- [Gananda Korean Language Institute](#)

## **REPORTS**

**Midterm Reports** - All grantees with grant periods of 8 months or longer (i.e. all junior researchers and some senior scholars) must complete an online midterm report for IIE (junior) or CIES (senior) as well as a paper midterm report for KAEC which will be submitted to the Executive Assistant by email. Grantees may designate the midterm report as either exclusively for Fulbright administrative use or as "open" to posting on the Fulbright message board, a login-access online message board viewable only by junior researchers, senior scholars, and KAEC staff. KAEC reports can be accessed through the online message board, and instructions on how to log-in and complete the IIE or CIES reports will be emailed either by KAEC or the respective institution.

Further, all Junior Research Grantees must turn in a 2-5 page project progress report to the Executive Assistant around the 5-month mark of their grant. Then, they will meet with the Executive Assistant 1-1 to discuss their project progress and future project work.

**Final Reports** - All grantees must complete two final reports, one for KAEC and one for IIE or CIES in the same fashion as the mid-term reports (see above). Again, if the grantee designates his or her KAEC report as "open," the report will be posted on the message board for the reference of future senior and student research grantees. For all junior grantees, KAEC will withhold the final month's stipend until the KAEC and IIE reports have been completed and submitted.

Further, all Junior Research Grantees must submit a final project report approximately 10-15 pages in length. It should detail the project outline, research methods, results, outcome, and importance. Also, a section reporting on the challenges faced and suggestions for future grantees is encouraged. This will then be compiled with all other project reports to create a project yearbook of sorts for each program year.

## D. Pre-Departure

### DEPARTURE TIMELINE AND CHECKLIST

	Mid-term	1 month in advance	2 weeks in advance	1 week in advance	Upon Return	Post- Departure
Reports and Out-processing	<p>___ Complete KAEC midterm report for grants 8 months or longer</p> <p>___ Check the visa expiration date on your passport and renew through KAEC if needed</p>	<p>___ Advise KAEC of your final move-out date from Fulbright housing if applicable</p> <p>___ Make plans for shipping goods back to the US</p>	<p>___ Complete the final report for KAEC and return it by email</p> <p>___ Complete final online report for IIE or CIES</p> <p>___ Inform KAEC of your permanent forwarding addresses</p>	<p>___ Visit the KAEC offices to say goodbyes</p> <p>___ Make sure you have paid all outstanding bills</p> <p>___ Register with KAEC Alumni Website</p>	<p>___ Contact KAEC for housing deposit refund if needed</p>	<p>___ Contact KAEC to update your permanent address and email</p> <p>___ You may join State.gov, the Fulbright Alumni Association U.S. DOS State Alumni Website</p>

### TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

If you will be departing within one year of your arrival, you should have received an open-ended return ticket with the same airline. All you need to do is contact that airline or Pana Travel and arrange a reservation for your preferred day of departure. Please remember that KAEC covers the cost of the least expensive routing from Korea to your home of record. If you want to make intermediate stops or travel by an alternate routing, you will be responsible for any additional costs. If you will be departing more than one year after your arrival, tell our office your desired departure date and time, and we will arrange your one-way ticket back home for you. If you arrange your own travel home past the 12 month mark, we may not be able to reimburse you in full due to Fulbright guidelines. Please contact the Executive Assistant for further information.

### VISA STATUS CHANGES

Regardless of the expiration date printed on the visa in your passport, after your grant ends, your A-3 visa will not be valid for future travel to Korea. Regardless of your travel plans, from the end date of your grant you will have a 30-day grace period in which you must either leave the country or secure a new visa. You should not plan to reenter Korea within that 30-day period on the A-3 visa. Fulbright grantees who plan to stay in Korea after the termination of their grant for more than 30 days should contact the Immigration Office for information on changing their visa status.

If the A-3 visa you were initially issued expires before the final day of the grant period, please bring your passport to the Fulbright office at least 6 weeks before the expiration date and we will file for an extension on your behalf.

### EARLY TERMINATION AND DEPARTURE

Researchers and students who have accomplished their objectives earlier than expected, or who must depart early because of professional or personal obligations in the U.S. should submit a written request for

early termination to KAEC. As the award benefits are intended only to cover expenses while in Korea to pursue the stated objectives, *award benefits will be paid only up to the day of departure.*

In some cases, grantees who terminate their award before their scheduled end date may be responsible for repaying to KAEC a portion of the award benefits they received. The amount to be repaid will be decided by the KAEC Board, with the general understanding that the amount to be repaid will be in proportion to the number of months in the award period that the grantee will not complete as a result of their early termination. At the discretion of the Board, terminating grantees may be required to reimburse KAEC for the cost of their return travel to the U.S.

Award benefits will be paid only up to the day of a grantee's departure from Korea. In case of early termination, grantees will be required to immediately repay any advances in allowances or benefits disbursed for use in the period of time after the termination.

**Special Note for Student Grantees:** If a student grantee wishes to terminate before completing the 6<sup>th</sup> month of award period, the grantee will be responsible for reimbursing one half of all award payments previously made by KAEC, and will be responsible for paying for their return airfare to the U.S. Once again, only student grantees who complete the award period will receive return airfare to the U.S.

**Special Note for Lecturing Grantees:** Lecturers and lecturer/researchers may not depart early (before the end of their teaching commitment) except under compelling personal circumstances. In those rare instances, KAEC expects the maximum advance request for early termination and the fullest possible cooperation to minimize the inevitable disruption to the classes at the host institution. Once again, *award benefits will be paid only up to the day of departure.*

### ***RETURN SHIPPING***

The excess baggage allowance may be used to defray the cost of shipping materials back to the United States, as long as you can present an original receipt (and not a photocopy or a shipping label) for the expenses. "Shipping" includes all packages but does not include letters or documents. All grantees should turn in all shipping receipts *at least two weeks before* departing Korea. Only excess baggage used on the return flight to America can be mailed to our office (attn: Executive Assistant) to receive a check reimbursement in USD from our office. We do not, however, recommend taking excess baggage because it is a lot more expensive than shipping. Please keep in mind that APO shipping cannot be used at the end of the grant, so any research materials brought to Korea must be sent back a different way. Most grantees send items back to the U.S. from the post office. The easier way to check rates for mailing packages is by visiting the post office in person.

## **III. Resources for Living in Korea**

### **A. Pre-Arrival**

#### ***INOCULATIONS***

Korean government regulations do not require any inoculations of travelers except for those arriving from a plague, yellow fever or cholera-infected area. HIV testing is not required for American grantees coming to Korea. Some American physicians recommend inoculations against such diseases as hepatitis, typhoid, typhus, cholera, polio and smallpox. You should consult your own physician before deciding whether or not to obtain these or any other inoculations.

Especially in the case of accompanying children, it may be better to err on the side of caution and obtain any inoculations recommended by conservative medical practice. For children of school age, in particular, inoculations against diphtheria and whooping cough generally are considered advisable. The following vaccinations are recommended by Dr. John Linton, MD, a U.S. Board-certified physician at the Yonsei University College of Medicine and Director of the Severance Hospital International Health Care Center:

#### I. VERY IMPORTANT

Diphtheria, Tetanus: Updated every 10 years with a single booster. If not updated in the last ten years, you need to start the series over. It is VERY IMPORTANT to do this before leaving the U.S. as reliable serum is in short supply in Korea.

Hepatitis B: three shots over three months (1 month interval between the first two). A booster every five years should be considered. There is a lot of hepatitis B in Korea, and its consequences are quite severe. You should get as many of the shots as possible before leaving the U.S., but the series can be completed in Korea.

Influenza: Annually. Available in Korea.

#### II. SOMETIMES RECOMMENDED

Hepatitis A: A vaccine is available in Asia and some doctors recommend it for foreigners living in Asia longer than 6 months, though in fact there is little Hepatitis A in Korea.

III. NOT CONSIDERED IMPORTANT IN KOREA (Vaccinations for all of these can be obtained in Korea in the unlikely event that there is an outbreak of the disease.)

Typhoid

Cholera

Pneumococcal bacteria

#### IV. NOT RECOMMENDED

Gamma Globulin is a human serum derived product and is NOT recommended.

Although it is best to obtain any inoculations you or your physician may consider advisable well in advance of your departure for Korea, most inoculations are readily obtainable in Korea. To avoid any unnecessary discomfort while traveling, however, it is recommended that any inoculations obtained in the U.S. be completed at least one week prior to your departure for Korea. For further inquiries about inoculations or any other health-related matters, you should see the the U.S. Center for Disease Control website and vaccinations list at: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/regionEastAsia.aspx>. Note that the CDC says reassuringly, "in highly developed areas of Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan, you should observe health precautions similar to those that would apply while traveling in the United States."

#### **WHAT TO PACK**

Nearly everything anyone might need or want is available in Korea, including appliances, clothing, daily necessities and medicines. The question is whether or not you will want to spend the time, money or effort required to obtain these items in Korea. Shopping in an unfamiliar place can be a daunting task, although some people find it an enjoyable one as well. More to the point, you will not want to purchase expensive items unnecessarily. In the case of electronic equipment, by law ALL appliances manufactured in Korea use only 220 volt current, and most housing units have only 220 volt current. See ELECTRONICS under B.

Essential personal items and documents must be brought with you as there may not be time, or it may be inconvenient, for you to have them sent later. Give a lot of thought to what you really need and make every effort to be sensible about what and how much you bring with you. Remember that you will have more

baggage on your return trip to the U.S., as the acquisition of additional items during your stay in Korea is virtually inevitable. You also must be prepared to pay higher shipping and mailing charges from Korea to the U.S. than from the U.S. to Korea, especially without the assistance of APO shipping.

Individual needs vary, and in the end you alone are the best judge of what you will really need. What follows are merely some suggestions by category of what you might consider bringing with you. Most essential items are included, but you should add or delete items based on your own judgment. The indented passages are quotations from reports submitted by previous Fulbright grantees that support these suggestions.

**Documents** - Besides your passport, the documents you may need during your stay in Korea include a photo-bearing ID other than the passport (a driver's license) and photocopies of:

- academic or professional credentials
- marriage certificate
- school records for dependents
- prescriptions for all medications
- international drivers' license
- university transcripts
- university diploma

**Clothing** - Keep the climate in mind. The climate of Korea is comparable to that of the mid-Atlantic part of the United States. Seoul is at the latitude of Washington, DC. In spring and autumn the weather is mild and pleasant (spring is also the time for Asian yellow dust, pollution blown from China to Korea). Summers are generally hot and very humid with heavy rainfall during the monsoon in July. Winters are windy and quite cold but with sunshine and relatively little snowfall depending on elevation.

You are likely to be more exposed to the extremes of weather in Korea than at home, to spend more time outside walking in the heat or cold. If you will be in Korea during the colder part of the year (November-March), loose-fitting winter wear, which can be worn in layers for extra warmth, is recommended. You also should have warm socks, sweaters, a hat, gloves and a heavy coat. If you will be in Korea during the peak summer months (July-August), very lightweight clothing will be essential. No matter how hot, however, wearing cropped shirts, halter tops or other items which leave substantial parts of the body uncovered is probably not acceptable in most public places except for the beach and a few other recreational areas. If you have special requirements, such as above-average, large, or non-standard sizes, you may have trouble purchasing inexpensive clothing comparable to that sold in the U.S.

If you own it, you should bring with you most of the clothing you will need for formal occasions (including teaching) and the basic items of casual wear.

Keep in mind that most Koreans dress smartly, especially in the city, and street wear resembles business casual dress more closely than in parts of the U.S. Fashion works as an equalizing force in Korean society and people appreciate the efforts others make to look their best in public. Also, many styles common in America are not acceptable in Korea, including revealing shirts and short shorts, torn or ripped clothing.

**Footwear** - You will definitely need a pair of very sturdy, very comfortable shoes because you will be doing a lot more walking and standing on your feet than you probably are accustomed to in the U.S. It also is best to bring as many pairs of dress shoes as you expect to need along with you, and at least one pair of casual footwear for immediate wear. Footwear of all kinds is available in Korea, but shoes larger than size 10 (270 mm.) for men and size 6 1/2 (245 mm.) for women are more difficult to find.

As shoes are not worn indoors in Korean homes or in traditional Korean restaurants, shoes that are easy to get off and on will be a great convenience. You will regret every pair of laced shoes you bring.

"I brought several pairs of very comfortable walking shoes (which I wore out during my stay). One note: I took an afternoon to treat all my shoes with a waterproofing spray before I packed them. It was a boring task,

but worth the time. On several occasions I found myself out and about in snow or rain while traveling in the city."

Koreans in Seoul tend to wear clothes and shoes that reflect their roles – students in sneakers, women of all ages in heels or flats, and men in dress shoes. You can buy shoes on the street for as little as 10,000 won even these days, but imported brands cost much more in stores than in the U.S.

**Food** – While Koreans often take piles of red pepper or *doenjang* with them when they go to America, most Americans do not find it necessary to bring food items to Korea. Almost everything is available in Seoul. Still, most people experience some adjustment of diet. Vegetarians or those with particular allergies will need to learn the basic phrases for ordering food to their taste, an uncommon practice in Korea.

If you cook a lot, you might want to bring a few of your more important spices with you. Most Koreans shop frequently and buy small quantities of fresh produce and meat, keeping staples like rice, soy sauce, red pepper powder, sauces, etc. in stock at home. Some fruits and vegetables can only be purchased when there are in season, and at such times sell much cheaper on the street than in the grocery stores. Because plastic bags are usually purchased at grocery stores, we encourage you to bring your own cloth bag or to purchase a Fulbright cloth bag at the KAEC office.

