

Kang Scholarship

Background

- Most of all, I am really honored to serve KIMEP University and our students.
- Throughout my academic career, I have made donations several times to educational institutions in Korea, and planned to do the same for KIMEP University. Coming to KIMEP four months ago, I now feel that I have fully settled in. It is time to materialize my wish.
- I was born as the first child of my mother whose family name is Kang. But in reality, I was her fourth child – she lost three babies before me. My mother has always done her utmost to love me. That is why, as a small token of my gratitude, I use my surname as Park-Kang. To honor my mother's love, I want to establish scholarship programs under her and my name.

Fund

- **14,000,000 tenge** = 8,000,000 per year (to be gradually increased) + **6,000,000** (2025-2026)
- Donor: Dr. Sungju Park-Kang

Objective

- To support KIMEP students and motivate them to become future experts
- To establish the most student-centered scholarship in the world in order to inform the international community of KIMEP's core value and its strength, thereby further consolidating KIMEP's position as a world-class and unique institution. For example, among three members of the selection committee, two are KIMEP students.

Program

- Kang Scholarship (KS)
- 1) KS DPRK (KSD) + 2) KS AIR (KSA) + 3) KS PSIR (KSP) + 4) KS KOREA (KSK)
- 20 working hours per week (5 days): tuition for enrolled students
- 10 months with **tuition aid of 100,000 tenge monthly** (current student assistants: 72,000)
- 10 months with **tuition aid of 133,333 tenge monthly for KSA** (current assistants: 72,000)
- Selection plan for 2025-2026 (subject to change): **12 recipients** = 2 + 6 + 2 + 2

Eligibility

- Currently enrolled KIMEP students
- Minimum level of *Korean competency*, or MOTIVATION to learn Korean language
- Basic knowledge of *North Korea* and International Relations (IR), or MOTIVATION to learn
- Or financial difficulty

Kang Scholarship DPRK (KSD) [waiting for the University authorities' approval]

- 4,000,000 tenge per year (to be gradually increased) → **2,000,000** (2025-2026 for KSA)
- Affiliation: DPRK Strategic Research Center
- Priority: working as a *junior fellow* for 3 credits of independent study (graduate students 6). According to the current KIMEP policy, no more than 3 credits can be used for BA and no more than 6 credits for MA/PhD

- Task: conducting work requested by the Center + publishing an article + *Korean language*
- Submission: planning report (within 30 days, start) + final report (before 30 days, end)
- Moderator: Dr. Sungju Park-Kang

Kang Scholarship AIR (KSA) [waiting for the University authorities' approval]

- Fund: 2,000,000 tenge per year (to be gradually increased) → **8,000,000 (2025-2026)**
- Affiliation: KIMEP University
- Priority: breathing as a *junior fellow* for 3 credits of independent study (graduate students 6). According to the current KIMEP policy, no more than 3 credits can be used for BA and no more than 6 credits for MA/PhD
- Task: achieving a *targeted* grade point average (GPA) that *students set themselves*
- Submission: planning report (within 30 days, start) + final report (before 30 days, end)
- Moderator: Dr. Sungju Park-Kang

Kang Scholarship PSIR (KSP) [waiting for the University authorities' approval]

- Fund: 1,000,000 tenge per year (to be gradually increased) → **2,000,000 (2025-2026)**
- Affiliation: Department of Political Science and International Relations
- Priority: working as a *junior fellow* for 3 credits of independent study (graduate students 6). According to the current KIMEP policy, no more than 3 credits can be used for BA and no more than 6 credits for MA/PhD
- Task: conducting work requested by the moderator + publishing an article + *Korean language*
- Submission: planning report (within 30 days, start) + final report (before 30 days, end)
- Moderator: Dr. Sungju Park-Kang

Kang Scholarship KOREA (KSK) [waiting for the University authorities' approval]

