



ABOUT THE KOREA-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE

Promoting peace and empowering the next generation of U.S.-Asia leaders through international student interchange.

About the Korea-America Student Conference

The U.S.-Korea alliance represents a vital strategic relationship. As such, aspiring business leaders, government officials, and academics must foster strong interpersonal connections to safeguard this bilateral tie. The Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) builds these connections between university students by allowing participants to gain a genuine understanding of their international counterparts through open and earnest discussion. Over the course of the Conference, students develop strong leadership skills, build professional relationships through networking opportunities, and hone their cross-cultural communication abilities, making KASC an unparalleled program that truly empowers and inspires the next generation of US-Asia leaders.

KASC brings together approximately 30 student studying in the United States and Republic of Korea for an academically rigorous, three-week-long summer program, during which students live, travel, and conduct original, peer-reviewed research together. Students contribute to roundtable discussions that examine various contemporary sociopolitical issues through the lens of the US-ROK relationship, engage with distinguished speakers, and participate in cultural field trips while working toward the overarching goal of building trust and fostering international peace during their lifetimes.

KASC distinguishes itself from other programs in that it is entirely student-led in nature: students manage the logistics and implementation of each annual gathering. At the end of each Conference, delegates elect an Executive Committee who is tasked with the planning and execution of the next KASC. The Executive Committee receive guidance and financial assistance from International Student Conferences (ISC), a non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C. that oversees preparations for KASC.

History of KASC

KASC is modeled after the Japan-America Student Conference (JASC), the oldest student-run exchange between the U.S. and Japan. Notable dates in the history of KASC are:

1934: Concerned by deteriorating relations between their governments, a small group of Japanese students initiated the first JASC to promote mutual understanding.

2007: International Student Conferences is created and KASC is launched.

2008: KASC 1 convened at The George Washington University, Brown University, the University of Tennessee and the University of California, Berkeley.

2009: KASC 2 convened at Korea University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Jeju National University and Pukyong National University.

2012: KASC 5 convened at University of Southern California, American University, Trine University, and University of Missouri.

2017: KASC 10 convened at Catholic University of America, South Methodist University and Cal State East Bay.

2018: KASC 11 launched a new “two country model”, allowing delegates to travel to sites in the U.S. and South Korea over the course of the Conference. The KASC 11 delegation convened at University of Montana, University of Washington, Busan University of Foreign Studies, and Myongji University.

2019: KASC 12 continues the two-country model for the second consecutive year, bringing its student-led delegation to Mason Korea at the Incheon Global Campus and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA.

2020: KASC 13 moves to a virtual format to adapt to the realities of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2023: KASC 16 returns to the two country in-person conference model and will convene in Seoul, South Korea, and Washington, DC, United States.