**Household Items** - Your decision on "what to take" in household items is affected by what type of housing you expect to have. Refer to the section on HOUSING in part B. and contact our office before making these decisions. It is likely that most (but not all) faculty grantees (lecturers and lecturer/researchers) will be housed in university housing, which varies widely according to the university. It is likely that some student research grantees will be housed in the small units in the Fulbright building and others in housing rented by Fulbright in Hapjeong.

Generally, some type of bedding is likely to be provided for you. However, even if you intend to use Korean-style bedding (which is designed for sleeping on the floor), you will need to bring your own sheets and pillow cases. Since Korean mattresses are sometimes not standard U.S. sizes, bring two sets of the largest sheets you have, preferably the non-fitted type. Blankets and quilts are more readily available, however, and Fulbright may be able to provide a blanket if necessary. You should bring a few bath towels as well. Korean-made towels are readily available but somewhat expensive, and not always 100% cotton. Moreover, the typical Korean "bath" towel is the size of a hand towel and tends to be thin. Many past grantees have suggested merely purchasing these items once you arrive in Korea.

Other essential household items such as tableware, pots and pans as well as sundry kitchen gadgets are readily available at reasonably affordable prices for no-frills items. Some basic household items are provided if you are in Fulbright housing, and every grantee is given a "settling-in allowance" specifically to enable you to purchase those other items that you personally prefer to live with. You should bring any special or favorite (small) kitchen gadgets you feel are essential for your cooking.

If housing (rather than a housing allowance) is included in the terms of your award, usually all essential major appliances including a refrigerator and a gas range (which will normally not include an oven) as well as basic items of furniture such as a mattress/bed, a desk and a chest of drawers will be provided. The situation will never be as comfortable as your own home, but you should have everything you need. Rarely does an apartment come close to matching those elusive pleasures of home. Housing tends to be very small in Seoul; other cities are crowded too, but less so.

If your award gives you a monthly housing allowance instead of housing or if you choose to decline the assigned Fulbright housing, major appliances and items of furniture will not be provided separately, and you will be responsible for your own housing. Although furniture items are available for rent, you probably will find the rental charges quite expensive. A few basic items can be purchased at reasonably affordable prices from used furniture stores. If you are living in an international house or a boarding house, of course, there may not be space for all the appliances and items of furniture you normally use at home. In this instance, as in all situations of coming to Korea, you must be prepared for a change in lifestyle.

**Computers** - We strongly advise you to bring your own laptop computer, unless you are prepared to do without. Korean universities normally will not make computers available for grantees, and computers are not available for rental. The power block of most laptops will accept either 110 or 220 volts. You should bring your laptop with you on the plane. We do not recommend bringing a desktop computer. (The computers and printers in the KAEC office will not be available for your personal use, though the computers in the U.S. Education Center are usually available for web surfing or internet-based email accounts.)

Generally speaking, service for computer hardware is reliable and relatively inexpensive. While pirated software also is available in great abundance, so are viruses. It is best to bring your own programs, installed. That said, Macintosh computers have made a relatively recent entrance to the market in Korea and repairs remain expensive and inconvenient. Korean websites usually run best on Internet Explorer.

Korean brand name computers are being sold at competitive prices in the U.S., but these same computers usually are more expensive when purchased in Korea. Furthermore, local computers will have Korean Windows installed, and not all English programs will work smoothly on Korean Windows. Thus, we again recommend you bring your own laptop.

Fulbright housing units, and the majority of other housing options, include cable Internet connections. Most grantees use free Internet-based accounts such as Gmail or "Fulbrightmail." Fulbrightmail is a free lifetime email service run by Gmail, specifically designed for Fulbright grantees and alumni and maintained by IIE, the Fulbright cooperating agency in New York. For more information, please contact our office on how to set up a Fulbrightmail address.

**Camera Equipment** - Bring a camera and any other photographic equipment you want. Digital cameras are common, and may be purchased here as well though at somewhat steeper prices. Kodak, Fuji and other types of film are sold everywhere in Korea these days (mostly 35 mm, but even APS can be found), and all other common photographic supplies (such as batteries for digital cameras) also are available. It is not recommended that you bring more than a small supply of film unless you need an unusual type for your work. If you really are still using film, some shops will also scan the images and save them to a disk or storage website. Kodachrome cannot be developed in Korea, though Ectachrome can. Prints can be processed while you wait almost everywhere in Seoul as well as in most large Korean cities.

**Appliances** - The electrical appliances you use in the U.S. can be used in Korea provided you take care to check the current of an electrical outlet before you plug in any appliance, and purchase the appropriate transformer if necessary. Appliances can be purchased in Korea, but usually at higher prices than in the U.S. for comparable products, and you can't take them home and use them in the U.S. after your stay.

Kitchen appliances tend to be more expensive here than in the US. If you are going to bring a coffee maker I recommend that you bring a new cheap one and abandon it here when you go back home. If you want coffee beans or ground coffee you can get them at almost any coffee shop and in local grocery stores and department stores, as well as at Costco stores.

## **Electronics**

**AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT** - Korean-made electronic equipment of good quality, including radios, cassette tape or CD players, stereo equipment, televisions, video players and microwave ovens, is available in a wide range of models which vary greatly in price. Most items are somewhat more expensive than comparable models in the U.S., and all use 220 volt input into the AC adapters.

A television set is available in each Fulbright Building unit and is often provided by the host institution or landlord, but other items normally are not provided. Most grantees make do with a combination radio and CD player, which they either bring with them or purchase in Korea. Some find a VCR or DVD equally indispensable and decide to purchase one after arriving in Korea. VCR protocols and videotape standards are the same as in the U.S. (i.e. NTSC), but DVDs sold in Korea use a different region code (3 rather than 1 as in the U.S.) and may require you to switch the setting on your DVD player.

**COMPUTERS:** Notebook power bricks switch automatically, while desktop systems, if switchable, will have a manual switch on the back of the case. All that will be needed is the flat prong to round pin adapters for such devices.

**PRINTERS:** Bringing a printer is not recommended. First you will have the voltage conversion problem, and using transformers with multiple devices and multiple power sources can result in a 120 volt "hot ground" condition. 120 volts on a 5-volt USB port may destroy the printer, computer or both. We also do not recommend bringing a printer as the voltage will be different, a printer is hard to transport, and printers are not very expensive in Korea.

**WARNING:** You must be careful because most electrical outlets in Korea are 220 volts. Always confirm the voltage before plugging in any American appliance. The Korean system is based on 220 Volt 60 Hz (cycle) AC power. The US system is 110-120 volts 60 Hz. You can see what the input ranges of most devices are by looking at the back of the device or its power supply. It will say something like "Input: 100-220 volts 50-60 Hz" If the voltage range only goes up to 120 volts then it is a US only power supply or device. A "down transformer" will be needed to operate it in Korea. Please see "Transformers" below.

**TRANSFORMERS:** There are two general types of voltage "transformers" available.

Type 1: The first is a small device that weighs only a pound or two. This type of device is made up of electronic circuitry that chops the incoming voltage into pieces and lets the downstream device average these pieces out into 110 volts. The problem with this type of unit is that it creates spikes and dips in the power that it supplies to any device plugged into it.

Type 2: The second type is a true transformer weighing 5 pounds (for the small, low capacity ones) and up. These weigh so much because they actually have a copper wound transformer inside of them to do the voltage conversion. They smoothly and cleanly convert the power from 220 to 110 volts. The Fulbright office may have one available upon request.

**POWER STRIPS:** Not recommended in combination with a transformer. Most transformers have a rated conversion capacity and include one or two outlets already. Adding a power strip to the mix invites the chance of over heating by exceeding the transformer's ratings. Widely available.

Please contact our network administrator, John Phillips, at [phillips@fulbright.or.kr](mailto:phillips@fulbright.or.kr) with further questions.

**Medications & Toiletries** - The Korean pharmaceutical industry is well developed. Prescription medications are widely available and their quality is up to global standards. Prescriptions can be written by doctors and filled by pharmacies throughout Korea. However, if there is a specific medication or personal hygiene product you must use, you should bring a sufficient supply for your stay in Korea. In particular, the fees incurred from obtaining prescription medications without medical insurance for pre-existing conditions while in Korea make bringing a supply to cover the period of your stay in Korea well worth the effort. Otherwise, obtaining adequate medication in Korea will pose few problems provided that you speak the language or locate an international clinic, keeping in mind that you will need an alternate health insurance plan to cover cases of pre-existing conditions. Just to tide you over until you get settled, however, it may be a good idea to bring a small supply of any common non-prescription medications you use, plus simple first-aid supplies. If you are carrying prescription drugs, be prepared to show a doctor's prescription for them when you enter Korea. Super tampons are not as easily found in Korea, and you are advised to bring these if you usually use them.

**Books** - The one thing you probably could never bring in excess, or needlessly, is books. The libraries of Korean universities are considered inadequate, and bookstores usually will not have the titles you want or will ask much higher prices than in the U.S. Virtually every Fulbright scholar regrets not having brought more books along, especially those who have a lecturing assignment, and most find that it usually is not practical to order books from the U.S. on a regular basis (though the existence of online booksellers has improved the situation immensely). Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you bring all the books which are

essential to your assigned activity and as many others as circumstances will allow. Most grantees just suggest using an electronic reader.

One way to ensure that you have the materials you need, without including a huge number of books in your baggage, is to bring single copies of articles or portions of texts you plan to use rather than entire publications. Photocopying services are available everywhere for a modest charge. Recent crackdowns have reduced the practice of photocopying multiple copies of your entire textbook, but articles and chapters can be reproduced easily.

The Fulbright Library located in the U.S. Education Center on the 1st floor contains a small collection of books related to Korean Studies, including history, culture, the arts, and Korean language learning. Please feel free to donate books of this nature to the library at any time. We would also welcome copies of your own publications. Books from this collection may be borrowed using the sign-out sheet.

There are two easy come, easy go bookshelves of mostly novels, self-help, and travel guides on the 4th and 5th floors of the Fulbright Building. You are welcome to borrow books at will or drop off books you no longer want around for others to enjoy.

**Pets** - It is not advisable to bring pets with you since your living circumstances will make it virtually impossible to take proper care of them in Korea. There is also a difficult and expensive quarantine procedure. It is also not advisable to acquire any pets while in Korea, as they will probably not find a new home easily after you leave and animal shelters sometimes suddenly close down.

## **B. In Korea**

### ***JET LAG***

Inevitably, your activities will be constrained by the effects of jet lag during your first few days in Korea. The severity of the jet lag varies markedly from person to person. Full adjustment to local time can take up to two weeks. Most people feel reasonably adjusted after a week or even a few days. Primary symptoms include waking up and being totally alert in the middle of the night and falling dead asleep by late afternoon. It happens to everyone and new arrivals should remember this when they plan activities and meetings, especially during the first week or so. We recommend arriving several days to a week in advance of the start of your Fulbright grant, especially for those giving lectures or those classes, exhausting activities in their own right.

Rest is extremely important in getting over jet lag. You should consciously try to plan short rest periods at four or five hour intervals during the day. Getting out in sunlight apparently helps you adjust your internal clock. However, do not think just because you manage to stay awake for an entire period of daylight that you are synchronized. Such an approach only encourages exhaustion. Don't fool yourself into thinking that this problem can be cured by will power alone.

### ***CULTURE SHOCK***

The term "culture shock" may be overused, but it refers to a common reaction experienced by most people to one degree or another when they find themselves in a markedly different cultural and social environment. The effects of culture shock are generally greater in Asia than in, say, Europe, as the local cultures are much more removed from our own. Even those who make a profession out of the study of other cultures experience culture shock. It may be as unavoidable as jet lag.

Common symptoms include distrust of people, places and things. Often this distrust manifests itself in feelings that everything is done incompetently or incorrectly; that everything is dirty and unsafe; and that one

is isolated and the center of derisive attention. Or, it may be manifested in a generalized, non-specific sense of frustration that arises together with a relatively small set-back, problem, or loss.

In Korea, the symptoms are aggravated by:

**Communication problems** - Difficulties in communication due to the relative scarcity of English speakers and sharp differences in world view are normal. The real problem is that some of the most important people in your life, such as garbage collectors, won't be able to speak English. The fact that many professors and students can speak English may be scant consolation when you are in the throes of "culture shock" at the corner shop.

**Traffic conditions** - Chaotic and dangerous traffic is a very real problem. After a while you will see that there actually is a system to the way people drive in Korea, but it is not necessarily one to be recommended. The very high rate of traffic accidents makes that clear enough. Any terror you may feel in a Korean taxi, or even a bus, in fact, may be a healthy manifestation of your survival instincts!

**Crowds** - Seoul, like many Asian cities, is a crowded place and some sojourners never quite get used to it, unless you happen to come from a city of 11 million. Others get so used to it that they find themselves wondering where all the people have gone when they return to the U.S. and find that the streets are comparatively empty.

**Being stared at** - In Korea, as in Asia generally, it is not particularly impolite to stare, especially at a foreigner who has "unusual" physical features, though this is not so great a problem in Seoul nowadays. Some foreigners attract more attention than they would like. Some enjoy being instant celebrities everywhere they go.

**Intrusiveness and Privacy** - Americans are often taken aback by what they consider to be very private and personal questions, such as "Are you married?" "Why aren't you married?" "Divorced! Why?" "How old are you?" "How much money do you earn?" and "What university did you attend?" As long as you are polite, it is perfectly acceptable to defer answering any questions you consider too personal. You also should be aware that it is customary in Korea to greet someone by saying "Where are you going?" This is not a real question; it means, "Oh, you're going somewhere!" and can be answered, "Yes, I'm pretty busy these days." The constant question, "How old are you?" is necessitated by the language, where you speak differently to those older or younger than yourself. On the other hand, it is also true that Korean culture is much more intrusive into what we consider individual private business; in fact, Korean culture does not place much value on privacy, and often Americans find that the hardest adjustment in Korea is not the food (which is what Koreans expect your difficulty to be) but privacy, "personal space."

