YONSEI
Toward Truth and Freedom
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For 138 years, Yonsei University has steadfastly held the helm of Korea’s modernization, steering the nation through the turbulent waves of industrialization, democratization, and informatization. Now, Yonsei will embrace the challenges and opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and relentlessly pursue innovation in higher education.

The world is currently at a crossroads, and humanity must make choices in this time of great transition. Disruptive science and technology are redefining human biology and civilization, and democracy contends simultaneously with economic advancement and social equity. Individuals yearn for security and prosperity, without surrendering their dignity and identity.

Yonsei University purposes to contribute to peace and advancement of humankind. On a smaller scale, it aims to provide a platform for innovation and cooperation for those who come to Yonsei University, where they can freely pursue their dreams and design their future. Yonsei will lighten the world by fostering academic research that makes a difference, education that inspires, and community spirit that serves.

Yonsei University prioritizes education that nurtures ‘innovative leaders with a community spirit.’ Through a series of university-wide dialog, members of Yonsei are sharing the philosophy that self-interest is not the driving force of economic and social progress, but that common prosperity is.

In support of such academic and social pursuits, Yonsei will introduce state-of-the-art educational technology and systems that will serve as the backbone of multidimensional innovation in education. It will also focus on reforming administrative support, campus space, and university policy, in preparation for the exciting and formidable future that lies ahead.

President of Yonsei University
SUH SEOUNG HWAN
Mission Statement
Yonsei University is dedicated to educate future leaders of our society in the spirit of Christianity, fostering a strong and lasting commitment to the principles of truth and freedom. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples, then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” [John 8:31-32]

Philosophy
Yonsei University serves as the “alma mater” of all arts and sciences to nurture leaders who will contribute to the Korean and international society, in the ecumenical spirit of Christian teaching epitomized in its motto of “truth and freedom.” Yonseians will inherit mankind’s cultural legacy, and lead academic development through creativity and critical thinking. We will also serve others with an open heart, and contribute to the prosperity of humankind.

With these missions, we Yonseians will demonstrate our leadership to realize the Yonsei spirit globally.
YONSEI HISTORY

Yonsei’s history is consistent with the milestones of South Korea’s social development.

Yonsei University was founded in 1885 by visionaries who recognized the value of education that transcends racial and national boundaries. The pure passion and dedication of Yonsei’s founders to nurture future leaders in the service of humanity live on to this day. Over the past 138 years, approximately 370,000 people have earned a degree at Yonsei University, contributing to the development of society in the spirit of truth and freedom.

1885

1885. 4 Gwanghyewon, Korea’s first modern hospital, is founded as a royal hospital.

1886. 3 Chejungwon opens as the first medical school in Korea.

1885. 4 Chosun Christian College is accredited as Yonhi College, a private institution. Humanities, Mathematics and Physics, Business, Agriculture and Theology is newly accredited.

1904. 9 Through a donation from Mr. L. H. Severance, the hospital is reconstructed, and the medical college is finalized.

1907. 1 Yonhi University and Severance Medical College merge to become Yonsei University.

1957

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1959. 4 Korean Language Institute is established.

1985. 5 Yonsei University celebrates its 100th anniversary.

1985. 10 Wonju Campus (College of Health Science) is established.

1978. 10 Wonju Campus (College of Health Science) is established.

1985. 5 Through a donation from Mr. L. H. Severance, the hospital is reconstructed, and the medical college is finalized.

2007. 3 Wonju Campus starts the first Residential College (RC) education in Korea.

2010

2010. 3 International Campus officially opens.

2014. 4 Yonsei Cancer Center is opened.

2021. 9 LearnUs is opened to the public.

2022. 6 Yonsei ranks 1st among Asian Private Universities and 73rd globally in the QS World University Rankings 2023.


2023. 6 Yonsei ranks 1st among Asian private universities and 76th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2024.

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World-class research and education competitiveness

Yonsei University is widely recognized as a world-class university. It is steadily gaining recognition in global university rankings, including 1st among Asian Private Universities and 76th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2024, 78th globally in the THE World University Rankings 2023, and 123rd worldwide in Nature Index 2023.

