



THE 18TH KOREA- AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE

2024 applicant packet

ABOUT *the Conference*

A two week academic, cultural interchange and professional networking program

When

July 12th ~ July 26th

Sites

Seoul & NYC

Who

10 Korean and 10 American

Purpose

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



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ABOUT ISC

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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.

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 18th Korea-America Conference will be centered around the following theme:

“Constructing Identity in a Globalized World”

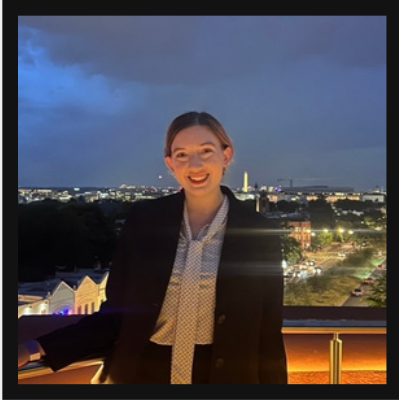
The program is student-run and student-led, allowing for full and frank conversations to occur between emerging young leaders from both countries. Over the course of this intensive and immersive exercise in people-to-people diplomacy, participants will form powerful friendships that will go on to serve 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 18th KASC will hold a 2-day virtual orientation and two weeks of in-person programming and travel 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

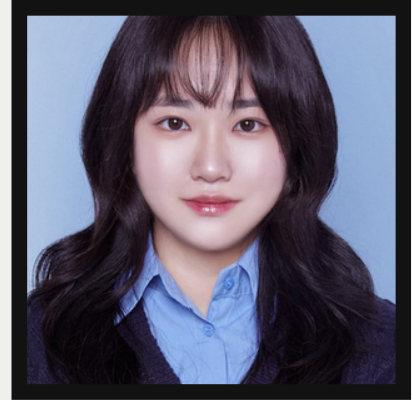
- The conference requires a participation fee of \$4000.

Meet the EC's

01



Valerie Grau
American Chair



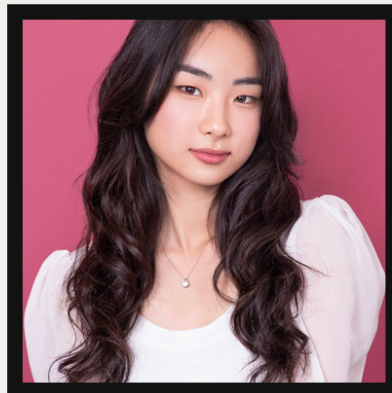
Eunseo Kim
Korean Chair



Ainslee Rose
Communication
Chair



Isabella Infosino
Treasurer



Somin Hwang
Marketing &
Recruitment
Chair

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 and Seoul.

Accepted Delegates will meet online with the Executive Committee date tbd for a virtual Orientation to discuss logistics and general information.

The in-person Conference will begin in Seoul with a tentative date of July 12th. We will travel to New York City during the week of the 19th.

All Delegates will attend lectures on US-ROK relations, engage in lively discussions on US-ROK policy and participate in academic programming, cultural activities, and sightseeing. The Conference will end with a Final Forum presentation by each RT group.

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:

- Human Rights Activism and Protest Culture
- Economic & Trade
- Art & Identity
- Politics & Technology
- Environment and Climate Change

COOPERATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVISM AND PROTEST CULTURE IN SOUTH KOREA AND
THE UNITED STATES | VALERIE GRAU

- Explore how the historical contexts and political systems of South Korea and the United States have shaped their respective approaches to human rights activism and protest culture. Both nations have a long history of social movements addressing inequality, injustice, and political oppression. However, the forces that drive these movements are deeply rooted in each country's unique historical, social, and political landscape.
- Delve into the similarities and differences in how social movements mobilize in these two nations, including the role of civil society, government response, and international influences.
- By examining both nations' approaches, we hope to understand better how human rights activism functions across different political and cultural contexts, and how these movements can inform global strategies for effecting change.

Questions to Consider

How have historical contexts and political systems in South Korea and the U.S. shaped their approaches to human rights activism and protest culture? What similarities and differences can be observed in how social movements mobilize to effect change?