All grantees should refer to the following section **III. KOREAN CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND HISTORY**, especially B. Manners and Etiquette for essential notes on the Korean-American Experience.

### ***USEFUL WEBSITES***

The best cure for the symptoms of culture shock starts with getting more information about your new surroundings. Even though you might think you alone feel frustrated or confused, in fact, out of an estimated million foreigners from various backgrounds live in Korea, the English-speaking population receives more attention and assistance than any other group and benefits from many accommodations and resources. Government ministries, Korean organizations, and foreigners themselves have compiled a wealth of information on the Internet that you may use. Here are a few links to get you started:

Government

Korea Immigration Service - <http://www.immigration.go.kr/indeximmeng.html>

Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism - <http://www.mcst.go.kr/english/index.jsp>

Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology - <http://english.mest.go.kr/>

## Korea

AMCHAM Korea - <http://www.amchamkorea.org/index.jsp>

Expat Advisory Services (Korea) - <http://www.expat-advisory.com/south-korea/seoul/>

Galbijim wiki - [http://wiki.galbijim.com/Main\\_Page](http://wiki.galbijim.com/Main_Page)

Gateway to Korea - <http://www.korea.net/>

Korea 4 Expats – [www.korea4expats.com](http://www.korea4expats.com)

Life in Korea - <http://www.lifeinkorea.com/index.cfm?Language=English>

National Tourism Organization (Tour 2 Korea) – [www.tour2korea.com](http://www.tour2korea.com)

## Academic

American Studies Association of Korea - <http://www.asak.or.kr/eng/main.asp>

Frog in the Well – Korea - <http://www.froginawell.net/korea/>

Korea Foundation - <http://www.kf.or.kr>

Koreanists - <http://www.clickkorea.org/koreanists/>

KoreanStudies list - <http://koreaweb.ws/ks/>

Royal Asiatic Society - <http://www.raskb.com/>

## Seoul

Craigslist (Seoul) - <http://seoul.craigslist.co.kr/>

Korea Foundation Cultural Center - <http://www.kfcenter.or.kr/>

Seoul Help Center for Foreigners - <http://shc.seoul.go.kr/>

Seoul Metropolitan Government - <http://english.seoul.go.kr/>

Seoul Selection - <http://www.seoulselection.com/>

Seoul Style - <http://www.seoulstyle.com/>

These and other bookmarks can be found on <http://delicious.com/executive.assistant>

## **GETTING AROUND**

The first thing to do when you have a free moment is look at a map of Seoul (or of whatever city you are staying in), and then study it until you have learned the general layout. The next thing to do is to explore a few areas, with map in hand, until you have at least a minimum amount of confidence about directions and distances. Persons requiring more precise maps showing detail at the street level should look in a large bookstore such as Kyobo Moongu or Youngpoong Moongu. While such maps are available, many small streets in Korea do not have street signs, and even addresses do not include street names. Instead, Koreans talk in terms of cities, districts, neighborhoods, and landmarks including natural features.

You will need to learn how to use public transit including the subway, buses and taxis. At first just concentrate on learning the most essential subway or bus routes which will get you back and forth from your residence to the university, the KAEC office and critical shopping areas. Full mobility will be feasible once you've become more settled. Remember, it's virtually impossible to get lost forever. Hop into a taxi and ask to be taken to the Chosun Hotel or some other "all purpose" landmark which everyone will know, or carry a map to our offices with you and come here.

In getting around Korea you should be prepared for a lot of jostling. It is not uncommon for people to bump into one another and keep on walking without the exchange of apologies to which Americans are accustomed. It is best not to make a big fuss over such incidents; and being bumped has nothing to do with being a foreigner. Life in Korea is hectic, and people are jostled regardless of their nationality, race or appearance. While this inevitably leads to generalizations about how Koreans are less polite than Americans, in the end it is a matter of context. That is, Koreans are likely to be almost embarrassingly polite in personal encounters, but less so when negotiating their way through crowds of strangers.

Take the following comments from former grantees with a grain of salt:

"We relied on the bus system, and sometimes subways. Taxis were sometimes hard to get depending on time of day. We were not here long enough to make the purchase of a car worthwhile. It would have been

expensive to buy, keep, and maintain, and often impossible to park. We learned the bus routes and did our best."

"The subway system is fantastic. It is easy to learn how to use it, even if you don't read or speak Korean. Except for the rush hours, it is comfortable and you always know the time when you are going to arrive at your destination. That's more than you can say for any surface mode of transportation."

"The bus system works well in getting to certain destinations once you know the routes and numbers. I do not advise using a car since traffic is obnoxious. The taxis are helpful at late hours once the subway has shut down, but here caution is always necessary as some taxi drivers fix their meters at night to overcharge customers and other are sometimes sketchy characters who may try to pull something shady on you. It is easy to be robbed on the subway, have someone try to sexually harass you on the subway, or to fall down in the bus when the driver runs amok through Seoul."

"I haven't encountered many safety issues beyond drunk older men on the street, but they are relatively easy to avoid. In fact, I feel safer here than I do in the United States."

Besides personal experience, Internet research serves most grantees as the best way to gain confidence getting around the city. Information from the Korean Tourism Organization at [www.visitkorea.or.kr](http://www.visitkorea.or.kr) provides an invaluable resource for all new arrivals in Korea. The Seoul Global Center, recently opened in January of 2008, also provides various services for easing the difficulty of adjusting to life in Seoul. Their website at <http://global.seoul.go.kr> continues to improve on a weekly basis with updated content and services. Most special cities, provinces, and districts offer community websites with information in English, including maps and transportation information.

### ***PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN SEOUL***

Public transportation is highly developed and inexpensive in Korea; you can go anywhere in the city and back for under 2 dollars. Among Fulbright grantees, nobody buys a car, and few purchase auto bikes. Gas is expensive, parking is impossible, insurance is risky, and getting rid of it when you leave is a hassle. On the other hand, you will walk more than you ever did in the U.S., as the suburban sprawl doesn't exist; walking remains the cheapest and most reliable "public transportation."

**Subway** - The Seoul subway system is new, clean and efficient. You'll probably rely on the subway for much of your travel within the city. It has also become safer with the addition of barriers along most tracks.

See the Seoul Metro website at <http://www.seoulmetro.co.kr/> for more information in Korean or English. Choose Route Map to select your starting point and destination, check train times, and view distance at <http://www.smrt.co.kr/Train/Subwaymap/Eng/Subwaymap.jsp>

Within metropolitan Seoul, the subway fare is W1,150 (around one dollar), with additional expense added for further distances. Tickets may be purchased from ticket sellers at designated windows within the subway system or from a machine at many stations. Nowadays most people use the **prepaid "T-Money" transportation card** (see the Bus section) which are scanned by a flat sensor panel, which cost about \$5 initially but offer a discount on the price of each one-way trip. To gain entry to the trains, you must insert the ticket in a slot in the turnstile or place the card on the sensor and pass through. The ticket is returned to you at the far end of the turnstile, and you must insert it again in a turnstile when you leave the subway system, while cards must be scanned again upon exiting. The second turnstile will keep single-trips tickets.

The names of the subway stops are printed in English, Korean, and in Chinese characters within the stations and on pillars in front of the subway entrances. The lines are color-coded and all the stops are numbered as well. However, most people refer to the stops by name rather than number. As a result, it is relatively easy to make transfers without getting lost.

The subway system is extremely crowded during the morning and evening rush hours. Nevertheless, the subway is usually the fastest and the most reliable way to get around metropolitan Seoul.

**Bus** - The bus system is so much more confusing than the subway system that some foreigners never ride a single bus. However, if you learn just a few bus routes it will make it easier for you to get to more places.

An online Bus Search map by the city government provides travel times and routes at [http://bus.congnamul.com/SeoulRouteWebApp/view\\_english/map.jsp](http://bus.congnamul.com/SeoulRouteWebApp/view_english/map.jsp). Google Maps is also a useful tool for finding the quickest route from place to place using public transportation.

City buses are plentiful and usually convenient for the experienced rider, but very crowded during rush hour. There are several types of buses that service metropolitan areas: regular buses and "seat buses." Although the "seat buses" have more seats than regular city buses (hence the name), all bets are off during rush hours and many passengers have to stand just as on the regular buses. Thanks to "bus only" lanes, buses have become "rapid transit," faster than taxis, sometimes as fast as the subway.

The regular city buses are multi-colored - blue, green, and other colors. The color may help to identify the bus you want, though the city keeps changing the colors. As further means of identification, the buses are all numbered and their routes are printed on the front and the side in Korean. Buses in Seoul now have their destinations written on them in English as well as Korean, but the print is very small and only indicates the general direction the bus is going – you need to know the city. Mostly you'll have to rely on the number and color. Unless you can read the sign on the bus, sometimes the only way to distinguish between these buses is to ask the driver if the bus goes where you want, in Korean of course!

City buses stop not just at one spot where the "bus stop" sign is located, but anywhere within half a block. It is best to view this as a kind of game. You must be vigilant for the arrival of your bus and be prepared to run to catch it when it stops some distance from where you are standing. During the peak rush hours, only the fleet of foot or the lucky catch the first one or two buses which pull up to the bus stop. Normally you must be ready to board as soon as the bus arrives at the stop or it may leave without you. Bus drivers are on a tight schedule, and the traffic congestion heightens their sense of urgency even further.

You can pay for the bus in two ways. You can pay cash, and as long as the fare is an even number like the current W900 this is easy. You deposit the fare in a box next to the driver upon boarding through the door at the front end of the bus. Some "Seat buses" have only this one door which is used for both entering and exiting. Others, like regular city buses have a second door in the middle of the bus which is used only for exiting. You should check the Internet (or look at the sign upon boarding) for current fares.

Most bus customers (and subway riders) now use a **T-Money transportation card** which can be charged with as much as you want. It can usually be bought at small kiosks near the major bus stops where they also sell gum and cigarettes (not at every bus stop) or in the subway station. Hold the card against a scanner in the front of the bus to automatically subtract the amount of your fare. Save your card when it runs out and refill it with money at the ticket counter of any subway station. Some stations have refill machines as well. Transportation cards also give you a cheaper fare on buses and subways and can be used when transferring between the two – so make sure you scan on the way out!

In addition to the city bus system, radiating from almost every subway stop is a short network of "ma-ul bus" (neighborhood buses) connecting local areas to the subway stops. There is an excellent neighborhood bus, for instance, that goes from one end of the Fulbright building to the Grand Mart near the Sinchon subway stop. These buses are slightly smaller, have lower numbers (like "11" or "12"), usually green colored, and are cheaper. A typical charge is W1,200. You can use the same "transportation card" in the neighborhood busses.

Generally buses are crowded and make frequent and sudden stops and starts. Hold on. On regular city buses, passengers must push buzzers to indicate they want to get off at the next stop. Bus drivers do not linger at bus stops; be ready to jump. On "seat buses" there are sometimes no buzzers. Passengers should

approach the door or otherwise indicate to the driver a desire to exit. Buses sometimes skip stops if there is no one to get on or off, so it behooves you to remain alert.

If you are carrying a bag or package while standing in a bus (or on the subway), a passenger who is seated may offer to hold it for you. As this is a well-established custom, often it is done without a word being passed between the two passengers. Do not be alarmed if a passenger sitting in front of you reaches out for your bag; it is likely to be an act of courtesy rather than an attempted robbery.

All of this information may give an exaggerated impression of how hard it is to use the bus in Seoul. In fact, once you learn the one or two busses that go where you want to go regularly, you will use those lines comfortably and easily – it's exploring new routes and going to new places that can be difficult.

**Taxis** - You may rely on taxis in getting around, especially at first. Unless you are going to a place which every taxi driver knows, such as a major international hotel, you should carry written directions to show the driver when you board a taxi. Don't hesitate to ask someone to write out directions or a phone number for you. Don't expect a taxi driver to recognize even commonplace English terms such as "U.S. Embassy," although some may do so. On the other hand, taxis can be great places to find a captive Korean conversation partner! A mailing address is of limited value in getting around in Korea as houses are numbered in order of their construction. Everyone navigates by landmarks rather than street addresses, and written directions usually include the nearest recognizable landmark. On the other hand, every taxi driver in Korea has a cell phone, so the most common means of finding a place is to give the taxi driver a phone number that can be called for directions.

Taxis are relatively inexpensive, and are much easier to catch than they were a few years ago. There are two types of taxis operating in metropolitan Seoul: colored taxis, which are cheaper; and black "deluxe" taxis, which are more expensive. The basic daytime fare for the regular taxi is W2400. The charge goes up for distance traveled or time in transit, so you pay for traffic jams. The price also goes up after midnight. Tipping is not practiced per se, but many passengers round up to the next W1000. Some drivers will make a point of returning whatever change is due you, others will not. More and more taxis in Seoul accept payment through the "T-money" card.

There are clearly marked taxi stops throughout the downtown area. If you are near a stop, you should use it. Passengers are expected to line up and wait their turn, and most do. If there is no stop nearby, however, you may hail a taxi anywhere. Similarly, a taxi will let you off just about anywhere.

Most taxi drivers in Seoul occasionally "double up" during rush hours, picking up additional passengers, even though it is technically illegal for them to do so. As a result, you may find a taxi that already has a paying passenger stopping to offer you a ride if you appear to be headed in the same direction. Or, at his own discretion, the driver of a taxi you are riding in may stop to pick up additional passengers. In these instances, the original passenger still pays the metered fare while the "co-rider" normally pays the fare from the point of entry plus W1900, subject to negotiation with the driver. While you may be bothered by this custom when it is "your taxi," you also can take advantage of it to catch "someone else's taxi" when you are desperate for a ride and there are no free taxis available.