- Fund: 1,000,000 tenge per year (to be gradually increased) → **2,000,000 (2025-2026)**
- Affiliation: International Office
- Priority: studying as a *junior fellow student* in South Korea and Kazakhstan for 3 credits of independent study (graduate students 6). According to the current KIMEP policy, no more than 3 credits can be used for BA and no more than 6 credits for MA/PhD
- Task: performing various duties at a partner university + *Korean-English language*
- Submission: planning report (within 30 days, start) + final report (before 30 days, end) + reflection report of 100 words in *Korean* or 500 words in *English* (within 30 days, return)
- Moderator: Dr. Sungju Park-Kang

Application

- Deadline: 13 August 2025 → First working day: 4 September (subject to change)
- Email: s.park-kang@kimep.kz (subject line: Kang Scholarship Surname)
- Submission: a) motivation letter of about 500 words, b) CV

Selection process

- Stage 1: Document (motivation letter of about 500 words + CV) → result: 19 August (expected)
- Stage 2: Interview (in person) (21 – 25 August) → result: 29 August (expected)

Required Tasks

Kang Scholarship DPRK (KSD)

1) Work requested by the Center

- Tasks related to the Center/President's Office-sponsored events (e.g. posters).
- Assistance in disseminating the Center-relevant information.
- Tasks related to the Center's library.
- Tasks requested by members of the Center.
- Other tasks related to the Center in general.

2) An article as a sole author or co-author

- Basic training: providing a feedback on Dr. Chan Young Bang's book.
- Publication of an article in preferred outlets by recipients or recommended outlets by the moderator. Potential outlets include KIMEP Times, KIMEP Voice or any other KIMEP-related publication platforms. Ideally speaking, student-oriented academic journals would be appropriate: for example, *Journal of Student Research*, *Inquiries*, *Cambridge Journal of Political Affairs*, *Chicago Journal of Foreign Policy*, *Critique*, and *Butler Journal of Undergraduate Research*. It can be a single-authored paper or co-authored paper.
- **As a customary**, scholarship recipients need to acknowledge Kang Scholarship in their publications.
- Opportunity to publish with the Principal Investigator of the DPRK Center and moderator.

3) Korean language

- To become an expert on North Korea, one should know the Korean language. Otherwise, it would be difficult to read North Korean materials and communicate with Korean people.
- Korean competency does NOT guarantee sound and rigorous research – constant training is needed. One can conduct research on North Korea without Korean competency. The moderator has encountered such cases numerous times. While very well-intentioned, their analysis and engagement are rather limited.
- Scholarship recipients should NOT follow this step. Thus, recipients must include the language section in their planning and final reports submitted to the moderator (Dr. Kang).
- For instance, it is strongly encouraged to take Korean courses offered at KIMEP (NOT mandatory). The courses include Beginner, Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced Korean.
- Or it is strongly encouraged to join the Korean Speaking Club at KIMEP (NOT mandatory). The meetings usually take place at the Korean Library (Dostyk 207), 4 pm on Friday.
- Apart from that, the moderator will check the relevant progress on a regular basis by initiating conversations in Korean and instructing Korean translations, among others.

Kang Scholarship AIR (KSA)

1) A targeted GPA that students set themselves

- There is NO fixed GPA requirement. If recipients get a targeted GPA that they set themselves, the task is completed.

2) An article as a sole author

- The focus of an article should be on how recipients benefit from Kang Scholarship. Potential outlets include KIMEP Times, KIMEP Voice or any other KIMEP-related publication platforms.

Kang Scholarship PSIR (KSP)

1) Work requested by the moderator

- Tasks related to the Department of Political Science and International Relations
- Assistance in disseminating the Department-relevant information.
- Other tasks related to the Department in general.

2) An article as a sole author or co-author

- Please see above page 3.

3) Korean language

- Please see above page 3.

Kang Scholarship KOREA (KSK)

1) Various duties at a partner university in South Korea and Kazakhstan

- An exchange student is expected to perform their duties at a partner university in an honorable and proactive manner.

