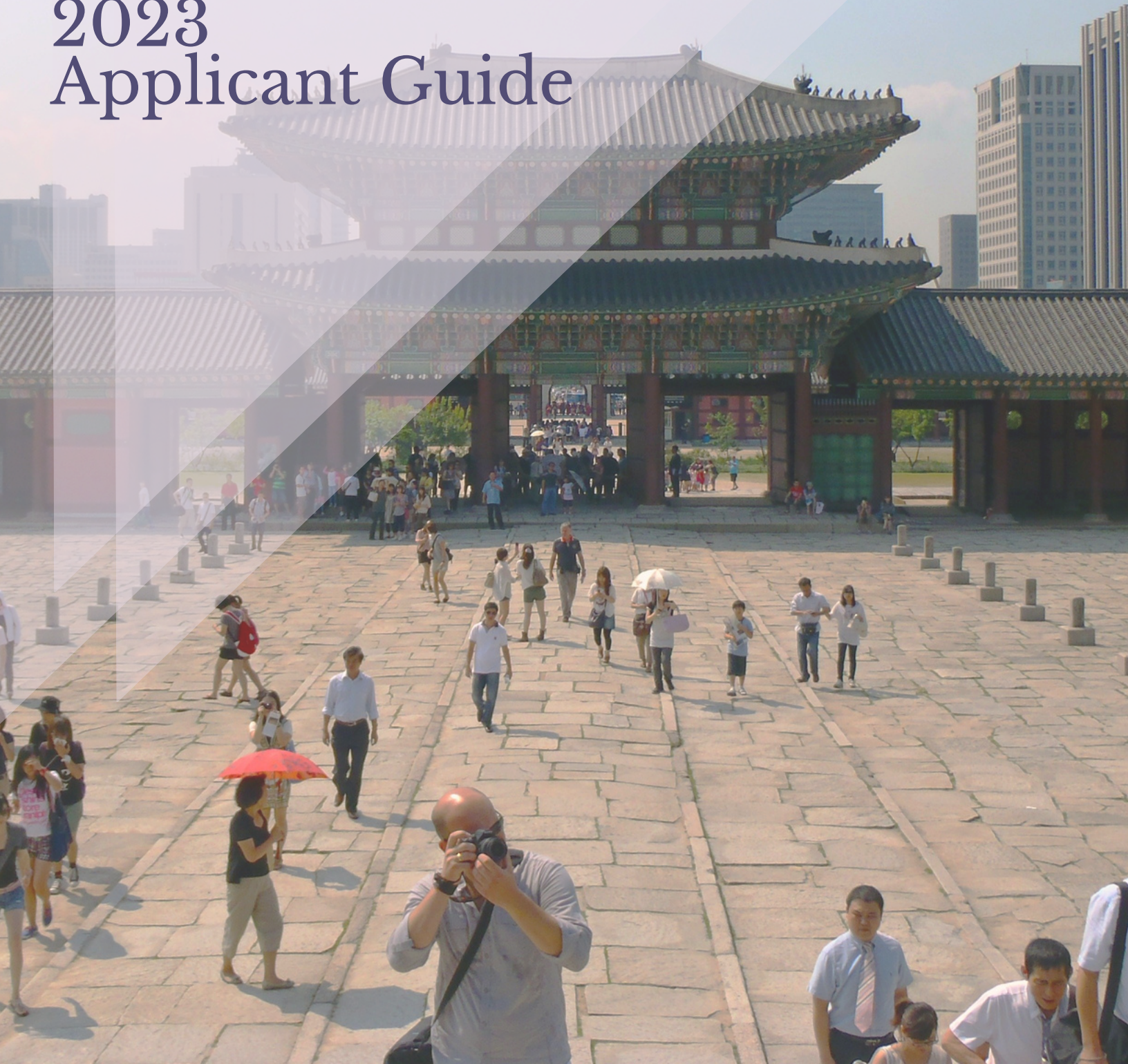




# *17th Korea-America Student Conference*

## **2023 Applicant Guide**



# *About the Conference*

*A month-long academic, cultural interchange and professional networking program*

## *When*

End of June ~ mid-July, 2024

## *Sites*

New York City, Washington, DC, and Seoul

## *Who*

Up to 12 Korean and 12 American Delegates

## *Purpose*

To promote peace by furthering mutual understanding, friendship, and trust through international student interchange

## *How to Apply*

Complete your [application](#) by TBA to be considered for the 17th Korea-America Student Conference!



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## ABOUT ISC

*To promote peace by furthering mutual understanding, friendship and trust through international student interchange.*

International Student Conferences, Inc. (ISC) is a non-profit organization incorporated in Washington, DC. It facilitates three academic and cultural interchange programs organized by university students in the U.S., Japan, and Korea: the China-America Student Conference (ChASC), the Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) and the Japan-America Student Conference (JASC). Beginning in 1934, JASC is the first and oldest exchange between the two countries that is conceived and carried out by university students. Patterned after the JASC model of a student-run Conference, the first KASC launched in 2008 and the first ChASC launched in winter 2020.