There are other vehicles who will claim to be taxis and offer you rides for money, particularly at airports and train stations, though this is less of a problem than in some other countries. Unless the vehicle has a "taxi"-style sign on top, don't use it. The counterfeit taxis are unreliable, they tend to overcharge (no meter), and they usually are not insured for business use. They typically wait at stations after midnight.

Even the drivers of metered taxis can be unreliable at times. Especially late at night a taxi driver may want to turn off the meter with the intention of charging a flat rate for the trip. As that charge is likely to be much more than the metered rate, unless you feel that an additional charge is warranted under the circumstances (rainstorm, 3 a.m.), you should insist that the meter be kept on. If the driver is unreasonable, it may be best to get out of the taxi and try your luck with another driver. Should a driver abandon you in the car with the meter running, it is justified to get out and try your luck with another taxi.

Foreigners think they have problems with taxi drivers due to communication problems. In reality, however, Koreans also have a good deal of trouble with taxi drivers. While the unreliable ones are a distinct minority, they do cause everyone a good deal of trouble. By all means, if you have a bad experience, jot down the driver's number and the circumstances. As is clearly indicated in a public notice found in every taxi, the Seoul metropolitan government accepts written complaints about taxi drivers and claims that they discipline them when the complaints are substantiated.

### ***SEOUL VS PROVINCIAL LIFESTYLES***

Your lifestyle will be influenced to a significant degree by the location of your host institution. Most of you will be affiliated with an institution located in Seoul. For those who are not accustomed to the noise, crowds and pollution of a major urban center, the quality of life in Seoul may seem especially poor. These days air pollution in Seoul is a serious problem due to automobile emissions, dust and other contaminants. Some areas of the city are worse than others, and the problems are more severe at certain times of the year. Naturally, the effects of pollution are felt more acutely by those with respiratory problems. Those who wear contact lenses may also experience problems.

Those few who are affiliated with institutions in provincial cities such as Busan, Daegu, Gwangju, or in more rural areas will not have the same problems, though both traffic and air pollution in such cities are rising alarmingly. In general, those who live outside of Seoul tend to better appreciate the change of seasons, feel connected with the lifestyles and habits of people in the community, and travel off the beaten path more frequently. On the other hand, the provincial lifestyle has its own drawbacks. For example, you may feel somewhat isolated from the mainstream since so much of the governmental, commercial, cultural, and particularly international life of contemporary Korea is strongly focused on Seoul. In any case, as a Fulbright grantee, you will be living in a basically urban setting.

Although no place in Korea is really far from Seoul in these days of expressways and modern transportation facilities, those of you who are assigned to provincial institutions will have to be more self-reliant. We will do everything possible to assist you in settling-in and handling any problems that may arise, but our personal contacts with you will be less frequent than with those Fulbright grantees residing in Seoul. Fortunately, with the universality of email and cell phones and the ease of travel, no one on this peninsula can be truly isolated any more except by personal choice. You should feel free at any time, however, to seek our assistance as needed.

### ***DOMESTIC TRAVEL IN KOREA***

**Airlines** - Air service is available to all major destinations within Korea. Fares are reasonable and service is generally reliable. Especially to destinations such as Jeju Island, flights are available at regular intervals throughout the day. For instance, there is a shuttle between Seoul and Busan which departs every thirty minutes during peak hours, and costs less than W80,000 one-way. Please verify the current price and times. All airline carriers (KAL, Asiana, Jeju, etc. have multilingual websites and services lines with English-speaking representatives. Airports also post information online; for example, the Incheon International Airport at <http://www.airport.or.kr/eng/airport/> also includes shuttle bus times to locations around Seoul and Korea. Transportation to Incheon International Airport by shuttle bus or the newly completed Airport Railroad is convenient and quick. Domestic flights depart from Gimpo Airport, which is just a few stops from Gongdeok station on the Airport Railroad with details available at <http://www.arex.or.kr/jsp/eng/main.jsp>

**Trains** - Trains are efficient, safe and inexpensive. We recommend them for most of your travel within Korea. You can purchase tickets either at the train stations or through booking agents. Without a foreigner registration number, making online or phone reservations has proved impossible, but thankfully the grantees can obtain the discounted Korean Railroad pass for visiting foreigners. Reservation and payment may be made over the Internet using a credit card. Print out a copy of your reservation and take it with you when you redeem your pass for tickets at the railway station, along with your passport. For more details, see [http://info.korail.com/2007/eng/etr/etr02000/w\\_etr02100.jsp](http://info.korail.com/2007/eng/etr/etr02000/w_etr02100.jsp), which runs best on Internet Explorer.

There are various classes of trains. "KTX" is the bullet train and stops at major cities and cultural sites. "Saemaul" trains are fast, comfortable, and cheaper than the KTX. "Mugunghwa" trains are only a bit slower and somewhat cheaper, but still very comfortable. Mugunghwa trains also offer standing room and student discounts. See the KORAIL Korean Railroad website at [www.korail.go.kr/](http://www.korail.go.kr/) for times and fares.

**Express Buses** - The inter-city bus system in Korea as a whole is quite efficient and even less expensive than the trains. Buses depart for all major provincial cities on a regular schedule, every five or ten minutes in some cases. Advance purchase of tickets is not necessary except during special holiday periods. On the downside, some people find the speed and driving style of highway buses in Korea harrowing. In the countryside, all but the most remote villages have bus service, though not as frequently. The Seoul Express Bus Terminal website (Korean only) at <http://www.terminal.co.kr/> lists buses to other provinces and cities - choose Bus Schedule to search times and prices.

### ***SIGHTSEEING***

There are a hundred good places to go see in Seoul, and a thousand in Korea. One of the dangers for Fulbright grantees in Seoul is that they don't get to see the rest of the country, particularly not the countryside (granted, it's sometimes hard without a car.) But it can be done, and it should be high on your list of priorities.

It is a good idea to visit the website of the Korea National Tourism Organization (KNTO) at <http://www.knto.or.kr>. You can pick up various ideas of what people think is good to see in Korea. The KNTO offices are also worth visiting after you arrive as you can get very interesting booklets and brochures and view some excellent complimentary slide and movie presentations as well. KNTC also provides useful information about travel within Korea. You can buy tickets and make other travel arrangements there.

**Touring** - For guided tours, your best bet is the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (RAS) <http://raskb.com>, as long as enough members sign up for the advertised trips. A membership application is available online, and you can obtain additional information by emailing the RAS office at [info@raskorea.org](mailto:info@raskorea.org). You are urged to consider joining the society, which offers a regular semi-monthly lecture series as well as excellent tours. The RAS bookstore is also a good place to shop for books of all kinds on Korea, everything from scholarly publications to popular guidebooks. Members receive a discount on book purchases and tours. Numerous other tour agencies are also regularly advertised on the Internet and in English-language newspapers, both on the Internet and in print form.

You can also do a great deal of sightseeing on your own, in such places as Gyeongbok Palace, the National Museum, or Insadong. Information on tourism in Seoul and around the country is readily available online, at tourist booths or through our offices.

### ***SAFETY***

One challenge you are less likely to face in Korea is any threat to your personal safety. You may read about muggings, kidnapping, murder, rapes and other crimes involving personal assault in the newspaper, but they are actually very rare. True, the incidence of these problems in Korea has increased in recent years, but starting from a very low base. Compared with any American city, Seoul is a very safe place - and that's even truer of the rest of Korea.

All the same, it is best not to wander alone late at night, especially for women. In particular, you should be careful in nightlife districts (Itaewon, Shinchon, Hongdae) where you might encounter someone who is drunk and more aggressive than normal. Otherwise you don't need to worry about whether a given neighborhood is "safe" or not. That said, Korean neighborhoods tend to include drinking establishments, pool halls, and such in closer proximity to housing and schools than you might expect coming from the U.S. Outside of Seoul, nightlife districts frequently surround transport points like bus and train stations.

While violent crime is rare, theft and pick pocketing are more common. It is important to take normal precautions with your passport and wallet or purse whenever moving around the city, but especially on the subways and buses or in the market places. The best way to safeguard your passport is to leave it at home. Wallets should be kept in front rather than back pockets. Purses also should be hung in front where they are in sight. All grantees are required to obtain cell phones, inform the Fulbright office of their numbers, and carry them with them at all times, charged, with emergency numbers pre-entered.

Some grantees may feel a bit uneasy because of past media coverage of political unrest or student riots. While student demonstrations have declined dramatically in frequency and scale in recent years, even at their peak most of the 'riots' and the police response to them were confined to a small area. All that is necessary to avoid trouble is to avoid that area. Given the traffic congestion usually created by a significant demonstration, it might be impossible to get anywhere near the action even if you wanted to do so! Protests or "demos", sit-ins, and strikes occur with some regularity in certain public spaces such as parks, train stations, factory complexes, and near government buildings. Apart from some minor inconveniences, you need not worry. Your safety certainly will not be at issue.

Some grantees worry about the threat of North Korea. While North Korea is certainly an armed and hostile state not far away, it has very little impact on the daily lives of people in South Korea. Media coverage may imply a tense environment, but most people in South Korea are less worried about North Korea than about finding a parking place.

You can view the Korean National Police Agency website at <http://www.police.go.kr/eng/index.jsp>. In case of an emergency, you can dial the following numbers toll-free.

Police – 112

Fire and Emergency - 119

### ***COST OF LIVING***

Despite the many tourist advertisements touting it as a "shopping paradise", Korea is not an especially cheap place. The Fulbright stipend, especially for student grantees, is designed to support a minimum though adequate standard of living. You will not be able to spend freely without running short toward the end of the month. While most Koreans also need to budget, there are many other affluent Koreans who engage in conspicuous consumption.

In the past, some Fulbright grantees have commented on the difficulty they have had in "keeping up with the Joneses" in their entertainment activities. For example, some Korean contacts invite Fulbright grantees to very expensive restaurants. Reciprocating at the same level may be out of the question on a Fulbright stipend. Awkward though it may be to do so, you may need to make your financial situation clear to your contacts. Expensive gifts also strain the budget of some grantees eager to secure contacts.

Accept the fact that your Korean host is not going to be outdone in the area of hospitality no matter what. Chances are that you'll have an opportunity to reciprocate the hospitality some day back in the U.S. If not, perhaps your friendship and company is deemed sufficient compensation. Remember, you are in Korea as a scholar, not a representative of Wall Street.

### ***UTILITIES***

Fulbright grantees may have housing provided or may receive a housing allowance, but all Fulbright grantees must cover all utility charges from their monthly "living allowance" which is provided precisely to cover expenses of this kind. Typical monthly utilities include cable TV, phone line, gas, and electricity, in addition to other household costs for government-taxed trash bags, bottled water, and light bulbs.

Estimates may not be very meaningful as so much depends on individual habits, but monthly utility charges for the basic services mentioned above (not including telephone charges) probably will range from a low of \$75 to a high of \$400 per month for singles depending on the time of year, your personal habits, and the size of your housing unit.

As noted above, those living in a boarding house, an international house or university housing may not have to pay monthly utility charges. They may, however, be charged a monthly "service/maintenance" fee. The cost of utilities is factored into the monthly rental charges for these types of premises. Most senior lecturing grantees living in housing arranged by their host institutions must pay both the maintenance fee and the other monthly utility charges.

## ***HOUSING***

The information that follows applies only to individuals who are provided housing by their institutions (typically lecturers) or who may be given a housing allowance because Fulbright housing is not available, or who choose not to live in Fulbright housing and live elsewhere at their own expense.

The Fulbright Commission can provide a limited amount of information, including numbers for English-speaking real-estate agents, upon request. The Seoul Global Center at <http://global.seoul.go.kr> may also be able to help. Most foreigners living in Seoul find housing in Itaewon, Hannam-dong, Ichon-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Gangnam-gu/Seocho-gu, Pyeongchang-dong and Seongbuk-dong, or in university districts. In general, locations closer to the center of the city and south of the Han River have steeper rates.

**Singles and Students** - There are a variety of options in housing for singles if KAEC housing is not assigned:

**UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED HOUSING** - Often in obtaining affiliation with a Korean university, either as a visiting faculty member, a special student or even a student enrolled in a Korean language program, you will become eligible to reside in university housing. Depending on your status at the university, the accommodations may vary in size and furnishings. Yonsei University's International Dormitory, for instance, is conveniently located but only available for students enrolled at Yonsei, and during the regular semesters is limited to students who pay for the full semester. In order to find out about Yonsei and other schools' housing policies, please contact them directly.

**HASUK-JIP (KOREAN-STYLE BOARDING HOUSE)** - Generally located around major universities, a *hasuk* provides a room (can be shared but often single), food (Korean breakfast and dinner) and sometimes laundry facilities. The total fee is usually between W350,000 per month (shared room) to W600,000 per month (single), though it may vary by location as well. A hasuk is usually populated with young people who are either students or unmarried college graduates. The hasuk life depends on hasuk mates and the hasuk-jip ajumoni (landlady). Indeed, the reason it is virtually impossible to arrange a hasuk prior to arrival is that the hasuk-jip ajumoni usually insists on making a decision about whether to allow a new boarder into her home only after meeting the prospective boarder. Depending on the personality of each house, the degree of privacy and freedom (some have curfews) varies.

**GOSHIWON** - Goshiwon is like a hasuk in that it usually contains students or young professionals, but it is different in that no meals are provided. Instead, there is usually a kitchen (or minimum cooking facilities in the same room) with self-serve rice and kimchi where tenants can make their own meals. Rooms have just enough space to turn around in and most goshiwon residents keep strict quiet hours for individual studying. Although there may be some interaction with the owner of the house, a goshiwon by very nature seems less communal. Goshiwon may be more difficult to find than a hasuk, but it is usually cheaper.