- Students: 40,533 (Unit: Number of Persons)
- Faculty: 6,506 (Unit: Number of Persons)
- International Students: 5,868 (14.5%)
- International Faculty: 351 (5.4%)
- Research Funding: 532.5 (Unit: Billion KRW, 2022)
- Number of Courses: 7,301 (* as of 2023 Spring Semester)
- Scholarship: 160.7 (Unit: Billion KRW)
- On-Campus Housing Capacity: 14,465 (Unit: Number of Persons)
- Alumni: 370,818 (Unit: Number of Persons)
- Campuses: 25/2/20 (25 Colleges + 2 Division + 20 Graduate Schools)
- Article Publications: 7,210 (Unit: Case, 2022)

* As of April 1, 2023
Yonsei University has taken the responsibility to nurture neo-renaissance talent that will lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution and has initiated educational innovation that is transforming the paradigm of higher education. All Yonsei students are now eligible to receive digital literacy training. Yonsei has established various institutions and infrastructure for advanced education to enable students, the leaders of the next generation, to collect and analyze data and deploy computational reasoning skills, with extensive knowledge of the humanities.

**LearnUs, an Advanced Virtual Educational Platform for the Digital Age**

LearnUs is an innovative educational system that utilizes cutting-edge technology, such as AI and immersive media, including VR, AR, and XR. With LearnUs, which will be available to users worldwide, Yonsei University aims to use virtual platforms that go beyond traditional boundaries such as edX or Coursera.

**Establishment of a Digital Creative Campus**

In 2017, as part of its digital education program for fostering future talent who will lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Yonsei University formed a strategic partnership with Adobe for the first time in Asia. The collaboration enabled all members of the university to use applications and services offered via the Adobe Creative Cloud (ACC) for research, study, and personal development. Yonsei University is laying out an educational infrastructure to support capacity-building in the use and production of immersive media, including VR, AR, and XR, and to run programs for strengthening production-related skills. Accordingly, the university established the XR Lab, which is furnished with high-end equipment and software optimized for creating immersive media content, and Y-Scape, where students can experience and explore various immersive media content.
University Social Responsibility

Fostering Leaders with a Community-oriented Mindset

Faced by an uncertain future due to rapid technological advancement and changes in the global environment, Yonsei University recognizes the sustainable development of humanity as a key goal. To this end, Yonsei has established various institutions, including the Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment (IGEE) and the Institute for Higher Education Innovation (IHEI), to provide programs and activities that will help resolve social issues.

Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment (IGEE), Fostering Global Citizens

The Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment was founded in 2017 under the leadership of Honorary Chairman Ban Ki-moon, the 8th UN Secretary-General. Since then, IGEE has hosted the Global Engagement & Empowerment Forum on Sustainable Development (GEEF), and undertaken diverse training and volunteer activities to cultivate global citizens.

Yonsei University Health System (YUHS), Empowering People through Treatment beyond Borders

The Yonsei University Health System provides financial support to patients in need and runs various programs that help patients readjust to society after treatment by providing holistic care. Ongoing medical service-based social projects include the Severance 1% Sharing Movement, Good Samaritan SOS Project, and Global Severance, Global Charity.

Institute for Higher Education Innovation (IHEI), Providing Hands-on Training Centered on Problem Solving

The Institute for Higher Education Innovation was established to foster future-oriented talent who can understand the challenges of those in need and proactively address the social issues that they face. It implements an on-site training curriculum and extracurricular activities that build students’ social innovation capacity.
Research-oriented University

Research Environment for the Future

Yonsei University provides an environment and system that helps researchers to focus solely on their research, which is key to university competitiveness. Yonsei is enhancing its status as a research oriented university by continually improving its proactive research support system and policies (including administrative support, allocation of research facilities, and joint research-matching), thereby promoting more creative research, innovative technology, and knowledge gathering.

Support Platforms for International Collaborative Research

Yonsei Frontier Lab was opened in 2017 to help Yonsei researchers communicate seamlessly with leading researchers around the world. Yonsei University also established Open Network Lab, a joint research hub for researchers, to provide a support platform for international joint research.

Improved Research Support for Newly-Appointed Faculty

Recruiting outstanding faculty is crucial for strengthening university research competitiveness. To build a creative research atmosphere and to encourage the spirit of challenge in our newly-appointed faculty, Yonsei University has operated the Research Initiative for the Future since 2014.

