



Step-by-step Visa Guide South Korea

The below information is correct as of April 2026. For the most up-to-date information, please visit: [Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Ireland](#)

1. Decide which visa you need:

Student Visa – This visa is valid for the entire duration of your studies. As an exchange student studying for a full semester in Korea, you'll need to apply for a student visa. To do so, you'll require a Certificate of Admission from a Korean university. Although exchange students aren't subject to tuition fees, the Certificate of Admission often requires confirmation of attendance for at least two academic terms, with each term lasting 10 weeks. Korean universities typically offer four 10-week terms each academic year. The visa application cost ranges from approximately €60 to €90.

The student visa is referred to as a D-visa, with a specific number that varies based on your field of study in Korea. With a student visa, you can apply for permission to work part-time after you have completed six months of study in Korea. For further information, please contact your university.

2. Complete the Host University application:

You must apply and get admitted to a Korean university before applying for a student visa. For the application you usually need:

- Photo
- Valid Passport
- Study Plan
- Copy of your transcript
- Official bank statement
- Certificate of enrolment at your home university (Please request this from your coordinator)



3. Gather your visa documents

Once you are accepted, the university will issue a Certificate of Admission and/or a Confirmation of Visa Issuance. Once you have received this document, you can apply for a student visa at the Korean embassy in your home country. You must book an appointment to attend the embassy. For the Korean Embassy in Dublin, you can book an appointment at https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/ie-en/wpge/m_8214/cont [HERE](#).

What you Need for your Student Visa:

- Your passport with a copy of the photo page. The passport must be valid at least 6 months after the planned entry to Korea.
- A filled in visa application (see the embassies' website)
- Visa application fee
- 1 passport photo
- Visa documents from a Korean university
- Proof of financing

4. Apply at the Korean Embassy in Ireland

You apply for a visa at the [Korean Embassy in Ireland](#)

[Location of Korean Embassy in Ireland](#)

You must collect your visa personally at the Korean Embassy unless you use a visa agency that does the job for you.

Arriving in South Korea

Upon arrival, you will need to complete a landing card. If you are traveling on a visa waiver, you can indicate that you are a tourist. However, if you enter on a student visa, you should state that you are a student.



Alien Registration Card and Possible Visa Extension

Foreign nationals holding a visa valid for more than 90 days must apply for an Alien Registration Card (ARC) at the Immigration Office in Korea. It's important to submit your application within the first 90 days in the country to avoid any penalties. Your Alien Card can serve as an ID in Korea. Additionally, an Alien Card combined with a single-entry visa may function as a multiple-entry visa, according to the Korean embassy. The cost of application for the ARC is approximately €20.



Visa Application Checklist

- Determine the correct D-visa type
- Apply to a Korean university and receive acceptance
- Gather required documents for your university application
- Pay tuition fees and receive Certificate of Admission
- Prepare the following documents for the visa application:
 - o Passport (valid for at least 6 months)
 - o Completed visa application form
 - o Visa application fee receipt
 - o Passport photo
 - o Visa documents from the university



o Proof of financial support

Apply at the Korean Embassy in Ireland

Collect your visa in person

Book your flight after receiving your visa

Obtain student insurance for your stay

Apply for Alien Registration Card (ARC) within 90 days of arrival

If needed, follow the process to extend your visa on-site

If you have questions, please contact lisa.folan@universityofgalway.ie