**Families** - Grantees with families should contact the KAEC office about housing as early as possible in the process.

APARTMENTS - Most apartments in Korea are paid for by monthly rent, nowadays, and in addition must be acquired under what is called the *jeonse* or "key money" system. This unique Korean rental system requires an up front payment of \$50,000-\$70,000 for an average-sized apartment (i.e. small by American standards), a deposit which the owner retains and uses for income until the premises are vacated. Although this "key money" is usually returned eventually (there is some risk here too), a renter must have this substantial sum to rent the apartment in the first place. Assuming the availability of this sum, of course, *jeonse* rents are quite reasonable since they are equivalent only to the lost opportunity costs on the principal. With lower interest rates, more and more landlords are turning to regular monthly rentals, though a deposit may still be required.

ONE-ROOM / STUDIOS – Typically called "one-room", these are widespread in Korea, but concentrated around colleges and business districts, as students and single workers are the main clients. One-room/Studios usually come with appliances and furniture (except beds, in most cases). Most are heated and air-conditioned on a single-room basis.

OFFICETELS - Officetels are combinations of office and living space, meaning that residents usually rent them for one of the two purposes exclusively. In addition to standard administrative fees, the inhabitant must pay additional maintenance fees required of commercial business buildings. Many are equipped with appliances and underground parking. Security is tight as a superintendent oversees the building. Officetels tend to be more expensive than one-room studios.

"The officetel option is perhaps more reasonable than renting an apartment because they can be rented for a specific time period. Although a significant amount of key money, \$10,000, is required, it is much less than the key money to rent an apartment." (a former senior scholar)

## **FOOD**

Korean cuisine has the reputation of being "hot and spicy," and many dishes live up to that reputation. Much of Korean food is not spicy at all, however, and that's true even of some varieties of *kimchi*. Another less-recognized aspect of Korean cuisine is that it includes a wide variety of vegetables, roots and other healthful foods. Most Korean dishes have a small amount of meat mixed with a lot of vegetables. True vegetarian cuisine is actually quite hard to find. Despite the prominence of *bulgogi* ("grilled beef"), fish and other seafood figure more prominently in everyday Korean cuisine than red meat. Nonetheless, unlike Japanese cuisine, Korean cuisine includes many meat dishes and most things are cooked.

Many Americans coming to Korea for the first time worry about the safety of the food and water placed before them. If you exercise a few simple precautions, however, you can eat and drink without undue concern in Korea. It may be inadvisable to eat in very cheap restaurants or from unsanitary food stalls on the street, but generally it's safe to eat anything served in decent-looking restaurants or a Korean home. For some people, the payoff to their palate makes running a few risks worthwhile. Water is also safe if you are careful. Like Koreans themselves, you should drink boiled water. Or better yet, drink the bottled water which is available everywhere these days (most restaurants serve bottled or filtered water.)

Local Korean markets abound in meats, fish, vegetables and fruit including some foodstuffs that probably will be new to you. You should have no problem locating shops near your residence with all the fresh and healthful foodstuffs you will need. For obvious reasons, certain raw marine products are best avoided at least during the hot summer months. Raw shellfish should be avoided all year around, as hepatitis is common in the coastal waters where such shellfish are caught. Raw deep-sea fish pose little danger.

There are big supermarkets on the basement level of all the major department stores in Korea. Many people, Korean and foreign, prefer to do their food shopping in these large and modern supermarkets. Although prices can run much higher than at smaller stores, the variety of products usually makes up for it. Others prefer to patronize the smaller, well-stocked food stores called "marts" usually located near newer apartment complexes, or the much small mom-and-pop convenience stores ironically called "supeo" (supermarket), which are found in every neighborhood.

The more adventuresome may want to shop in the open-air markets (which are getting harder to find in Seoul, though there is one near Gongdeok station about a 20 minute walk from the Fulbright Building). Even if you don't shop in these markets on a regular basis, they are fascinating to visit when you have the time. Some products like fresh seasonal fruit can be bought from street stands or small shops cheaper than elsewhere. You can reach all of these kinds of stores by foot or local transportation from the Fulbright Building, and the same goes for most neighborhoods in larger cities. If you are new to the area, you should ask another grantee or neighbor where they shop to avoid department store prices.

For imported foods, consider purchasing a membership to the Costco stores located in Korea. There are also specialized markets in Seoul selling baking goods, and coastal cities offer extensive seafood markets.

### ***EATING OUT***

Besides Korean restaurants of all kinds, Chinese and Japanese restaurants also abound, and range from relatively inexpensive "Koreanized" facilities to more authentic venues, which often are very expensive. Generally, Chinese food is perceived by Koreans as "inexpensive," and Japanese food as "expensive." Western-style food establishments also are quite common even if a bit exotic at times; some "western" food (such as pork cutlet, "ton ggassu") should be seen as really another variety of Korean food. Many western-style restaurants seem to be located in downtown areas or in shopping districts.

Korean restaurants offer a wide variety of dishes, sometimes brought in from areas outside Seoul, such as Chuncheon *dalkgalbi* (spicy grilled chicken) or Pyeongyang *namgyeon* (chilled noodles). Most restaurants specialize in set menus of a limited range of foods reflected in the name of the enterprise, and provide a table-full of side dishes to accompany the flavors of the main dish. Some restaurants can provide English-language menus; others have pictures of the food they serve on the walls for you to point.

For fancy dining many Koreans chose the top notch restaurants located in the major international hotels such as the Hyatt, Hilton, Westin Chosun and Intercontinental. These places have restaurants specializing in various cuisines both western and oriental. Be forewarned, however, for you must be prepared to spend from \$50-\$100 per person if you are planning to eat in one of these establishments - Korean hotel restaurants have been reported as the most expensive in the world. As a less extravagant option for eating well, consider Min's Club or Seok Ran near Severance Hospital on the Yonsei University Campus.

There are also American-style chain restaurants springing up nearly everywhere these days. Many are franchises of popular American chains, from McDonalds, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut and many other pizza chains, to TGI Fridays, Bennigans, and Tony Romas. Other western food restaurants are of the homegrown variety. Baskin Robbins and Dunkin' Donuts are almost universal in Korea. All these places are very popular especially among young people.

### ***SHOPPING***

Shopping will take more time than would be the case in the U.S. One or two initial shopping expeditions in the company of a Korean or an experienced Fulbright grantee is recommended. Whether a colleague or one of your students, a guide will be very helpful in selecting the better stores and advising you on the price and quality of the items available. Frankly, at first you'll need someone who reads Korean just to tell you what the item is, or you may confuse salt with sugar! If you are a lecturer, a student assistant may be assigned the task of helping you to make these critical discriminations. It's not unreasonable to ask your assistant to serve as a shopping guide on several occasions during the settling-in period, but you shouldn't make a habit of it unless the assistant specifically offers to help out on a more regular basis.

At the top of the line are the big department stores, many of which have branches in cities other than Seoul: Shinsegae, Lotte, Hyundai, etc. Most foreigners consider them very expensive. Myeongdong is another expensive place, a very fashionable shopping area with clothing boutiques, coffee shops and bars, which is

located right in the heart of the city. More international brands, including the Gap, open stores there and then close again on a regular basis. Less expensive major destinations for shoppers in Seoul are the Namdaemun (South Gate) and Dongdaemun (East Gate) markets, which are immense areas selling everything from camping supplies to export clothing to silk and pigs' heads, mostly wholesale. Near the main U.S. army post in Seoul there is a shopping district known as Itaewon, which caters as much to tourists as GIs these days. As Itaewon is Korea's most famous shopping and notorious nightlife district, and supposedly a good place to buy western-sized or styled clothes and shoes. South of the river, the Gangnam station area has lots of shops and restaurants, and Apgujeong has gained a reputation as the trendiest and most expensive hang-out for the rich and famous.

Except in the Itaewon district, especially at first, communication problems will hamper your shopping. Fortunately, the pointing and pantomime method will work most of the time. More than anything else, however, the practical limitations of this method will convince you of the need to master at least some simple Korean conversation, and in particular, counting in the two different systems used in Korean.

Bargaining in Korea has changed from the old days when you bargained hard on everything, and is quite different from the countries of Southeast Asia. Department stores have frequent sales, but no bargaining. Supermarkets have fixed prices that are scanned at the checkout. Even old-fashioned farmers selling vegetables from the back of a truck do not bargain. Nobody bargains for small things at convenience stores. In South Gate or East Gate market or other markets, sometimes you can ask for a "DC" on something that is not a daily consumable, and see what they say. When shopping in boutiques, a sign of hesitation might communicate your willingness to buy an item you've shown interest in for ₩1,000-5,000 less or so, depending on the original cost, and in that case the seller will make an offer. If you are spending over ₩100,000 (\$80) on an item, you might be able to negotiate a discount. Only in Itaewon is bargaining common, and even there it seems to be because the Koreans think the foreigners expect it.

### **INFORMATION SERVICES**

Korea offers a wide variety of entertainment ranging from modern city nightlife to tours of ancient cultural sites. Here you can climb craggy mountains to your heart's content, watch American movies in comfortable seats (though sometimes a few months later than you would have in the US), go shopping for the latest brand-name items, or imitations, and go to a local *hof* and then show off your singing at a *noraebang*.

**Newspapers** - One of the best ways to find out about cultural events such as art exhibitions, movies, plays and other performances, as well as keep up on political and social issues in Korea is to check some of the websites or printed copies of the many English-language newspapers in Korea, including:

*The Korea Herald* at <http://www.koreaherald.co.kr>

*The Korea Times* at <http://www.koreatimes.co.kr>

*The JoongAng Ilbo* at <http://joongangdaily.joins.com/>

*The Chosun Ilbo* at <http://english.chosun.com/>

*The International Tribune-Herald Asia – Pacific* at <http://www.iht.com/pages/asia/index.php>

*The Hankyoreh* at <http://english.hani.co.kr/kisa/section-014000000/home01.html>

*Ohmy News* at [http://english.ohmynews.com/english/eng\\_section.asp?article\\_class=2](http://english.ohmynews.com/english/eng_section.asp?article_class=2)

For news and information, *The Korea Herald*, *The Korea Times* and the *English JoongAng/International Herald Tribune* can be purchased at newsstands downtown or in the major hotels; they can be delivered daily to the Fulbright Building apartments. Other publications such as the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Time* and *Newsweek*, just to mention a few, are available for sale as well. Home delivery by subscription is also available for the weeklies – look on their websites for registration details.

**Websites** – Korean search engines sort search results based on type and make maps and official web pages easier to find than the traditional style of Google. They also have extensive dictionaries with English-Korean, Korean-English, hanja, Japanese, Chinese, and encyclopedia search function. Note that using Internet Explorer usually works better than Firefox, Safari, or other browsers with Korean websites. See:

Naver at [www.naver.com](http://www.naver.com)  
Yahoo! Korea at <http://kr.yahoo.com>  
Daum at [www.daum.co.kr](http://www.daum.co.kr)

Independent blogs also provide valuable sources of information about life in Korea. Some former Fulbright grantees' blogs include the following, in addition to countless others not listed here.

Scribbings of the Metropolitician by Michael Hurt at <http://metropolitician.blogs.com/>  
Seoul Blog by Timothy Lim at [http://instructional1.calstatela.edu/tclim/Seoul\\_blog/Seoul\\_blog.htm](http://instructional1.calstatela.edu/tclim/Seoul_blog/Seoul_blog.htm)  
Blog by Beth Salerno at <http://blogs.saintanselmcollege.net/bethsalerno/>

**Books** - Another place to look for English-language newspapers and magazines, and books too, are major bookstores in Seoul, including Kyobo, Yeoungpung, and at What the Book? in Itaewon – find links at the Frog in a Well website at <http://froginawell.net/eala/Main/KoreaBookstores>. In addition, visit Bandi & Lundi located in COEX and Central City at the Express Bus Terminal in Seoul, Ulchi Book Center at <http://www.libro.co.kr/Main/Home.aspx>, and Chongno Book Center at <http://www.book.shopping.co.kr>.

**Radio** - Additionally, the U.S. Army in Korea is the source of AFKN, the U.S. military radio and television network, more information at <http://afnkorea.net/>.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Korean Postal System** - For routine communications, your letters are best sent and received through the Korean postal system. The Korean postal system has a full range of services including registered and certified mail. If sent via international air mail, the delivery time for letters is around 10 days for most destinations in the U.S. Registered or certified mail may take longer.

There are post offices located all over the city as well as on the campuses of most universities. Letters with the proper postage affixed may be dropped into mail boxes. The Central Post Office provides 24-hour service. Other post offices (including the Mapo Post Office near the Fulbright Building) operate only during regular business hours, which include Saturday morning.

Packages also may be sent either via air or surface mail. As postal rates are quite high, surface mail is preferred unless urgent delivery is required. Delivery of packages via surface or sea mail may take 60 days or more. Therefore, the only way you can keep your mailing costs reasonable is to plan ahead and mail early.

In-coming letter mail and small packages will be delivered to your address. Larger packages may not be delivered. Instead you may receive a notice to pick the package up at the international post office, which is very annoying, as the international post office is in Mok-dong and hard to get to.

Until you have a confirmed address, we recommend that you have all your mail sent to the KAEC office. You may use this address at any time during your stay in Korea, but you may find it more convenient to receive mail at your host institution or place of residence once you have settled in. Nonetheless, you will have a mail box in the KAEC office during the entire period of your grant. If you continue to use the KAEC office address, of course, you will have to visit the office to collect your mail. You can confirm if you have any mail by calling the KAEC receptionist.