Research Support Administrative System

Yonsei University introduced on-site research support to provide customized administrative services for researchers. The Office of Research Affairs has strengthened research data collection and analysis to support research policy establishment, to provide research performance analyses tailored to researchers, and to provide updated information on trends in major R&D projects and policy changes. The existing fund management system has been expanded and reorganized into the Research Management System II, and a paperless system has been established to simplify research administration, thus creating a research-oriented environment.

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Sinchon Campus
A place of innovation that upholds the tradition and heritage of the Yonsei Spirit

Mirae Campus
An independent campus with strong interdisciplinary research and education

Yonsei University Health System
Northeast Asia’s medical hub with global competitiveness

International Campus
The center of innovative global education
Underneath the sky in a spring day full of nature's flow, Cheonggyecheon Stream on a sunny day, the white swans gliding in a mirror. Yonsei's beautiful campus throughout all four seasons, is the world’s most modern and urban with breathtaking views.


A culture of harmony and passion, the Yonsei campus embraces the energy of youth with large-scaled festivals such as Muak Festival, Yonsei-Korea Games, cheering event AKARAKA, and cultural events held by various student clubs. The Yonsei culture of harmony and communication is an tradition that encourages creative thinking, individuality, and pride as a Yonseian.


Yonsei University has witnessed the history of growth and development of the nation. Its campuses are located in the heart of global Korea, serving as a communication and convergence hub for scholars and experts coming from all over the world. Yonsei University Sinchon Campus is located in the middle of downtown Seoul, the capital of Korea, serving as a tourism attraction and cultural center.


In Seoul, the capital city of Korea, with a population of 10 million, is a colorful, metropolitan city with a population of 10 million, while also a cultural hotspot for historical sites such as Gyeongbokgung Palace, Changdeokgung Palace, Deoksugung Palace, and Sungnyemun Gate.


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The legacy of our founders who practiced the values of sharing and devotion in this much-beleaguered nation 138 years ago continues to this day through the Yonsei spirit of truth and freedom. Yonsei University has stood firm as the steward of economic development and democratization of Korea. Underlying the historical success is the creative insight of Yonseians, together with their unflagging dedication to community and society. Even now, as a new period in our globally-shared civilization begins, Yonseians shine brightly in their unique ways, as they faithfully follow their calling.

Here is a short list of Yonseians, whom we celebrate for the year 2023.

Yonseians Shining Brightly

Lee Juyeol
Former Governor of Bank of Korea, Business ’70
Well-versed in macroeconomic and financial markets, Lee is the very person who makes decisions on currency and credit policies in Korea.

Bong Joon Ho
Film Director, Sociology ’88
With his movie Parasite, Bong swept up awards at nearly every major international film festival between 2019 and 2020 — a monumental achievement in the 100-year history of Korean film.

Suh Kyung-bae
Chairman and CEO, Amorepacific group, Business ’81
Suh is one of the most respected business icons in Korea. His single-minded dedication to R&D in traditional medicine and western cosmetics is the secret in making Amorepacific a global name in the beauty and health industry.

Cheon Jinwoo
Director of IBS Center for Nanomedicine, Chemistry ’81
Cheon has made remarkable achievements in connecting nanoscience to medicine, enabling research in the field of nanomedicine for the first time in Korea.

Kwon Sun-joo
Former Chairman & CEO of Industrial Bank of Korea, English Language and Literature ’74
Kwon is the first woman to have assumed the title of CEO of a Korean bank and is currently a non-executive director of KB Financial Group.

Han Kang
Writer, Korean Language and Literature ’89
In 2016, Han was the first person from Asia to win the UK Man Booker International Prize, for her book The Vegetarian.

John Delury
Professor of Graduate School of International Studies
As a member of the 21st Century Leaders Council of the [U.S.] National Committee on American Foreign Policy, John Delury is one of the leading experts in U.S.-China relations, politics, and history on the Korean Peninsula and East Asia.

John A. Linton
Director of Severance Hospital International Health Care Center, Medicine ’80
Linton is taking the lead in helping the underprivileged and is reaching out to help tuberculosis patients in North Korea, who have no access to professional medical care.

