

Education



Foreign schools

As of April 2016, there are 44 international schools in Korea: 22 in Seoul, 9 in Gyeonggi-do, 5 in Busan, 2 in Daegu, and the rest in other provinces or cities.

English is the main language in most international schools in Korea, and U.S.-style curricula are taught. Students planning to continue their studies in a Korean university need to earn additional credits in Korean and Korean history. However, the standard curriculum suffices for those planning to complete their higher education abroad. You must check if there is an authorized education program for entering college.

The number of students enrolled varies widely, from 100 to as many as 1,500. The tuition ranges from US\$ 15,000 to 25,000 annually. Other expenses such as the school bus fee, textbook costs and extracurricular activity costs must also be considered.

Admission criteria vary depending on the school, and laws and regulations related to international schools change frequently. Therefore, it is best to directly inquire with the school to obtain exact and up-to-date information.

For the list of international schools in Korea and their contact information, see the directory. (P. 173)

Major Foreign Schools

Seoul International School

Founded in 1973, Seoul International School is the first international school in Korea. It offers a curriculum ranging from kindergarten through high school, and charges annual tuition fees of 17 million won (US\$ +3,300) and 24.62 million won (US\$ +5,200) for kindergarten and high school students, respectively. Admission fees and school bus fees are not included.

- **Add:** 15, Seongnam-daero 1518beon-gil, Sujeong-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do
- **Tel:** 82-31-750-1200 • **Web:** siskorea.org

Cheongna Dalton School

Founded in 2011, the Cheongna Dalton School is the only international school that is considered equivalent to domestic education, which makes it possible for its graduates to enter Korean universities. The curriculum ranges from kindergarten to high school, and dormitories are available as well (but only for 5th grade students and beyond). The annual tuition fee is around 20 million won per year as of 2017, and tuition varies depending on the curriculum.

- **Add:** 344, Cheomdandong-ro, Seo-gu, Incheon
- **Tel:** 82-32-563-0523 • **Web:** www.daltonschool.kr



Tip Curious about foreign schools in Korea?

It would be a good idea to check out the comprehensive guide provided on the website operated by the Ministry of Education (www.isi.go.kr/en/index.do). You can access a wide range of information covering everything from international kindergartens to universities, and information about foreign educational institutions and schools and their contacts and website information as well.

Foreign Kindergartens

Foreign kindergartens

Most international schools and international charter schools offer international kindergarten curricula. A school system that encompasses kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school curricula is convenient. However, there are institutions that only operate kindergarten curricula, such as the Namsan International Kindergarten and the Franciscan Foreign Kindergarten. These curricula are intended for children aged 2-5. The curriculum is divided into pre-kindergarten and kindergarten courses, and at least one parent must hold foreign citizenship for their child to be admitted.



Namsan Int'l Kindergarten

Founded in August 2005 and operated by the Seoul International School, the Namsan International Kindergarten is an IB PYP Candidate School where classes are taught by foreign teachers with experience of teaching abroad in various international schools. The student-faculty ratio ranges from 4:1 to 6:1. The school is equipped with an outdoor playground and swimming pool, and an indoor gymnasium.

- Add: 8-6, Dasan-ro 8-gil, Jung-gu, Seoul
- Tel: 82-2-2232-2451 • Web: www.seoulforeign.org

Franciscan Foreign Kindergarten

Founded in October 1975, the Franciscan Foreign Kindergarten is a foreign kindergarten operated by the Order of Friars Minors Conventual. For its whole-day programs, the annual tuition fee is around 12 million won, with admission fees and school bus fees charged separately. Classes start in August, and there are various curricula designed to develop the children's potential. As there are many students on the waiting list, it may be difficult to register your child with the school.

