Visa Instructions
EAP Korea

Korean Citizens
You do not need a visa. Ensure that your Korean passport is valid and that you have the proper documents to re-enter the U.S. Consult with the Bureau of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) if necessary. In some cases, you may be able to apply for an F-4 visa; this is determined by the Korean Consulate (see below for details).

Important Note: Male Korean citizens are eligible for the draft and required military service. Prior to departing the U.S., research this further with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea and Military Manpower Administration (www.mma.go.kr). You can also refer to the US Department of State’s Country Specific Information.

Non-U.S. Citizens
Contact the Korean Consulate to determine your visa requirements. Requirements and processing times for non-U.S. citizens may vary. Ensure that you have the proper documents to re-enter the U.S. Consult with the Bureau of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) if necessary.

U.S. Citizens
Summer only students do not need a visa to enter Korea. U.S. citizens in possession of a valid US passport can visit Korea without a visa for duration of up to 90 days or less for study. If you are considering extending your participation to the fall, obtain a C-3 visa so that you are able to change to a D-2 student visa while in Korea. If you do not obtain a C-3 visa and decide to extend, the fee for changing your visa status in Korea is about $100.

Fall/year/spring students should obtain a Student (D-2) Visa. Korean-American students may need to apply for an F-4 visa; see below for details.

Summer + Fall and Summer + Year students: There are two separate entities at Yonsei that run the summer (YISS) and academic year (OIA) programs. You need an Acceptance letter from the OIA in order to obtain the D-2 visa.

To Apply for a Visa:

Assemble the following items and submit to the nearest Korean Consulate. Visas are typically processed within 3-5 business days or less.

1. U.S. Passport. It must be valid for at least six months past the date of your visa application. Check the expiration before submitting to the Korean Consulate. Also make sure you signed the identification page.

2. Admission Letter from Yonsei University.

3. Application for Visa. Applications completed incorrectly may be delayed or rejected.

   Question #14: The passport classification refers to the type of passport you possess. DP stands for Diplomat, OF for Official, and OR is for Ordinary.

   Question #30 (use the Seoul Study Center address):

Updated July 10, 2014
Question #35 Guarantor or Reference in Korea:
Relationship: Professor
Nationality: Korean
Name: Professor Hyungji Park
Date of Birth: LEAVE BLANK
Gender: Female

4. Passport Photo: Attach a passport photo to the application.

5. Bank Statement or Financial Aid Letter. Single term students must have a balance of $3,000. Year students should have a balance of $10,000.

6. Visa Fee. There is a U.S. $45.00 visa processing fee. Payments must be made in cash, bank certified check, or money order. Bank certified checks and money orders should be made payable to the Korean Consulate General. This fee is non-refundable. Personal checks or credit cards are not accepted.

7. Return Envelope (only applicable if applying by mail). Include a prepaid airway bill from FEDEX, DHL, UPS, or USPS). The Consulate will return your passport and visa in the envelope you provide. Plan accordingly for turnaround time.

Korean Consulate Contact Information

Consulate General of the Republic of Korea
Visa Section
3243 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Telephone: (213) 385-9300
Fax: (213) 385-1849
Email: consul-la@mofat.go.kr
Website: http://usa-losangeles.mofat.go.kr/english/am/usa-losangeles/main/index.jsp

Consulate General of the Republic of Korea
Visa Section (temporary relocation until the end of 2012)
711 Van Ness Ave, Suite 320
San Francisco, CA 94102
Telephone: (415) 921-2251
Fax: (415) 921-5946
Email: consularsf@mofat.go.kr
Website: http://usa-sanfrancisco.mofat.go.kr/eng/index.jsp

Note to students whose parents have Korean heritage applying for Fall/Year/Spring programs:
The South Korean government has different visa procedure for students with Korean surnames or Korean heritage. At least one student was denied a visa because, though she holds a U.S. passport, her parents were born in South Korea. She was told she had to apply with a Korean passport or renounce her Korean citizenship (she had always been a US citizen). She was unable to complete this requirement in time and had to withdraw from the program. Please contact the Korean Consulate to find out if you will need to apply for the F-4 visa and renounce your Korean citizenship.

Updated July 10, 2014
Here is information from the Korean Consulate:

- Visa status for Korean-Americans
  - F-1 status
    - Korean-Americans who wish to stay in the Republic of Korea to visit his/her relatives more than 90 days need to apply for F-1 visa.
    - F-1 visa holders can stay up to one-year in Korea but this status is extendable with the local Korean Immigration Office.
    - The necessary documents are as follows
      - Passport
      - Completed visa application form with photo attached.
      - Documents proving applicant’s origin is Korean such as Korean family registry or marriage certificate, birth certificate, etc.
      - Reference (Sponsorship letter): Applicant who is under the age of 17 is exempt from this sponsorship letter.
  - F-4 status
    - Naturalized Korean-American and his/her immediate descendants can apply for F-4 visa.
    - F-4 visa holders can engage in extensive activity including work in Korea up to two-years, unlike other visa status, and this status is extendable with Local Immigration Office.
    - For F-4 visa to be issued, the applicant needs to fulfill his Korean nationality renunciation report with Korean Ministry of Justice or Korean Consulate before visa application.
    - The necessary documents are as follows
      - Passport
      - Completed visa application form with photo attached.
      - Documents proving applicant's origin is Korean such as Korean family registry or birth certificate, etc.
      - Document proving that applicant completed his/her Korean nationality renunciation report.
      - Other documents which are deemed to be necessary by the Korean Justice Minister.
  - In case of a male F-4 visa applicant, there are further qualification requirements if you have not completed your Korea military service duty. If you have not, please contact our visa department for additional information.