Bong Joon Ho
Film Director, Sociology ’88
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Study at Yonsei

Underwood International College (UIC)

Underwood International College is a highly selective, English-language, four-year liberal arts institution, which combines the intimate, elite learning environment of an American-style liberal arts college with the faculty and resources of Korea’s top private research university. UIC students can choose from an extensive list of classes conducted entirely in English and taught by a distinguished group of international and Korean scholars. With a student body drawn from around the world (3,299 students from 82 countries), UIC is becoming a globally renowned liberal arts college.

Global MBA (GMBA)

Founded in 1998, the Yonsei Global MBA program is the first full-time MBA in Korea where all classes are conducted in English. The Yonsei Global MBA program cultivates creative and ethical professional managers with a global perspective through outstanding education and leading research. Graduates are active world leaders in various fields, including corporate management. GMBA ranked 52nd globally by The Times Higher Education/Wall Street Journal in 2018.

Global Leaders College (GLC)

Global Leaders College is committed to providing education to talented people and to equipping them to play key roles in the international stage based on their overall understanding of Korean culture, politics, and economy. In parallel with its curriculum mainly delivered in Korean, GLC offers a variety of educational services including customized academic guidance and face-to-face writing tutorials as well as ample Korean cultural programs. As of 2023, GLC consists of nearly 1,150 students from 38 countries and accommodates five majors in International Commerce, Korean Language & Culture Education, Culture & Media, Bio & Living Engineering, and Applied Information Engineering.

Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS)

The Graduate School of International Studies was established in 1987 to meet the growing global demand for international academic institutions and to educate individuals to become global experts. Yonsei GSIS offers Master’s and Doctoral degree programs in various languages - Korean Studies (English), Global Studies (English), Global Citizenship and Cooperation (Chinese), and Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development (Multilingual mainly Korean). More than 80% of the Yonsei GSIS students are international students from diverse cultural backgrounds. Dual degree and exchange programs with over 650 partner universities in 70 countries also enable GSIS students to graduate with a key competitive edge.

Korean Language Institute (KLI)

Founded in 1959, the Korean Language Institute (KLI) has been playing a key role in Korean language education around the world, teaching Korean language and culture to international students, professors, and diplomats.

STUDY AT YONSEI

Yonsei University collaborates with 733 partner universities in 79 countries to provide various opportunities for students around the world to develop their perspectives and insights as global citizens.

Yonsei offers degree programs and study abroad programs to help outstanding students from abroad gain academic excellence while experiencing Korean language, society, and culture.

Yonsei International Summer School (YISS)

YISS offers a wide range of courses taught by leading experts and professors, also featuring internship programs that help students gain real-life work experience. The exciting learning environment continues outside the classroom with a variety of extracurricular activities.

Winter Abroad at Yonsei (WAY)

WAY offers two separate sessions that focus on academic achievement with various courses and intensive Korean language courses along with special cultural and historical lectures. Participants can enjoy special Korean winter activities on the weekends.

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www.yskli.com
**International Students Ratio**

International Students Ratio: 14.5%

**International Students**

- Degree-seeking: 3,668
- Language Course: 1,286
- Credit Exchange: 914

**International Students from Global**

- Asia: 4,009/68.3%
- Europe: 680/11.5%
- North America: 914/15.6%
- South America: 76/1.3%
- Oceania: 45/0.8%
- Africa: 144/2.5%

**University-wide Partner Institutions**

- Partner Institutions: 733
- Countries: 79

- North America: 327
- Europe: 204
- Asia: 151
- South America: 20
- Oceania: 24
- Africa: 7

- Department-level Partner Institutions: 419 partner institutions in 57 countries

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**INTERNATIONALIZATION STATUS**

**EPILOGUE**

Yonsei University's challenges for the future

The noble spirit of “Yonsei: Toward Truth and Freedom” has persevered throughout the waves of modern Korean history for the last 138 years and will continue making strides.

Please join us on our journey for the sustainable development of humankind.

More...

Please refer to the web page for more information.

about.yonsei.ac.kr/eng

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* The booklet used the Noto, Open Sans, and Crimson Pro typefaces provided by Google Fonts.