- Add: 90, Hannam-daero, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
- Tel: 82-2-798-2195 • Web: www.ffkseoul.com

International Schools & International Charter Schools

International schools & International charter schools

The international schools and international charter schools are based on US and Canadian curricula, all of which are taught in English, with Chinese and Korean as secondary foreign languages. Foreign students account for around 70 percent; and it allows an easier transition for foreign students and is much more convenient when it comes to applying for universities in the U.S. or Canada post graduation. However, there are only five international schools in Korea which offer curricula that are legally equivalent to the domestic education curricula in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, namely, Chadwick International School, Daegu International School, NLCS Jeju, Branksome Hall Asia (BHA), and KIS Jeju. Students can apply to Korean universities after graduating from these international schools. However, the international charter schools are divided into schools whose curricula are the equivalent of domestic education and those that are not. Most of these schools base their curricula on foreign education offices or on partnerships with other foreign schools.



International Schools

Chadwick International

Chadwick International was founded in September 2010 and is the biggest international education institution, offering a complete 12-year curriculum from kindergarten to high school. The annual tuition fee is around 36 million won, though it varies depending on the curriculum. The school operates a school bus system, so it is possible for students from Seoul to attend the school. However, the school bus is not provided free of charge.

- **Add:** 45, Art center-daero 97beon-gil, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon
- **Tel:** 82-32-250-5000 • **Web:** www.chadwickinternational.org

Daegu International School

Daegu International School was founded in 2010 as the branch school of a renowned private school in the U.S., the Lee Academy of Los Angeles. Its curriculum ranges from kindergarten to high school, and is taught in English and Chinese. Annual tuition fees are 19.5 million won and 27 million won, respectively for kindergarten and high school, and vary depending on the curriculum, while admission fees, meal plans, school bus fees, and dormitory fees are charged separately.

- **Add:** 22, Palgong-ro 50-gil, Dong-gu, Daegu
- **Tel:** 82-53-980-2100 • **Web:** www.dis.sc.kr

Branksome Hall Asia (BHA)

BHA was founded in October 2012 and is the only foreign sister school of the renowned private girls' school in Canada, Branksome Hall, which boasts a long history of 110 years. Although its curriculum is open to both boys and girls from kindergarten through 5th grade, the curriculum from 6th to 12th grade is for girls only, and graduation from BHA is equivalent to graduation from Branksome Hall in Canada. Its various natural sciences, engineering and arts curricula, along with its sound dormitory system, are its strong points.

- **Add:** 234, Global edu-ro, Daejeong-eup, Seogwipo-si, Jeju-do
- **Tel:** 82-64-902-5000, 82-2-6001-3860 • **Web:** www.branksome.asia

International Charter Schools

BIS Canada

Founded in August 2008, BIS Canada is the international charter school of British Columbia of Canada, whose curriculum ranges from kindergarten through high school. Upon graduation, each student receives a graduation certificate certifying that the student has completed an education recognized as the equivalent of that offered in Canada. This is a secondary education degree which is recognized in Canada, the US, and the UK, thus enabling students to apply to universities in English-speaking countries without submitting English language proficiency exam scores such as TOEFL. However, it is not possible to apply to a Korean university with this curriculum.

- **Add:** 33, Jeongjail-ro, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do
- **Tel:** 82-31-8022-7114 • **Web:** www.biscanada.net

CMIS Canada

Founded in August 2010 upon receiving approval from the Manitoba Ministry of Education in Canada, CMIS Canada offers a curriculum ranging from kindergarten through high school that is based on the Canadian education curriculum. Students of this school are registered under Canada's Ministry of Education system just like students in Canada, and they receive a Canadian graduation certificate upon graduation. Though it is advantageous for students to apply to universities in Canada and other countries abroad, it is not possible to apply to universities in Korea with this degree.

