

KAIST

INBOUND EXCHANGE

Fact Sheet [2027]

KAIST at a Glance

#65QS World University Rankings
2027**#70**THE World University Rankings
2026**1,600+**

faculty & staff

12,000+

full-time students

KAIST is South Korea's first research-oriented science and engineering university, located in Daedeok Innopolis, Daejeon — a national hub for science and technology research about 150 km south of Seoul.

Campus Locations

Main Campus (Daejeon)

KAIST's principal campus. Exchange students are assigned dormitory housing here, and the vast majority of courses, orientation, and campus events take place on this campus.

** Exchange students affiliated with the Kim Jaechul Graduate School of AI are assigned to dormitories on the Daejeon Campus, just like other exchange students. Most courses in this graduate school are conducted in a hybrid format.*

** Courses for the Cho Chun Shik Graduate School of Mobility are held at both the Munji Campus (approximately 15–20 minutes away by shuttle) and the Main Campus; dormitory housing for these students is assigned at the Main Campus.*

Eligibility

GPA requirement	3.0 or better on a 4.3 scale, or equivalent
Minimum study completed	Undergraduate (Bachelor): minimum 1 year of full study at a partner university Graduate (Master): minimum 1 semester of full study at a partner university
Language of instruction	English (90% or more of courses are conducted in English)
English language requirement	TOEFL iBT 80 (0-120 scale) or 4.0 (1-6 scale) / IELTS 6.5 / TOEIC 720 / B2 or equivalent, taken within 2 years of nomination date. Waived for students from institutions where English is the medium of instruction.
Level of study	As per bilateral exchange agreement (undergraduate or graduate)

Academic Term

2027 Spring Semester	March 1 – June 18, 2027
2027 Fall Semester	August 30 – December 17, 2027
Orientation — Spring	Friday, February 26, 2027 (tentative)
Orientation — Fall	Friday, August 27, 2027

** Dormitory move-in dates and the Orientation schedule are subject to change and will be announced separately.*

Nomination and Application Dates

Home institutions nominate students by email; nominated students then complete online registration with the nomination code.

Intake	Nomination Deadline	Application Deadline	Screening Period	Notification of Acceptance	Welcome Package Sent
Spring	[October 1]	[October 15]	[Oct–Nov]	[Mid Dec]	[Mid Dec]
Fall	[April 1]	[April 15]	[Apr–May]	[Mid Jun]	[Mid Jun]

✂ Welcome packages contain the Certificate of Admission (for visa application) and other necessary information, and will be sent via e-mail.

Application Procedure

① **Nomination confirmed.** Once the nomination has been accepted, home institutions should inform their students to proceed with online registration at <https://io.kaist.ac.kr/exchange.do>.

② **Online registration (for applicants).** Applicants must receive a nomination code before signing up; codes are issued only to coordinators who have submitted the nomination form and should be shared with nominated students only.

- Create an account using a valid personal e-mail address (institutional e-mail addresses are not accepted; Gmail is fine. If you use an institutional (school) e-mail address, authentication codes for KAIST portal login may sometimes fail to arrive later on; using a personal gmail address is recommended).
- Complete the online application form and upload the required documents (see below).
 - Original (Official) Transcripts; All in English
 - English Language Proficiency Test Result
 - Copy of Valid Passport (Front page, not cover). Expired passport is not accepted.
 - 3cm x 4cm Official Photo (not an ID card photo)

- If the student exchange has been agreed between specific departments, send the nomination list to the agreed department; other procedures remain the same as for the standard exchange program.
- Applicants must click "Submit" after completing their application — clicking "Temporarily Save" does not submit the application.

③ Required documents for non-OECD nationals. For students who are nationals of, and enrolled at universities in, non-OECD countries only, the following documents are additionally required:

- Official Certificate of Enrollment (must be authenticated via Apostille or Korean embassy/consulate legalization).
- Official Bank/Financial Statement.

Courses and Grading

Course catalogue	KAIST course information system
Academic Bulletin	KAIST Academic Bulletin
Full course load	Undergraduate: max. 8 courses (24 credits) — Graduate: max. 4 courses (12 credits)
Minimum course load	Undergraduate: min. 4 courses (12 credits) — Graduate: min. 3 courses (9 credits). Lower loads possible if permitted by home institution.
Restricted courses/programs	Graduate School of Medical Science and Engineering and College of Business (Seoul Campus) are not open to exchange students. Students may not mix undergraduate and graduate level courses, except courses marked "Y" (mutually recognized). Graduate students may take an undergraduate course only as an exception, with advisor and department chair approval (not guaranteed).
Course list availability	Uploaded 2 months before semester start; registration opens 1–2 months before semester start.
Minimum credit policy	KAIST does not penalize exchange students for not meeting the minimum credit load stated above. Course registration should simply follow the student's home institution's regulations.
Course changes after application	It is common and acceptable for the courses selected during the online application to differ from the courses actually taken after arrival at KAIST.

** We encourage exchange students to take courses required for their graduation at their home university, in preparation for any changes in circumstances at KAIST.*

** The study plan may be based on the previous year's course list as a draft. Final course registration takes place approximately one month before the semester begins, once the finalized course offerings are available.*

Housing - Daejeon Campus

Accommodation	KAIST applies for on-campus dormitory housing for all exchange students (double/triple occupancy), furnished with bed, closet, desk, chair, one pillow and one blanket. Shared restrooms, showers, laundry, and lobby per floor. A dormitory application survey will be conducted before the start of the semester.
Cost range	Approximately USD 550 – 900 per semester
Website	https://kds.kaist.ac.kr/main.do?lang=en

Health Check and Insurance

Health insurance requirement	Students on a D-2 visa must subscribe to National Health Insurance (NHI). As enrollment takes over a month, students should arrange traveler's insurance covering at least their first month in Korea.
Dormitory health check requirement	A completed Health Check Form is required to move into KAIST dormitory housing. The form must show MMR vaccination status and Tuberculosis screening results (IGRA or chest X-ray). Results are only valid if dated within 3 months prior to move-in. Please check your MMR vaccination status in advance. Since two weeks are required between the 1st and 2nd MMR doses, Please prepare your vaccination record as soon as you receive your acceptance, or even earlier if possible — dormitory assignment is only possible if this is submitted on time.

Visa Requirements

All non-Korean applicants need a visa to study in Korea. To obtain one, apply at the embassy or consulate of the Republic of Korea in the home country, using the Certificate of Admission issued by KAIST.

Please note: entering Korea without a visa may result in cancellation of your study, and applying for a visa after arrival requires significant additional cost and documentation.

Academic Transcripts

Grades are announced in early July for the Spring semester and early January for the Fall semester. Exchange students may download and print their own official English transcript free of charge within one month following the grade announcement, and submit it directly to their home university. A certificate-verifiable electronic transcript is also available for download for a small fee.

Useful Links and Resources

Official KAIST Homepage	https://www.kaist.ac.kr/en
International Office — Exchange Programs	https://io.kaist.ac.kr
Online Registration	https://io.kaist.ac.kr/exchange.do
KAIST Dormitory	https://kds.kaist.ac.kr/main.do?lang=en
Course Information	https://url.kr/rxxuj9
About Korea	http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/index.kto
About Daejeon	http://www.daejeon.go.kr/dre/index.do

Contact Us

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