SungKongHoe University Graduate School

Master of Arts in Inter-Asia NGO Studies(MAINS)

Course Description and Guide for Admission in 2027

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1. About MAINS(The Master of Arts in Inter-Asia NGO Studies)

The Master of Arts in Inter-Asia NGO Studies program began in 2007. Its unique multidisciplinary curriculum, combined with practical training, focuses on social change, non-governmental organizations, and civil society in Asia. The curriculum covers current regional and global issues, with a special emphasis on fostering solidarity among civil society participants.

The MAINS program is designed for individuals who have already made or have the potential to make significant contributions to the development of civil society in Asia. SungKongHoe University provides academic and practical resources to offer intensive and flexible preparation for those seeking leadership and skills to promote more just and equitable social changes in Asia. The MAINS program has evolved over the years to place greater emphasis on the experience of democratization and development in Korea and the Asian context.





2. Admission

1) Eligibility

We welcome applicants with an undergraduate degree, preferably in social science fields, and experience in the non-profit or non-governmental sectors in Asia and Korea.
Applicants from outside the Asian region will not receive priority consideration for admission due to the nature of the program. We seek individuals who are sensitive to and involved in issues such as promoting social change, environmental justice, human rights, democratization, community development, cross-border solidarity, citizenship, and humanitarian aid in Asia. These points will be closely scrutinized during the admission decision process. Therefore, we do not encourage applications with the sole purpose of career advancement in the NGO sector.

2) Admission Procedures

Submission of Completed Application Forms and Other Required Documents (by email)

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Documents Screening and Online Video Interview

↓ ↓ ↓

Notification of Admission and Scholarship Result (by email)

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A Reply to a Letter of Acceptance (by email)

↓ ↓ ↓

Consul's Confirmation or Apostille of Degree and Transcript Submission (by post)

↓ ↓ ↓

Issuing a Certificate of Admission (by Post)

↓ ↓ ↓

Get a Visa and Arrival to Korea

3) Schedule for 2027 Admission

Procedure	Date	Note
Submission of All Required Application Materials	2026. 7. 6 ~ 9. 18	By Email : mains@skhu.ac.kr
Document Screening and Online Video Interview	Late Sep or Early Oct 2026	Zoom Connection
Notification of the Admission Result (Including Scholarship)	Mid Oct 2026	By Email
Submission of Consul's Confirmation or Apostille Documents	Late Nov 2026	By Post
Orientation	Late Feb 2027	Subject to Change

4) Admission Requirements

● Applicants who have a bachelor's or higher degree, or have university graduate equivalency approved by an authorized organization.

● Official English language ability test result within 2 years.

(The minimum requirement for any of the following : IELTS 5.5, TOEFL iBT 71, CEFR B2, New TEPS 326)

According to Ministry of Education regulations, applicants with degrees higher than a university degree from countries where English is the native or official language may be exempt from submitting official English test results. However, even if you meet this requirement, the admissions office recommends submitting your official English test results in advance. The admissions committee may require submission of official English test results based on the video interview.

If successful applicants fail to submit their official English test results within the given period, the admissions committee will cancel their acceptance.

5) Evaluation

● Procedure: Documents Screening and Online Video Interview

(Applicants who are deemed unsuitable for this program through document screening will not be interviewed)

● Method: The Admission committee will review and decide who will be offered admission and scholarship based on document and interview evaluation score.

6) Documents Required

No.	Document	Note
1	Completed and signed application form	ONE 3.5cmx4.5cm colour photograph taken within the last six months with a white or light background. Please don't send the application form to the scanned document.
2	Certificate of previous degree	Certificate of graduation above a bachelor's degree certified by the university. **confirmation of Korean Consular or Apostille(mandatory)**
3	Official transcript from the university previously attended	Official full transcript showing the grades of whole semesters. **confirmation of Korean Consular or Apostille(mandatory)**
4	Two letters of recommendation(No specific form)	From two different persons each who are well aware of your work, career and study.