2) Korean-English language

- Please see above page 3.
- Recipients' reflection report, within 30 days upon their return, should be written in Korean for outgoing students from KIMEP and English for incoming students from South Korea.

** Please find attached a format of motivation letter.*

Many thanks for your time

Suggestions and questions should be directed to Dr. Kang, s.park-kang@kimep.kz

[Date Month Year]

[**Choose ONE application TYPE**: Kang Scholarship DPRK, AIR, PSIR or KOREA]

MOTIVATION LETTER

TO:

Dr. Sungju Park-Kang
Founder of Kang Scholarship
Dostyk office 104, KIMEP University

Dear Dr. Kang,

[Opening]

[**Very short rationale** behind your application type]

[**Detailed explanation** about why you apply for Kang Scholarship]

[Closing]

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Department and Student ID]

[Phone and Email]

[Date Month Year]

[**Choose ONE acceptance TYPE**: Kang Scholarship DPRK, AIR, PSIR or KOREA]

ACCEPTANCE LETTER

TO:

Dr. Sungju Park-Kang
Founder of Kang Scholarship
Dostyk office 104, KIMEP University

Dear Dr. Kang,

[Opening]

[**Very short rationale** behind your acceptance type]

[**Detailed explanation** about why you accept Kang Scholarship]

[Closing]

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Department and Student ID]

[Phone and Email]

Kang Scholarship Application Evaluation

Eligibility

- Currently enrolled KIMEP students
- Minimum level of *Korean competency*, or MOTIVATION to learn Korean language
- Basic knowledge of *North Korea* and International Relations (IR), or MOTIVATION to learn
- Or financial difficulty

Application

- Submission: motivation letter of about 500 words + CV

Criteria	Score
Korean competency, or <u>Motivation</u>	() / 20
North Korea and IR, or <u>Motivation</u>	() / 20
Financial difficulty	() / 20
Application: document (<u>word limit</u> + contents)	() / 20
Application: interview (<u>KIMEP's core value</u> + contents)	() / 20
Bonus (attending the info session on 18 June 2025)	() / 2
TOTAL	() / 102

Many thanks for your time

Kang Scholarship Possible Interview Questions

Many thanks for your application for the Kang Scholarship! Congratulations on your success in Stage 1 (document screening)! Now, you have been invited to Stage 2 (in-person interview).

Kang Scholarship Question Bank

1. If I may ask, what is KIMEP University's core value?
2. Why do you think that this is important?
3. If I may ask, why did you come to KIMEP?
4. What is KIMEP's strength?
5. What is KIMEP's weakness?
6. What is your plan at KIMEP?

7. Please describe yourself in one word, and explain why.
8. Please describe yourself in three words, and explain why.
9. If I may ask, what is your strength?
10. If I may ask, what is your weakness?
11. When was your happiest moment?
12. How did you celebrate it?
13. When was your worst moment?
14. How did you manage it?
15. If I may ask, what is your dream?

16. How do you define success for yourself at university?
17. Where do you see yourself in five years after graduation?
18. Is there a person who inspires you? Why?
19. What motivates you to study even when it is difficult?
20. What kind of impact do you want to have on your community or country?

21. If I may ask, why the Kang Scholarship, not others? (e.g. KIMEP Alumni Endowment Fund)
22. If I may ask, please share with me your financial status.
23. Why did you apply for the Kang Scholarship?
24. Please tell me three reasons why you should get this scholarship.
25. If you get this scholarship, who would you want to tell first?
26. Once you get this scholarship, you need to conduct several tasks. What are they?
27. Do you think you are capable of doing these tasks?
28. If I may ask, what if you do not get this scholarship?
29. In case you fail to get the Kang Scholarship, are you going to cry?

30. If I may ask, what do you know about North Korea?
31. If I may ask, what do you know about International Relations?
32. What is Korea's strength?
33. What is Korea's weakness?
34. How much do you know about Dr Bang's research?
35. How much do you know about Dr Kang's research?
36. Please define research. **Many thanks for your time**