Mail sent to you at the KAEC office should be addressed as follows:

Your name  
Korean-American Educational Commission  
Fulbright Building

168-15 Yomni-dong, Mapo-gu  
Seoul 121-874, South Korea

The above address illustrates the basic elements found in any Korean address, though Koreans write them in the opposite order. The first line of the actual address would be the city (Seoul – no need to write the country for domestic mail). Next comes the "gu" (Mapo-gu) which is the designation for the ward of the city and the "dong" (Yomni-dong) which is the designation for a district of that ward, followed on the same line with the building number (168-15). The next line would have the name of the building (Fulbright Building), the office number (if any) and, on the last line all, the name of the addressee. So don't be surprised if you get a letter from a Korean friend with your name on the bottom line. Sometimes, the address may end with the postal code (121-874), or it may appear in a separate box.

Once you settle in at your place of residence or in an office at your host institution, if you wish to receive mail there, you should ask someone to write the address out for you. Be sure you get all the elements of the address. Compared with most American addresses, Korean addresses have a number of more detailed elements. All of them are needed and any abbreviation is at your own peril.

**APO System** – Fulbright grantees do NOT have APO privileges. By special permission, grantees may send a small shipment of educational materials through the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy. (See section on Baggage in this book.) Those shipments are the full extent of the access Fulbright grantees are given. The APO may never be used for personal correspondence or any regular mailing purposes, either before or after your arrival in Korea. You should not give the APO address to your family, friends or colleagues, as there is no legitimate purpose for their having it. Any abuse of the APO system is a violation of U.S. postal regulations and may result in serious penalties as well as the withdrawal of the special concession permitting the limited shipments of educational materials described above. Furthermore, the Embassy mailroom will simply send it back.

**Express Services** - DHL, Federal Express and UPS provide service to and from Korea. You may find these courier services useful in obtaining documents or other materials you may need to have on short notice. KAEC has a contract with DHL, the Korean headquarters of which is located across the street from the Fulbright Building. DHL shipments may be received and sent through the KAEC office.

**Telephone Service** - Telephone service in Korea is generally good. A direct dialing system is operative throughout the country and for international calls. Every unit in Fulbright-provided housing has a personal telephone already installed; the grantee is simply responsible for the bill from the day of arrival. Those living in international houses, boarding houses or other similar facilities also will usually have access to a telephone in their residence although they may not be able to use it for long distance or international calls, for which most Koreans use their cell phones.

Some useful phone numbers:

BBB Translation Service - 1588-5644

Korea Travel Phone – 1330

Medical Referral Service - 010-4769-8212 or 010-8750-8212

Seoul Call Center – 120, extension 9 for English

**International Calls** – In order to avoid inadvertently spending a small fortune on international calls, you can buy prepaid international phone cards at some convenience stores.

For direct dialing to the U.S., dial either 001 or 002 + 1 + area code + number. Calls placed through the 002 (DaCom) exchange are about the same price, but it means getting a separate bill each month. You also can access AT&T's direct service by dialing 009-11. This will allow you to charge calls to an AT&T card. MCI's access number is 009-14. Other possibilities:

00365-1-(area code) 555-5555 156won per minute

00700-1-(area code) 555-4322 158won per minute

1544-0044 - Dial 1 + area code + phone number + # (cost of a local call in Korea)

**(NOTE: The current status and rates of these services have not been tested as of 2006.)**

With the rise of Skype at [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) and other international calls made available through the internet there are several other options of calling the U.S. from Korea for about the price of a local call on your cell phone, once you have set up an account. The quality of the connection typically sounds better as well.

If someone is calling you from overseas, they should use the country code for Korea, 82, and the city code for Seoul, 2, or the city code for your city. If they are calling from inside Korea, Seoul is 02. For all Korean cities, the "zero" is dropped for international incoming calls. This is true of cell phone numbers as well.

For example, when calling the Executive assistant, dial 82-2-3275-4004 outside of Korea, 02-3275-4004 in Korea, and 3275-4004 in Seoul.

## **CELL PHONES**

Cell phones are ubiquitous in Korea - as of the spring of 2012, over 95% of the Korean population has a cell phone, including 99% of the student-age population. Foreigners often have trouble getting a cell phone (the phone company thinks foreigners might leave the country without paying). Remember, in Korea you pay nothing for incoming cell phone calls, only calls you make. Because cell phone providers frequently change their policies and rarely allow foreigners to open accounts under the same terms as Korean citizens, obtaining a cell phone can initially prove a challenge without a foreigner ID number/Alien Registration Card (ARC) (외국인등록증). Most grantees who want to use pre-paid or monthly plans find they must visit several shops and negotiate a rather complicated process if they only have their passport (most service providers will not allow foreigners to sign a contract without a foreigner ID number). The best thing to do is to obtain a foreigner ID number and carefully research the possibilities so that you can best accommodate for your telecommunications needs.

Cell phones themselves cost W100,000 and up, and monthly service, while depending on use, ranges from W30,000 to W180,000. Note that while all incoming calls and text messages will be free, using any special services such as music downloads, Internet searches, video or TV services have very steep charges and should not be used carelessly. Outgoing calls and text messages will add to your monthly phone bill according to set rates per unit with charges depending on the type of plan you use.

Mobile phone service providers include the following:

SK - <http://www.sktelecom.com/eng/>

KTF - <http://english.ktf.com/eng/>

LGT - <http://www.lgtelecom.com/>

**Co-Sponsor** - From a logistics point of view, the easiest way to get a cell phone in Korea is to have a Korean citizen act as co-sponsor and register for the phone together. Most cell phone service providers offer plans for foreigners who intend to stay in Korea for a period of over, as in the case of LG, 3 months. However, it is very hard, if not impossible, to obtain a phone with a yearlong contract without a foreign registration number (prohibited by the A-3 visa status). Therefore, the cell phone would have to be registered in the Korean citizen's name, and you would have to coordinate making payment arrangements.

**Rent** – Upon entry into the country, it is possible to rent a cell phone from several different service desks at Incheon International Airport or at sites in the city. See the Korea Tourism Organization website at <http://english.visitkorea.or.kr> for more information on rental phone reservations. While not recommended for long-term use due to the higher charges, rental phones could provide temporary immediate service.

**Prepay** - A better long-term option is to get a pre-paid (선불) phone plan. You sign up for a pre-paid plan from one of the many cell-phone stores, though it varies as to which stores offer the service and which do not. You will be required to purchase a cell phone and put minutes on your phone. Some of the vendors offer used (중고 jung-go) phones, which can be used for pre-paid plans. You can recharge the minutes

during business hours at any store of the same company you purchased your phone from (i.e. KTF at KTF). Note that telecommunications transactions stop in the early evening, even though stores stay open.

The Seoul Global Center at <http://global.seoul.go.kr/> provides pre-paid mobile registration services through LG Telecom. Phones and pre-paid plans can also be purchased at 용산 (Yongsan), the electronics market, possibly at 신촌 (Sinchon), and probably at locations throughout the city/country. Rates and activation fees vary, as does the price of the phones.

**Monthly Plan** - Plans start at about 13,000 won per month for the base monthly fee and around 15-18 won per 10 seconds for each call made and 30 won per text message sent. Incoming calls and text messages are free. There is a one-time activation fee of 30,000 to 50,000 won, depending on the company. Grantees may obtain a cell phone through one of the contacts listed below without a foreigner ID number (외국인등록증).

Mr. Ko, Young-hun who runs a cell phone shop in the 숙명여자대학교 (Sookmyung Women's University) area, has made special efforts to clarify the telecom companies' policies regarding A-3 visa holders. He speaks English and has also offered to buy back used phones from Fulbright grantees at the end of their grants. You may contact him at 02-717-1618, 010-9066-4000, or [kohunee@gmail.com](mailto:kohunee@gmail.com). Several grantees have used Mr. Ko's services in the past and have been satisfied with their service. To reach his shop, take Line 4 to 숙대입구 and follow the signs to Exit 8. His shop is called Qook and Show.

Mr. Kim, Ki Chol also offers a monthly plan for 29,000 won including an unlimited amount of domestic calls and free overseas calls to the U.S. and other countries. The telecommunications provider is KTP, using only Motorola phones (ranging from 250-450,000 won), and requires an activation fee of 42,900 won as of April 2008. You may contact Mr. Kim, who speaks English, at 0130-279-0130 from 10 am to 6 pm or by email at [sweetkim1@naver.com](mailto:sweetkim1@naver.com).

## ***MEDICAL CARE***

**Medical/Dental Care** - There are competent physicians, surgeons and dentists in all the major cities. Many are American-trained and speak English well. If you need medical or dental care, KAEC advises that you use the out-patient clinics of hospitals rather than the numerous private clinics. Wherever you go, payment for medical service in Korea is always required at time of service. Major hospitals and clinics (but perhaps not all pharmacies) accept credit card payment. You will need to plan to pay for all medical care at the time of service and seek reimbursement from the State Department health insurance later. In the event of major medical expenses, of course, you should be in regular contact with the KAEC office.

The facility with the longest experience in the treatment of the foreign community is the International Health Care Center of Severance Hospital, which is attached to the Yonsei University College of Medicine in Seoul and directed by Dr. John Linton. Appointments are available daily, from 9:00 to 12:00 in the morning and from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon, weekdays and Saturday morning. The Severance Hospital website is [www.severance.or.kr](http://www.severance.or.kr). You may call ahead to make an appointment at 02-2228-5800 or 02-2228-5810. The staff can refer patients to Korean specialists throughout the hospital who speak English. In addition, Severance is the only medical facility in the country that has a direct payment system set up with your grantee insurance, which means you do not have to pay up-front for your medical care except for a \$15 co-pay.

If you have specific needs for OB/GYN services, we recommend Dr. Sung's OG/GYN Yonsei clinic, at 790-0802. Dr. Hae-Ree Sung, M.D., is US-educated, speaks English, and has had the very highest recommendations from previous Fulbright women who have used her clinic.

Other facilities in the Seoul/Gyeonggi-do area include the Asan Medical Center, Uijeongbu St. Mary's Hospital, Samsung Hospital, Paek Hospital, the National Medical Center associated with Seoul National

University, and the International Health Care Center at Ajou University Medical Center in Suwon (website at [www.ajoumc.or.kr](http://www.ajoumc.or.kr)).

See also the Seoul Global Center website at [http://global.seoul.go.kr/global/view/living/liv01\\_01.jsp](http://global.seoul.go.kr/global/view/living/liv01_01.jsp) for general information about hospitals and medical care around Seoul.

A list of medical centers in Gyeonggi Province surrounding Seoul may be found at [http://english.kg21.net/e\\_living/medicalCare.jsp](http://english.kg21.net/e_living/medicalCare.jsp).

**Pharmacies** - There are pharmacies everywhere, and you will soon learn the appearance of the simple Korean syllable "yak" which means "medicine." Most common medications are available at affordable prices, including cough and cold remedies and first aid supplies (though aspirin and acetaminophen (Tylenol) tend to be expensive – you might bring a bottle of the pain reliever you use most often).

Prescription drugs, as in the U.S., require a doctor's prescription, but most pharmaceuticals are widely available. Mosquitoes are annoying from summer through October; you might bring a small bottle of Cutter's and some anti-itch or mosquito bite relief medication.

**Emergencies** - If reasonable preventive measures are taken, your stay in Korea should be uneventful from the viewpoint of health. The unexpected can, nevertheless, occur. The most important thing in the event of a true medical emergency is getting to a doctor quickly; this may be at a private clinic in your neighborhood. If the "emergency" is less urgent, you should seek assistance at the outpatient clinic of any major Korean hospital.

Yonsei Severance is a tertiary-level hospital, which means that it primarily takes referral patients from primary and secondary care hospitals. While Severance is the best hospital in Korea, in case of emergencies that are not life-threatening, you may want to consider a secondary care hospital. These hospitals may not have English speaking staff, but you will probably receive treatment faster and cheaper than at Severance.

Dongshin Hospital: 02-396-9161. This hospital can treat all problems, but specializes in Internal Medicine. It is close to the Seodaemun District Office, near the north gate of Yonsei University.

Seran Pyeongwon: 02-737-0181. Located near Dongnimun (Independence Gate)

Red Cross Hospital (적십자병원): 02-2002-8000. Located in Pyeong-dong

Shinchon Yonsei Hospital: 02-337-7582. This is a small branch hospital, but can treat all problems. It specializes in plastic surgery and orthopedic cases. Located near Sinchon Grand Mart

(The above phone numbers were verified in April of 2008.)

### ***RELIGIOUS SERVICES***

Some religious services for foreigners are listed in the English-language newspapers. A Buddhist Center known as Lotus Lantern is operated for the foreign community. There is a mosque in Seoul with services in Arabic, Korean and English. There also are numerous temples and monasteries you may wish to visit. Jewish services are held on the U.S. military post in Seoul, but may not be regularly held elsewhere in Korea. Korean-language church services are everywhere - perhaps thirty percent of the Korean population attends them.

### ***EDUCATION FOR DEPENDENTS***

Senior lecturers and researchers with children of school age may receive a dependent schooling allowance for up to two children in grades K-12 (not pre-K). Junior researchers (students) may receive an allowance for one child only. These allowances are used to cover actual costs up to a maximum of \$14,000.00 per

entitled child per year and are applicable to the school tuition and fees of dependents in grades K through 12. In almost all cases, the tuition support falls short of actual costs if the child attends an international school.