5	Official English language ability test result within 2 years of the application	The minimum requirement for any of the following: IELTS 5.5, TOEFL IBT 71, CEFR B2, New TEPS 326 If the applicant is waiting for the result of the English test at the time of application for the MAINS, please specify in the application form about the expected date of the test result.
6	A photocopy of passport	Please check the expiration date of your passport. If the expiration period is less than 18 to 24 months, it is recommended to reissue.
7	Information collection and use agreement	
8	The remittance receipt	To prove the payment of the application fee.
9	Family registration certificate	Only for Chinese, Cuban, Syrian, Macedonian, Kosovan applicants.

- All documents need to be translated and notarized if the original is not in English.
- **Successful applicants should submit by post their degree and transcripts with the confirmation of Korean Consular or Apostille. (mandatory)**
- Please submit them to the following address :

MAINS Admission Manager, Admission Management Office

SungKongHoe University
Seoungyeonguan Building 2nd Floor,
320 Yeondong-ro, Guro-gu, Seoul, 08359, Republic of KOREA

7) Application Fee: KRW 70,000 or USD 70

Before sending the application documents by email, please ensure that the application fee has been paid. The applicant must submit a remittance receipt along with the other documents. Please note that the university can only begin processing the application once the application fee has been received. Please be aware that the application fee is non-refundable.

* Bank details for overseas remittance

Account : Shinhan Bank / 140-015-549070 / Sungkonghoe University
Open bank address : 212, Gyeongin-ro, Guro-gu, Seoul, 08271, Republic of Korea
Shinhan Bank Oryudong Branch
Swift code : SHBKKRSE



3. Curriculum

1) General Information

The MAINS is an English-taught alternative social studies program that focuses on Asian civil society. The program encourages applications from individuals with working experience in Asian non-governmental organizations, particularly from Asia and Korea. MAINS offers an advanced and intensive program that utilizes teaching methods based on individual self-research, mutual learning among students, and thematic approaches. Reading, writing, debating, and interacting with other students are strongly emphasized.

2) Course Structure

The MAINS program is an 18-month, 4-quarter program that includes 6 months of field work and thesis writing. It consists of core courses, elective courses, and a thesis, totaling 24 credits. Each quarter has a particular theme that serves as a synthesizing structure. Class schedules run from one quarter to the next with a week's break in between. Quarters have a varied number of sessions. Some courses may be taught intensively by visiting lecturers. Courses combine lectures and student-led seminars.

Spring Term : Mar 2 ~ Jun 4 2027
Break : Jun 7 ~ Jun 11 2027
Summer Term : Jun 14 ~ Sep 3 2027
Break : Sep 6 ~ Sep 10 2027
Autumn Term : Sep 13 ~ Dec 17 2027

* The above academic Schedule is subject to change.

3) Core Courses

● Tutorial 1 and 2 with academic director

4) Elective Courses

※ Not all elective courses are available each year.

● International Development in Context
● Critical Peace Studies and International Relations
● Global Human Rights
● Global Asian Feminism
● NGO Management and Development
● Political Change and Civil Society in Asia
● Refugee and Migration Movement
● Contemporary Issues in Asia
● Popular Culture and Modernity in Korea
● Environmental Justice, Harm, and Politics

5) Special Program (non-credit course)

● Korean Language

4. Thesis

All students must write a thesis or equivalent research report on topics related to social change and the non-profit or governmental sectors, with a special focus on democracy, development, or civil society in Asia. It is strongly recommended that applicants emphasize their own country's context. This point will be given special attention during the application evaluation process. The choice of topic outlined above will be the primary consideration throughout the entire admission process. In the third quarter, students should be able to defend their thesis or report proposal by writing the first chapter. The fourth and final quarter is dedicated to completing the thesis or report, which includes fieldwork, data collection, writing, and submitting the final version.

5. Tuition, Scholarship & Other Expenses

Qualified students may receive full or partial scholarships, with priority given to those from developing countries in Asia.