ISC programs provide an intensive, up-to one-month experience in which equal numbers of students from the U.S. and a partner country live, gather, work, and study together in a conference-like setting.

What makes ISC programs unique is that, ever since its founding in 1934, ISC Conferences are entirely planned and administered by the students themselves. The students host discussion groups, field trips, seminars, and distinguished speakers, working toward the goals of better understanding each other, forming friendships, gaining trust, and fostering international peace during their lifetimes.

Every ISC gathering is characterized by full and frank discussions, undertaken with a spirit of understanding each other's point of view.

# ABOUT KASC 17

The Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) is a month-long academic and cultural interchange program that brings together an equal number of students representing the United States of America and South Korea for off-the-record discussions of the future of the bilateral relationship. The 17th Korea-America Conference will be centered around the following theme:

**"Embracing Complexity: Navigating Intersections in Global Diplomacy for a Shared Tomorrow."**

The program is **student-run** and **student-led**, allowing for full and frank conversations to occur between emerging young leaders from both countries. Over the course of this intensive and immersive exercise in people-to-people diplomacy, participants will form powerful friendships that will go on to serve as bridges across the Pacific for generations to come.

By empowering and inspiring the next generation of US-Asia leaders to value cooperation and dialogue, KASC aims to instill in participants a lifelong dedication to the pursuit of peace, openness, and regional stability.

The 17th KASC will hold a **3-day virtual orientation** and **three weeks of in-person programming** and travel at the end of June and in the month of July. Students will participate in academic discussions and social events with other students, the Executive Committee, International Student Conferences Inc. (ISC), alumni, and guest speakers on special topics.

**The conference requires a participation fee of \$3500.**



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Hyeonyool Kim  
*[Korean Chair]*



Grace Smith  
*[American Chair]*



Elliott Yoo  
*[Marketing Chair]*



Yoojin Yoon  
*[Treasurer]*



Yujung Lee  
*[Recruitment  
Chair/Liaison]*

2024 KOREA-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE



# KASC PROGRAMMING

*Planning for additional activities is currently underway. To give you a sense of what to expect, please review the schedule below.*

## *Virtual Orientation and In-Person Conference in New York City, Washington D.C., and Seoul*

Accepted Delegates will meet online with the Executive Committee in late June for a virtual Orientation.

Planned topics include what to pack, airport logistics, lodging information, and general group norms. We will also be getting to know each other through icebreaker activities!

The in-person Conference will begin in the US capital, Washington D.C., with a tentative date of June 23th. We will also travel to New York City during the American leg. All Delegates will attend lectures on US-ROK relations, travel around these iconic American cities, and engage in lively discussions on US-ROK policy.

The second half of the Conference will take place in Seoul, South Korea. The Delegation will depart New York City in mid-July and spend the final week in Korea's capital city. Delegates will participate in academic programming, cultural activities, and sightseeing. The Conference will end with a Final Forum presentation by each RT group and the Delegation will part ways on July 11th to return home.



# ROUNDTABLE TOPICS

An indispensable component of all KASC gatherings are the Roundtables (RTs). During the Conference, delegates conduct original, peer-reviewed research in tight-knit academic cohorts. Each RT is made up of an equal number of Korean and American delegates to ensure a balanced exchange of cultural perspectives. Through these intensive discussions, participants gain a more nuanced understanding of their international counterparts and actively develop real world policy solutions in the context of the U.S.-ROK relationship. Final research will then be presented to an audience during the Final Forum.

The RT topics for the 17th Korea-America Conference are:

- *Arts and Media*
- *Business, Law, and Diplomacy*
- *Environment and Technology*
- *International Relations and Political Science*
- *Trade and Economic Cooperation*





# ARTS & MEDIA

## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY THROUGH VISUAL ARTS

*Roundtable Leader - Elliott Yoo*

In the dynamic world of arts and media, creativity is infinite. Whether in South Korea or the United States, the power of artistic expression and media innovation resonates deeply in our lives. Art and media are not mere reflections of our societies; they are catalysts for change, sparking emotions, igniting dialogue, and forging connections on a global scale. Each brushstroke, note, or frame carries the potential to shape our careers, daily lives, and the world around us.

Join us in unraveling the contents, methods, and values embedded within the realm of arts and media. Through thoughtful discourse, we'll illuminate the profound impact of arts and media on our societies and discover how our unique perspectives contribute to this ever-changing landscape.