School tuition for school age dependents is normally required to be paid in full prior to enrollment, and this will be the grantee's own responsibility. The English-language schools in Korea known to KAEC are:

Seoul:

Seoul Foreign School	K-12	<a href="http://www.sfs.or.kr">http://www.sfs.or.kr</a>
Seoul International School	K-12	<a href="http://www.siskorea.or.kr/">http://www.siskorea.or.kr/</a>
Yongsan International School	K-12	<a href="http://www.yisseoul.org">http://www.yisseoul.org</a>
Centennial Christian School	K-12	<a href="http://www.ccslions.com/">http://www.ccslions.com/</a>

Busan:

Busan Foreign School	K-12	<a href="http://www.busanforeignschool.org">http://www.busanforeignschool.org</a>
International School of Pusan	K-10	<a href="http://www.ispusan.co.kr">http://www.ispusan.co.kr</a>

Daejeon:

Taejon Christian International School	K-12	<a href="http://www.tcis.or.kr">http://www.tcis.or.kr</a>
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Gwangju:

Kwangju Foreign School	K-12	<a href="http://www.kwangjuforeignschool.org/">http://www.kwangjuforeignschool.org/</a>
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Seoul Foreign School and Seoul International School are the two most highly regarded international schools in Seoul.

"Our teenage daughters went to Seoul Foreign School – an excellent private school with an international curriculum which challenged them and gave them many new experiences. It was very good (and sobering) for them to deal with the more competitive environment. They derived much satisfaction from new friends, a successful adjustment and the new vistas on the world."

On a full school year basis, there may be a shortfall up to \$3,000 as costs at the two top international schools in Seoul have spiraled in recent years to well over \$15,000 for an academic year. ICS and Centennial are somewhat less expensive.

If you have school-age dependents who will attend an international school, you should get in touch with the KAEC office and the school office as early as possible and request that a reservation be made. As space in most grades is quite limited at the top schools, you may not be able to get your dependent enrolled in your first choice school if you delay. KAEC is willing to advise you on the choice of a school, but ultimately you must make the decision yourself based on the information provided by the schools.

The availability of English-language schools for dependents of Fulbright grantees located outside of Seoul is limited (see list above – TCIS has boarding facilities as well). The U.S. Department of Defense has a school system in Korea for military dependents, but Fulbright dependents are not authorized enrollment.

Some Fulbright grantees express an interest in sending their children to a Korean school. We will help you explore possibilities if you are interested. Except for children in the lowest elementary school grades, however, this is not an option to be recommended unless the child speaks some Korean already.

Another option is to rely on correspondence courses and home schooling instead of school attendance. In the past, several Fulbright grantees have taken this option and found it to be very workable. This option is recommended especially when there would be substantial additional schooling costs not covered by the terms of the Fulbright award. The costs of correspondence study may be covered by the dependent schooling allowance. Moreover, the costs for additional dependents besides those who are entitled under the terms of the award may be covered provided the total expenditure does not exceed the amount budgeted for this benefit. KAEC will be happy to discuss all the available alternatives with you both before

and after your arrival in Korea. As explained above, however, you are responsible for seeking any information on the schools or correspondence study you will need and making your own decision.

### ***KOREAN AND AMERICAN HOLIDAYS***

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday	Third Monday in January
Lunar New Year Holiday	A 3-day holiday in late January or February
Presidents' Day	Third Monday in February
Independence Movement Day	March 1
Buddha's Birthday	Late April or early May
Children's Day	May 5
Korean Memorial Day	June 6
American Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
American Independence Day	July 4
Constitution Day	July 17
Korean Independence Day	August 15
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Chusok (Harvest Festival) Holiday	A 3-day holiday usually in September
National Foundation Day	October 3
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
Veterans' Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas	December 25

The KAEC offices are closed for the national holidays of both Korea and the United States. You can ask at the office for a list of the specific dates during your grant period.

## **C. Pre-Departure**

### ***CLEANING OUT***

Whether you living in Fulbright housing or other accommodations, make sure to clean out your unit before leaving or make arrangements to hire someone to do so. If you need help disposing of accumulated

belongings, the Seoul Global Center offers a pamphlet for the proper way to dispose of particular items. Websites like Korea4expats.com advertise open flea markets from time to time. Furthermore, while it is customary for building managers to take care of dusting, sweeping, and scrubbing rooms after their tenants leave, doing so yourself makes a better impression on your hosts than leaving the dirt for someone else to deal with.

### ***PAYING BILLS***

Before leaving the country, make sure to pay all outstanding bills or make arrangements for a friend to pay any bills that will arrive after your departure. KAEC cannot pay bills for you, and as it is very difficult to send funds from the U.S. to Korea once you have gone away, all accounts must be settled in advance. For example, one reason that cell phone policies differ for foreigners is the irresponsibility of those who have left the country with unpaid fees in their name, causing loss to telecommunications companies and creating a very negative stereotype based on the behavior of just a few people. Make sure to cancel your phone service in advance, close your bank account (if you wish, or sign up for online banking if you plan to return), and make proper arrangements for paying utilities based on the amounts for previous months.

## **Korean Language, History, and Culture**

### **A. Language**

#### ***LANGUAGE***

The Korean language is considered a member of the Altaic family, which includes languages such as Manchurian and Mongolian. Korean is structurally very similar to Japanese even though the connections between these two languages are not clearly established. Although Korean and Chinese are not related languages, much of the Korean vocabulary has been borrowed from Chinese.

Up until the late 19th century, most educated Koreans wrote primarily in Chinese. Today everyone writes in Korean, but Chinese characters (hancha) are still used to some extent, especially by the older generation. Most newspapers, academic books and official messages are written in the Korean alphabet with a more or less generous sprinkling of Chinese characters. Generally personal names and titles are still written in Chinese characters. Increasingly, Chinese characters seem to be giving way to "pure" hangul (i.e., with no admixture of Chinese characters) as the preferred writing system. For most westerners, who are quite happy to do without the difficult advantages of Chinese characters, that's a welcome development.

The Korean alphabet, which is known as hangul, was developed in the early 15th century. It is comprised of 10 simple vowels and 14 consonants. Koreans point proudly to the fact that hangul was voted the most scientific alphabet in the world by the UNESCO conference in New Delhi 1957. It is very simple to learn and can be mastered in a few days. Current English slang in Korea refers to "speaking hangul"; this is actually a contradiction, like "speaking Chinese characters" would be.

For more on hangul, start with the Wikipedia article at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_language).

The language barrier will be one of the most formidable challenges you will face during your stay in Korea. Americans consider Korean one of the most difficult languages in the world, and relatively few reach the point of being able to converse - or do academic work! - comfortably in Korean except through studying, making mistakes, and learning from them. Koreans describe English in the same terms. Fortunately for Americans, many Koreans are able to converse in English, and many more have good reading skills, even though their speaking ability may be limited.

The general familiarity with English is a reflection of the fact that it is a required subject for all Korean students from the first year of middle school through graduation from high school. English is studied at the college level as well. All the same, you should never assume that English will be understood in any context.

Speaking more deliberately and precisely usually helps, but the listener's level of comprehension still needs to be ascertained carefully on a case-by-case basis. Speaking louder is not likely to produce useful results. A lack of comprehension is only rarely related to hardness of hearing.

On the other hand, an effort on your part to learn and use some Korean will go a long way toward improving the communication process, not necessarily because your listeners will understand your Korean. Alas, your Korean may be harder for them to understand than your English! In general, however, any signal that you are trying to cross the linguistic frontier will be both deeply appreciated and reciprocated. Thus we urge that you make every effort to learn at least some Korean before you arrive in the country. If you haven't begun to study Korean yet, or at least to learn the Korean alphabet, you should spend a few days doing that soon. Once you have arrived, practice the language at every opportunity. It is a good idea to carry a phrase book around so you can study and practice useful expressions right on the spot. Koreans will appreciate your efforts. Practicing Korean means making mistakes, and that is good - how else can you learn? Everyone will be more than willing to forgive you, but if not, at least you should forgive yourself. At times, of course, it may be difficult for them to avoid displaying some amusement at your halting attempts at Korean. Don't let that put you off. Those who are interested in gaining more than minimal exposure to the language are encouraged to pursue formal study of Korean; several ways in which student grantees may go about doing so are outlined in a separate document, the Korean Language Study Program Guide.

### ***THE KOREAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE***

Many Korean-Americans find that they are not accorded the leeway given to foreign-looking foreigners. While Caucasians are praised if they say "annyong hashimnikka" very badly, Korean-Americans will be expected to speak perfect Korean, and are criticized if they do not. Indeed, a typical Korean-American "welcome-to-Korea" experience is to be scolded by the taxi driver on the way into Seoul from the airport for not speaking correctly. On the other hand, Korean-Americans at least have the theoretical chance of eventually getting "in" to Korean culture, a chance not available to other Americans. (see the Heredity and Environment section in the "Informal Essays" in the section on Culture and History.)

The following was written by a Korean-American grantee.

"Since I am a Korean-American with some knowledge of the Korean language I didn't expect to experience any problems in Korea. Unfortunately, I was mistaken. What I believed to be an asset (being Korean-American) has turned out to be a liability instead. I found that native Koreans treat Korean-Americans much differently than they do native foreigners. Although I've lived in the United States for the majority of my life, I still speak a fair amount of Korean. Instead of receiving praise, however, I receive criticism for not speaking the language perfectly. I find it frustrating not being accepted as a Korean, and just as frustrating not being accepted as a foreigner as well. It seems that I'm sort of stuck somewhere in the middle. Needless to say, in the first few weeks, I experienced a great deal of culture shock, much more than I ever expected. Things are much better now; nonetheless, I find that I am consequently dealing with issues of self-identity, because of my experiences."

### ***ROMANIZATION***

One of the more confusing language elements of Korea is the problem of romanization, or the writing down of Korean words in the western alphabet. Many Korean sounds, both consonants and vowels, are not precisely the same as the sounds of letters in English. There is no good romanization system; there cannot be one. The confusion is compounded by the fact that there are TWO romanization systems in competition. One is called McCune-Reischauer, or M-R, after the people who invented it in the 1930's, and it is used almost universally outside of Korea by scholars and mapmakers. The other is the Korean Ministry of Education system, promulgated by the National Academy of the Korean Language, which is used officially within Korea on road signs, maps, and anything governmental. Both systems allow individuals to romanize their names any way they wish, and in addition lots of people have no idea how to use either system and romanize Korean words any way they can.

The main issues are two vowels and four sets of consonants. The two vowels, one pronounced like “uh” in “duh, dude,” and one somewhat like the “eu” of French “feu,” are spelled in M-R with “ö” and “ü”, and in the new system as “eo” and “eu.” Just remember “eo” is always pronounced “uh” and “eu” is pronounced roughly as in French. As for the consonant sets, the pairs are k/g, p/b, t/d, and ch/j. You can study the linguistic argument later. Just know that many words that used to begin with K now begin with G; many that began with P begin with B; many that began with CH now begin with J.

It's hard enough to figure out that Yi Sungman and Lee Seungman and Syngman Rhee are all the same person. But that is not what will bother you most. The worst is place names. The city that used to be Pusan is now Busan; Kimpo Airport is Gimpo (fortunately, you fly into Incheon, which used to be Inchon). Taejon is now Daejeon; Cheju Island is now Jeju Island, and so forth. This Handbook itself mostly tries to use the MOE system because grantees need to get used to it before they come and see it on all the streets. Of course, the sooner you learn to listen and read hangul yourself, the better!

## **B. Manners and Etiquette**

### ***BACKGROUND***

A notable degree of homogeneity, in comparison to what Americans are accustomed to, has developed among the Korean people during their long history. This is a country with few visible ethnic minorities. Added to this homogenous cultural heritage is a very strong sense of national identity. Despite the political division of the Korean peninsula in 1945, Koreans still consider themselves to be one people.

Traditionally, abiding by the rules of propriety has been considered extremely important in Korea. And though Korea has modernized significantly, these rules are still often enforced by society. A great deal of attention is paid to the way one acts and dresses. Facial expressions, tone of voice, body language, and other such characteristics can be interpreted in a very different way than most Americans could imagine. For example, when it comes to personal space, the Korean bubble is much smaller than the American bubble.

As visitors to Korea, however, grantees should try to observe these rules as much as possible, especially in relations with coworkers. Even Koreans who do not strictly adhere to these traditional values will appreciate your efforts to adapt to the culture. Past grantees note that it's best to start out conservative at first and gradually relax as much as feels appropriate to one's circumstances.

### **Use of Names**

Unlike the United States, first names are used very infrequently in Korea, even among members of the same family. Instead, consistent with the general attention to relationship, the emphasis is on the position of the person referenced. For example, Professor Kim Chul Soo would be called Kim *Gyosunim* (roughly translated as “Honorable Professor Kim”) by everybody except his closest friends and some members of his family. “Chul Soo” and “Mr. Kim” are both inappropriate forms of address.

One reasonably certain way not to offend someone of unknown status is to attach the appellation “*seonsaengnim*” to the person's surname. This roughly translates as “teacher” and should be complimentary to the person addressed. If the person is entitled to a more distinguished title, he will correct the speaker but will not be offended.

Note that “mister” (*ajeossi*) and “miss” (*agassi*) are social ranks, not marital states. A “mister” is a young male office staff member, and the more widely used “miss” is any office-level or service-level female under age 35 or so, whether married or not.

### **Tips for Good Etiquette**

Use two hands. When passing an object of any kind, both hands are always used (or “symbolic” both hands, using the right hand with the left hand touching the right elbow). Passing with one hand, especially

with the left, is considered rude.

Don't point. Summoning people or taxis is done by holding the arm out straight, palm down, and flexing the down turned palm toward the body. Never use a crooked finger, as in the U.S. Not only is this impolite, it will often not be understood. Do NOT point at people with the index finger. Instead, indicate someone or something with a nod of the head, a thrust of the chin, or by gesturing using your entire hand.

Do bow—or maybe shake hands. Most Korean men are used to handshaking, but some Korean women are not. Thus while men shake hands with men almost universally, men rarely shake hands with women, nor women with women. The safe thing to do is to wait to see if the other person extends a hand. If someone does offer a hand, it is normally polite to take that hand with *both* of yours. Also note that if you are offered a handshake, Koreans tend to use a gentler handshake, as opposed to a firm American handshake.