- **Add:** #202-116, Prujio Arcade, Songdo Global Campus, 28, Songdomunhwa-ro 28beon-gil, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon
- **Tel:** 82-32-715-8080 • **Web:** www.mbis.kr



Edible International Academy

Founded in September 2012, the Edible International Academy has formed an education partnership with Fairmont Private School, a private school recognized as one of the best in the U.S. Its curriculum includes English, mathematics, and other subjects based on the primary education curriculum of the U.S.; and it has also implemented the Edible Schoolyard Project, a naturalism education program originating from the Berkley area that integrates the students' experience of raising crops and plants in a family garden and cooking with other subjects in the school curriculum such as math and science. Applicants must submit an application and pass the entrance examination and interview to gain admission to the school.

- **Add:** Incheon English Village, 976, Wondang-daero, Seo-gu, Incheon
- **Tel:** 82-32-560-8006 • **Web:** www.eiaglobal.or.kr

Libraries and Bookstores

Libraries and bookstores



The National Library of Korea, located in Banpo-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul, is the first modern library of Korea and boasts the nation's largest holdings of foreign language books. Libraries like the National Assembly Library of Korea, the Supreme Court Library, the annex library of the Office of Education, public libraries, and university libraries also hold collections of foreign language books.

Although it does not possess a large collection of foreign books, the Namsan Library is inside Namsan Park and has a great view, making it ideal for pleasant walks and peaceful reading. The Pyeongnae Library in Namyangju, Gyeonggi-do Province is a public library that offers foreign books in ten different languages for people from multicultural backgrounds. In addition to lending books, the library organizes various cultural events as well.

To use a library in Korea, you will need a library card. Bring a photo ID (alien registration card) and ask the library staff to make one for you. Note that some libraries do not lend certain materials. Visitors can check in their coat or bag at the reception desk.

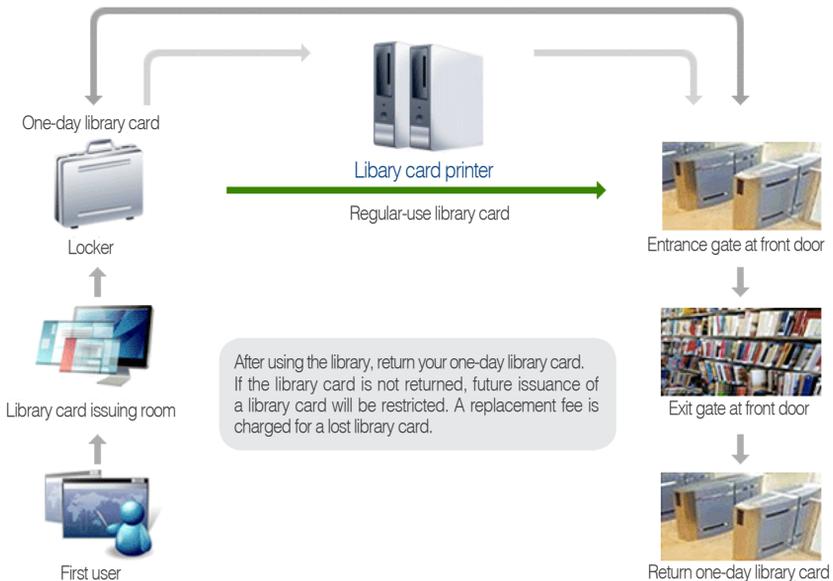
For the list of libraries with a collection of foreign language books and their contact information, refer to the directory.



Tip Using the National Library of Korea

The National Library of Korea houses over 11 million books (and documents), making it the largest library in Korea. First-time users should register as members on its website and show their ID, such as their alien registration card or passport, at the information desk in order to receive a library card. The library issues two types of library card, the one-day library card and the regular library card. The one-day library card must be returned upon exiting the library, whereas the regular library card is valid for up to three years from the date of issuance.

Library Card Issuance Process



*Type of Library Card

- One-day library card: Issued before use and returned after use
- Regular-use library card: Kept by cardholder
 - Eligibility for card issuance: Users visiting more than twice a week

Add: National Library of Korea, 201, Banpo-daero, Seocho-gu, Seoul

Tel: 82-2-535-4142 Web: www.nl.go.kr