*RT Application Questions:*

- *What was your past experience with arts and media and do you have any skills you have gained from that experience?*
- *How do you express creativity throughout your day-to-day life?*
- *In our increasingly interconnected world, how does media and art serve as bridges between cultures, fostering understanding and cooperation?*



# BUSINESS, LAW, & DIPLOMACY

## The Interplay of Business, Diplomacy, and Law in a Global Context

*Roundtable Leader - Hyeonyool Kim*

In today's interconnected world, the intricate relationship between business, diplomacy, and law carries significant implications for international affairs and global markets. This round table aims to untangle this complex web, exploring how shifts in global politics and legal frameworks shape the decisions of multinational corporations and governments.

For instance, recent events like the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia conflict have prompted nations to reconsider their supply chains, emphasizing self-reliance. We will delve into this further, examining the broader effects of initiatives like the Industrial Resilience Accelerator (IRA), which resonate across regions including Korea.

Through insightful discussions, we will dissect the ways in which these elements converge, investigating how legal considerations intersect with diplomatic strategies to influence business decisions. We will uncover the pivotal role of trade agreements, sanctions, and international treaties in shaping the global economic landscape. Furthermore, we will analyze how corporate choices aligned with diverse legal systems can inadvertently impact diplomatic efforts.

Join this round table to unravel the intricate connections between business, diplomacy, and law on a global scale. Engage in discussions that navigate the complexities of these influences, shedding light on critical junctures where global affairs and commerce intersect, and the resulting implications for our interconnected world.

### *RT Application Questions:*

- *What motivated your choice of this topic for the Round Table discussion, and how does your personal interest align with this subject matter? Please provide a thoughtful explanation.*
- *Can you provide a specific example of an international law or treaty that has had a significant impact on national corporations' operations or strategies? Please elaborate on the implications and outcomes of this international legal framework.*



# ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

*Roundtable Leader - Grace Smith*

In the Environment and Technology roundtable, participants will discuss the intersections of environmental issues and technological advancements in our rapidly developing world. These two areas are inherently tied together, wherein the development and usage of technologies affects how much and in what way we impact the environment. Some technologies may cause a significant negative impact on the environment, while others can influence a positive one. Relations between the US and ROK have long collaborated on lots of issues surrounding tech and the natural world - whether that be explicitly or inadvertently - and continue to do so even more today.

During our discussions, delegates will choose a current issue relating to the environment and technology, then will suggest policy that works towards a solution; possible topics to investigate may include nuclear energy, EVs (electric vehicles), renewable energies, SDGs, microchips, infrastructure, and transportation among others.

*RT Application Questions:*

- *Why did you choose this RT topic? Please describe your interest and any background you may have.*
- *Please describe a current environmental issue or topic that relates to the US and/or South Korea. How is technology connected to it? Some examples might include nuclear energy, renewable energy methods, and transportation; but feel free to pick your own issue.*



# INTERNAT'L RELATIONS & POLITICAL SCIENCE

*Roundtable Leader - Yujung Lee*

International relationships are crucial for maintaining global peace, and cooperation, and addressing shared challenges. These relationships encompass treaties, agreements, diplomatic discussions, trade partnerships, and more.

Beginning with government and politics, within the context of the current topic, we'll delve into some of the key aspects.

In the realm of government and politics, one vital aspect is the formation of alliances and partnerships. Countries establish diplomatic ties to enhance their international standing and to collaborate on issues of common interest. These relationships are often facilitated through treaties and agreements that outline shared goals and commitments.

*RT Application Questions:*

- *Rate your knowledge/interest in the US-ROK Alliance on a scale of 1 to 5. (Include any background or past experiences that contribute to this rating) And if you had to encapsulate the US-ROK Alliance in a word, what would it be and why?*
- *If you had the opportunity to have a significant impact on the ROK-US alliance, what specific areas or aspects would you consider changing or improving? Please feel free to suggest agreements or any other measures that come to mind.*



# TRADE & ECONOMIC COOPERATION

*Roundtable Leader - Yoojin Yoon*

The United States and Republic of Korea have forged a strong partnership for 70 years and now become a great economic alliance. Bilateral trade is a central component of South Korea-U.S. economic cooperation.

One of the milestones is the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement(KORUS FTA). FTA reduces tariffs across various industries and emphasizes intellectual property rights protection and labor. On the other hand, protectionism is a trend around the world. There is a need to explore ways to promote mutual benefits and strengthen economic cooperation.

In the Trade and Economic Cooperation roundtable, participants would look into some of the trade agreements or policies and discuss methods of enhancing the cooperation. The roundtable discussion's goal is to develop a practical policy.

*RT Application Questions:*

- *What is trade protectionism? Tell me your perspective about trade protectionism.*
- *Please describe a current issue between the U.S. and ROK related to trade and economy. (The keywords can be IPEF, IRA, de-risking, bidenomics etc.) What are the benefits or concerns?*
- *How does the relationship between US and ROK impact trade policy? Or why are US and ROK important economic alliances?*



# ELIGIBILITY

KASC 17 seeks a diverse delegation to represent the academically accomplished student populations of the United States and South Korea. Undergraduate, graduate, and recently graduated students are encouraged to apply.