The scholarship covers tuition fees and living expenses. The level of scholarship awarded to each student is determined based on their academic aptitude, grades, needs, and individual circumstances. The scholarship for tuition and living expenses is only available to students who reside in Korea for the entire first three terms. If a student takes time off during the course or falls behind the school's academic regulations, the scholarship may be invalidated.

The scholarship for tuition fees may be full or partial, depending on our criteria. Please note that the scholarship does not cover the expenses for fieldwork and thesis writing during the last (fourth) quarter. The recipient of the scholarship will be notified of the result at the same time as the admission offer.

6. Faculty

- **Director of the MAINS**

  Prof. Park, Kyung Tae (E-mail : ktpark@skhu.ac.kr)

- **Board of Teaching and Resource Persons**

  Prof. Jeong, Yeonbo

  Prof. Park, Sang-Hee

  Prof. Hwang, Juneseo

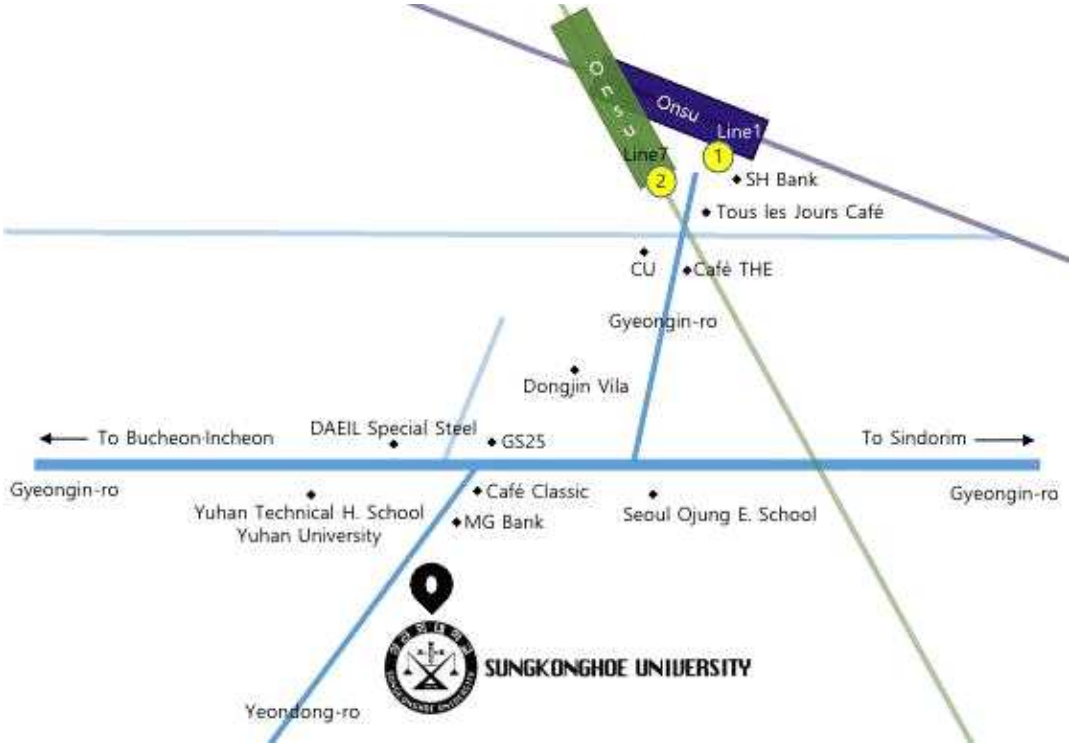
- **Administrative Office of the MAINS**

  E-mail : asia@skhu.ac.kr

- **Admission Management Office of the MAINS**

  E-mail : mains@skhu.ac.kr

7. Maps


Onsu
Line1
Line7
1
2
SH Bank
Tous les Jours Café
CU
Café THE
Gyeongin-ro
Dongjin Vila
To Bucheon·Incheon
DAEIL Special Steel
GS25
To Sindorim
Gyeongin-ro
Yuhan Technical H. School
Yuhan University
Café Classic
MG Bank
Seoul Ojung E. School
Gyeongin-ro
SUNGKONGHOE UNIVERSITY
Yeondong-ro