Don't eat with your fingers. When eating Korean food, use chopsticks, spoons, or a toothpick (for eating pieces of fruit). Koreans consider handling food with bare fingers indelicate. Even sandwiches usually are wrapped in a paper napkin. On the other hand, if chopsticks are difficult to use and there's no fork, don't hesitate to use the spoon. Koreans use the spoon much more than Americans do. Also, do not rest your chopsticks or spoon straight up in your rice bowl; this is considered bad manners and bad luck since the gesture is used when honoring one's ancestors in Korea.

Don't tip. There is generally no tipping in Korea. A service charge is added to the bill at most hotels in lieu of a tip. It is not necessary to tip taxi drivers unless they help carry luggage or provide some extra service.

Remove your shoes (and wear socks). It's considered crude to wear shoes inside one's living space, and wearing socks indoors (especially when you're a guest) is more polite than bare feet.

Do give gifts. Korea has a very prevalent gift-giving culture. Often, ETAs find food, drinks, and even socks or toothbrushes left as gifts on their desks at school. It is important to return the favor. Giving small gifts such as snacks, drinks, etc., can be a great way to show appreciation and promote camaraderie when language and cultural barriers otherwise prevent it. It would be a good practice to try not to arrive anywhere empty-handed.

Smile—and relax! You will learn a lot simply from observing people once you arrive.

## ***STATUS OF WOMEN***

In terms of their legal status, Korean women have eliminated much of the discrimination which deprived them of certain basic rights such as rights to inheritance or family headship, etc. and which has been part and parcel of the Confucian social structure.

In non-legal terms, however, Korean women continue to be on the receiving end of rather rigid stereotyping, which discourages job-holding and the pursuit of leadership positions, and encourages motherhood and passivity. Korean women are paid, on average, 50% as much as men for the same work. Surveys consistently show that large majorities of Korean, including the women, support such inequity. Nonetheless, commentators often remark on the impressive strength of will of Korean women at the most fundamental levels.

Foreign-looking women may be accorded "honorary male status" in certain contexts such as their collegial relationships on the campus. This treatment can even extend to the drinking houses where they may be toasted as one of the "old boys" when everyone is deep in their cups (other women sit separately and are ignored).

On the other hand, sexual harassment is quite common, from men making suggestive remarks about women's bodies or their supposed "lovers," or forcing them to join in drinking matches, or unwanted

touching. Korean women used to endure in silence, but are becoming more willing to speak out and object. If the harassment occurs in an institutional setting where the perpetrator is known, much more can be done and will be done, as long as you are sure to tell the Fulbright office. Dealing with sexual harassment is an issue that Fulbright takes very seriously.

### ***PIMI VS PANMI AND KORUS RELATIONS***

The peace and stability of the Korean peninsula is vital to maintaining the peace and security of Northeast Asia, including Japan. For that reason among others, Korea is considered of great strategic importance to the United States. Under the 1954 Mutual Security Treaty, the United States has undertaken to help the Republic of Korea defend itself from external aggression. To carry out this commitment, the United States stations some 37,000 military personnel in Korea. To coordinate U.S. defense operations with those of the 600,000-strong Korean armed forces, the United States and Korea established a Combined Forces Command headed by the Commander of U.S. Forces, Korea.

Although most of the older generation of Koreans who lived through the Korean War retain strong friendly feelings toward the U.S., younger people feel much more ambiguous about the American role in Korea. Thus grantees may witness expression of anti-American sentiments, and, as happened in the fall of 2002, such anti-American sentiments may flare up when there are incidents or accidents involving American military personnel. Many of the Koreans who express such views make a distinction between "anti-Americanism" (panmi) and "criticism of U.S. foreign policy" (pimi). The former generally is associated with a relatively small group of younger people, mostly students. The latter, which resembles the thinking behind newspaper editorials, is criticism directed at specific American policies rather than America in general. Unlike panmi, which may be beyond the realm of rational discussion, pimi views may be well founded although you personally may not agree with them.

Though some Koreans may imply to you that pihan ("criticism of Korean policy or culture") should only be done by Koreans, in many cases you may be encouraged to engage in pihan. Just remember your own sensitivity about the fine line between pimi and panmi before engaging in pihan which may end up being perceived as panhan ("anti-Koreanism"). Furthermore, even for those of us who are Korea experts, criticism of things Korean easily crosses the line due to misunderstanding or misinformation. It's important to be honest and frank, but you should be sincere and modest as well.

At least even true "panmi," deep-rooted anti-Americanism, seldom (except when drunk on Saturday night) spills over into personal animosity against individual Americans.

### ***OTHER TIPS FOR GOOD ETIQUETTE***

Koreans often pat children (sometimes rather hard) when they think they are cute. Since most Western children are considered cute to Koreans it is a wise precaution to explain this to your children so they understand that this is not a hostile act. In general people will want at least to get a close look at your child and may even cross the street for that purpose.

Summoning people or taxis is done by holding the arm out straight, palm down, and flexing the down-turned palm toward yourself. Never use a crooked finger as in the U.S. Not only is this impolite, it will often not be understood. Do NOT point at people with your index finger. If you want to point at something or indicate someone, it can be indicated with a nod of the head or a thrust of the chin.

Most Korean men are used to handshaking; most Korean women are not. Thus while men shake hands with men almost universally, men almost never shake hands with women, nor women with women. The safe thing to do is to wait to see if the person you are greeting extends a hand.

When passing an object of any kind, both hands are always used (or "symbolic" both hands, using the right hand with the left hand touching the right elbow.) Passing with one hand, especially the left hand, is considered rude (remember the discussion of name cards.)

When eating Korean food, use chopsticks, spoons or even a toothpick (e.g., for eating pieces of fruit). Koreans consider handling food with bare fingers indelicate. Even sandwiches usually are wrapped in a paper napkin. Chopsticks should not be left sticking straight up in a bowl of rice – lay them together along the side of a bowl if there is no “chopstick holder” on the table. On the other hand, if you're having trouble with chopsticks and there's no fork, don't hesitate to use the spoon. Koreans use the spoon much more than Americans do, and certainly much more than the Japanese, who often don't even give you a spoon.

Do not blow your nose at the table. Koreans consider it quite disgusting. In fact, they consider the entire idea of handkerchiefs quite disgusting. Frankly, this is sometimes a problem, as spicy foods (think *kimchi*) can make your nose run. It can be acceptable to light dab but in case you need to blow your nose, special guidelines apply. At least turn your body completely away from the others in the table to give the public appearance that you know you're doing something gross, and that you'd appreciate it if everyone would pretend that you're not really there. If convenient, simply get up and go around the corner, then return.

There is generally no tipping in Korea. A service charge is added to your bill at most hotels in lieu of a tip. It is not necessary to tip taxi drivers either unless they help you with your luggage or provide some extra service (though many people round off to the next thousand won.)

Everyone should memorize at least one song that you can sing in public. Being able to sing one on festive occasions or when you are out with Koreans at a karaoke place will help in establishing and strengthening relationships. A Korean song would be even better, but at least you need to be able to sing one song all the way through. Though lots of places have monitors on which the words are displayed, we recommend you write the words of “your” song on a slip of paper and memorize them.

### ***THE FINAL ADJUSTMENT TIP***

Perhaps the most important thing you can do is remind yourself over and over again that Korea is a different place and that you, not the Koreans, will have to adjust. Furthermore, you might wonder whether Koreans are paying attention to all these little rules and relationship shadings. The answer is that yes, they most certainly are (this is a “high context” society, remember) but that they will forgive you most lapses because you are an (ignorant) foreigner. The most important strategy is simply to relax and keep all developments in perspective. The rationale for doing things in Korean ways, which at first blush may seem inefficient or even wrong may become clearer if you keep an open mind. Of course, there are always those cases when no amount of tolerance will allow you to accept certain actions or situations. But you may have to simply walk away, as you are unlikely to change Korea. It is much more likely to change you. Furthermore, Koreans differ in attitude and experience just like Americans. If certain people don't appeal to you very much, seek out someone else.

## **C. Culture and History**

### ***COMMENTS***

If you are a graduate student in Korean studies, you probably have at least some sense of the general shape of Korean history. If you are new to Korea, you should at least get an “outline” sense of the different eras, periods, and major events. A very brief outline of Korean history, prepared by Dr. LEW Young Ick, Professor Emeritus of Korean History at Yonsei University, is among the appendices. You should at least know what is on the two pages, if for no other reason than to know what your Korean hosts and colleagues are talking about. In addition, there are a number of useful books on the subject, such as Carter Eckert, Ki-Baik Lee, Young Lew, Michael Robinson, and Edward Wagner, *Korea, Old And New: A History* (1991). You can borrow a few books on history from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Fulbright library upon arrival.

Korean culture is not so easy to summarize on a page or two, but it also can be learned at a level that will help you to survive in Korea. For a superficial view, see a short article “Korean Culture: Informal Essays.” In addition, there are a number of useful books on the subject, such as Sonja Vegdahl Hur and Ben Seunghwa Hur, *Culture Shock! Korea: A Guide to Customs and Etiquette* (1988, 1993), and (even more useful), Robert Kohls, *Learning to Think Korean* (Intercultural Press, 2002). A number of recently written or translated books can be found at bookstores like Seoul Selection or borrowed from the library at the Korea Foundation Cultural Center in the JoongAng Building south of City Hall.

## KOREAN HISTORY – A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Based on an outline by Young Ick Lew, Ph.D.  
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Yonsei University

1. Racial Origin and Geopolitical Background
2. Political Tradition
3. Dynasties
  - a. Tan'gun's Ko ("Old")-Chosun (2333 B.C. ~ )
  - b. Han (Chinese) Colony in Korea (108 B.C. ~ 313 A.D.)
  - c. Three Kingdoms:
  - d.
    1. Koguryo (18 B.C. ~ 668 A.D.);
    2. Paekche (37 B.C. ~ 660 A.D.);
    3. Silla (57 B.C. ~ 935 A.D.)
  - e. Unified Silla Dynasty (668 ~ 935)
  - f. Koryo Dynasty (918 ~ 1392)
  - g. Yi (or Chosun) Dynasty (1392 ~ 1910)
  - h. Capital cities:
    1. P'yongyang (Koguryo capital, 427 ~ 668 A.D.)
    2. Kyongju (Silla, 57 B.C. ~ 935 A.D.)
    3. Kaesong (Koryo, 918 A.D. ~ 1392)
    4. Seoul (1401 ~ 1910)
  - i. Absolute monarchy ("Wang" used from 4c. B.C. in Ko-Chosun and 503 A.D. in Silla);
  - j. Chinese-style examination system (958 ~ 1894);
  - k. Civilian supremacy over the military (except for 1170 ~ 1270 and 1961-1992)
4. Cultural Tradition
  - a. The "Chinese-character culture zone"
  - b. Major belief systems:
    1. Shamanism;
    2. Buddhism (introduced in 372 A.D.);
    3. Confucianism (taught at "Confucian College" from 372 A.D.);
    4. Neo-Confucianism (state ideology, 1392 ~ 1910);
    5. Catholicism (1784 ~ )
    6. Protestantism (1884 ~ )
    7. Nationalism, Socialism and Democracy (mainly after 1919)
  - c. Unique cultural achievements:
    1. Han'gul (under King Sejong in 1443);
    2. Printing of books with metallic movable type (1234 ~ );
    3. The 80,000 woodblocks of the Buddhist Tripitaka (13c.);
    4. The "turtle ship" of Adm. Yi Sun-sin (active 1592 ~ 1598);
    5. Invention of astronomical instruments (ex. rain gauge);
    6. Koryo celadon

#### d. Socio-Economic Tradition

1. Agricultural economy;
  2. Highly stratified social system: yangban, farmers, artisans/merchants, and slaves.
  3. Population growth and major change in socio-economic structure in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
5. Korean Relations with the Outside World in pre-modern times
1. Sino-Korean "tributary relations";
  2. Korean-Japanese "neighborly relations";
  3. Korean relations with the Khitan, the Tungusic Jurchen, and the Mongols
6. Major foreign invasions:
1. Chinese invasions (612 ~ 4, 644 ~ 668);
  2. Khitan invasions (993, 1018);
  3. Jurchen incursion (1104);
  4. Mongol invasions and control (1231 ~ 1270 ~ 1370's);
  5. Japanese (Hideyoshi) invasions (1592 ~ 98);
  6. Manchu (Jurchen) invasions (1627, 1636);
  7. French and American "Disturbances" (1866, 1871);
  8. Sino-Japanese War (1894 ~ 1895)
  9. Russo-Japanese War (1904 ~ 1905)
  10. Japanese occupation (1910-1945)
7. Notable performances of Koreans abroad:
1. Silla Koreans in T'ang China
  2. Paekche Koreans in Japan
  3. Hallyu Wave
8. Modern Transformation of Korea
- Opening of the "Hermit Kingdom" (to Japan, 1876; to the U.S. and other Western nations, 1882 ~ );
- Japanese colonial rule (1910 ~1945);
- Liberation and 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel (August, 1945);
- Birth of the Republic of Korea (South) and P.D.R.K. (North) (1948);
- The Korean War (1950 -1953)
- The 1960 revolution and the 1961 coup
- Park Chung-hee (1961-1979)
- Kwangju Incident (1980)
- Chun Doo Hwan (1980-88)
- Liberalization (1987)
- Ro Tae-woo (1988-93)
- Kim Young Sam (1993-98)
- Kim Dae Jung (1998-2003)
- Roh Moo-hyun (2003-2008)
- Lee Myung-bak (2008-2013)
- Park Geun-hye (2013-)