KASC welcomes applications from students of all academic majors to foster a deeper, interdisciplinary exchange. As the official language of the conference is English, no prior experience in Korean language or Korean Studies is required. KASC does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, marital status or sexual orientation.

Please note that applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants will be notified within two weeks of a completed application on whether they have been selected for an interview.

Applicants must either be enrolled in university and be in good academic standing with their institution at the time of application or have graduated within the last two years.

Those interested in serving as a member of the KASC delegation should be comfortable with actively contributing to scholarly discussions conducted entirely in English.



# APPLICATION

*Applicants will utilize English for the first portion of the application form, but the following RT topic questions and prepared materials can be written in either English or Korean. Please keep in mind KASC 17 interviews and the conference itself will be held entirely in English.*

**Apply by Dec. 23rd 23:59 ET by visiting our [online application](#).**

The application requires:

- Name and Contact Information
- University Transcript (*official or unofficial*)
- Optional Resume/CV
- Optional Documents (*Letters of Recommendation, etc.*)

There are also short response prompts:

- **Why are you interested in joining the 17th Korea-America Student Conference?** (*500 words max.*)
- **Specific questions chosen by RT leaders** (*1000 words max. per RT section*)

*\*The Executive Committee recommends drafting your short responses in a separate document, and then copying and pasting them into the application once you are finished.*



# APPLICATION

**Submit a \$20 application fee through PayPal on the JotForm application:**

- The form will redirect you to PayPal to pay the application fee once you press 'SUBMIT'.
- Your application will not be considered complete until you pay your invoice at this step.
- If you have issues with payment, please contact us at [kasc@iscdc.org](mailto:kasc@iscdc.org).

*Applicants may have their application fee waived by these ways:*

- 1. If applicants apply by December 1st, you may use the code 'KASC17EARLY' to waive the application fee.*
- 2. If applicants apply during December, and attend an info session, they may have their application fee waived with a KASC different code given at the session.*

**Once you submit your application:**

Within two weeks, you will hear from the 17th KASC Executive Committee regarding your application status. At this time, you may also be contacted by an EC member for a short Zoom interview.

Should you have any questions, please email KASC's Liaison/Recruitment Chair Yujung Lee: [yujunglee.kasc17@gmail.com](mailto:yujunglee.kasc17@gmail.com)





## FAQs

*This section covers some of the most relevant information for applicants and accepted Delegates.*

### **Q: Does ISC or KASC provide any financial aid?**

While ISC does provide guidance and fundraising advice to students, ISC does not directly provide any scholarships at this time. For a list of potential scholarships, please visit <http://iscdc.org/scholarships/>

### **Q: What is the participation fee, and what does it cover?**

#### **KASC (*American Delegates*): \$3,500**

This fee covers online programming, two international flights, ground transportation during the in-Person Conference, accommodations, (some) meals, and programming. Delegates are responsible for personal expenses (extra food, gifts, etc.), as well as domestic transportation to and from Washington, D.C. (specific airport TBD).

#### **KASC (*Korean Delegates*): \$3,500**

This fee covers online programming costs, two international flights, ground transportation during the in-person conference, accommodations, (some) meals, and programming. Delegates are responsible for personal expenses (extra food, gifts, etc.) and for domestic transportation to and from Seoul at the end of the conference.



# FAQs

## **Q: What impact has COVID-19 had on KASC?**

This will be the second year since the pandemic that KASC will be held almost entirely in-person! With just three days of virtual orientation, the remainder of the Conference will be held in-person over two and a half weeks spent between the US and South Korea.

The Delegation's safety is our priority, therefore KASC and ISC will be actively monitoring the pandemic in both countries throughout the Conference. In the event of an outbreak, we will follow CDC guidelines as stated at the time of the Conference.

Needless to say, we are so excited to welcome Delegates in-person again this summer!

## **Q: How are Executive Committee Members selected?**

EC elections will occur at the end of each Conference, during which any of the American and Korean delegates can choose to nominate themselves to run for one EC position and be elected by their peers.

## **Q: Do I have to know Korean to apply?**

No. The official Conference language is English.



# CONTACT



To stay up-to-date please visit our Instagram Page:  
[https://www.instagram.com/kasc\\_usofficial/](https://www.instagram.com/kasc_usofficial/)



To learn more about KASC and ISC, please visit  
our website at [www.iscdc.org](http://www.iscdc.org).



For additional information or questions, please  
contact KASC's student-led Executive Committee  
at [yujunglee.kasc17@gmail.com](mailto:yujunglee.kasc17@gmail.com)