ECONOMY & TRADE | CHLOE KIM

- A country's development is closely tied to its economy and trade. In this roundtable, we will discuss the economic situation and issues with trade in the United States and South Korea, focusing on how these have influenced the relationship between the two nations thus far. At the same time, discussions will be held about what impact it is likely to have in the future and how it should be solved.
- This roundtable will also explore trade across various sectors and consider the positions taken by businesses in each country, beyond the regulations of the governments. Additionally, we aim to discuss the pros and cons of the current situation, seeking to find reasonable solutions to overcome challenges or foster development in the field.

Questions to Consider

What is a current issue between the ROK and the U.S. related to economy and trade that has interested you. How do you expect it to affect the future relationship between the ROK and the U.S.?

How will the presidential election this year (2024) in the U.S. impact global issues of the economy and specifically how will these changes influence ROK-U.S. relations?

How would you best describe the current economic and trade relationship between the ROK and the U.S.?

ART AND IDENTITY—EXPLORING RACE, CULTURE, AND THE UNDERGROUND | AINSLEE ROSE

- Dive into the powerful intersection of identity, race, and culture as expressed through art, media, and literature.
- Explore how communities, especially the Korean American and broader Asian American experiences, use art as a medium to portray the hidden, often unspoken sides of life. From graffiti to experimental media, banned books to historical texts, discuss how these expressions of identity offer a platform to explore the struggles, cultural nuances, and the racialized experience in ways that may challenge or reinforce mainstream narratives.
- Participants are invited to discuss how art can serve as both a personal reflection and a collective voice for one's identities, while also considering the ways art shapes and reshapes public perceptions of race and culture.
- This session will offer an open dialogue on the role of creative expression in navigating issues of belonging, representation, and the reclamation of identity.

Questions to Consider

How can art serve as a bridge between individual experiences and broader community narratives? How can identity be constructed by media and other art forms an individual consumes? Consider the significance of non-mainstream spaces in empowering artists to express marginalized experiences.

POLITICS & TECHNOLOGY | SOMIN HWANG

- The relationship between politics and technology is reshaping how governments interact and engage with their citizens and the world. Technology now plays a pivotal role in political campaigns, policy-making, and global diplomacy.
- Social media allows leaders to communicate directly with the public, but it also fuels misinformation and disinformation. Meanwhile, advances in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity are influencing both domestic governance and global power dynamics, raising ethical concerns about privacy, surveillance, and the misuse of technology.
- On the international stage, technology has become a tool of both collaboration and competition. Cyberattacks, election interference, and digital espionage have emerged as new challenges in global relations, while technological innovations like 5G and AI development are influencing global power structures. As countries compete for technological dominance, the digital divide between nations also becomes a critical issue in global politics.

Questions to Consider

How has technology influenced political campaigns, elections, and governance?

- What role does technology play in shaping domestic politics and international relations?

- How does digital surveillance impact citizens' privacy and global diplomacy?

- How can nations address cybersecurity threats without infringing on civil liberties?

What are the global implications of the digital divide in political participation and influence?

THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE | ISABELLA INFOSINO

- Explore the critical collaboration, as well as new areas for collaboration, between the U.S. and South Korea (ROK) in addressing global environmental challenges. Both nations have a history of working together on climate-related issues, from clean energy innovation to policy coordination on emissions reductions. As the climate crisis intensifies, this partnership has become even more essential, focusing on the development of sustainable solutions and reducing environmental impact across industries.
- Delegates will identify a pressing environmental or climate issue and propose policy recommendations to advance solutions. Potential topics include renewable energy deployment, climate resilience, carbon capture technologies, reforestation efforts, and sustainable infrastructure development.
- By leveraging the expertise of both countries, the goal is to promote actionable steps toward mitigating climate change and safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Questions to Consider

What are some current efforts to address climate change that the US and ROK have put into action? Have these efforts been effective in mitigating climate change? What are the reasons for which the US and ROK might have interest in further collaboration to address climate change? What is their role on a global scale?

ELIGIBILITY

- KASC 18 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.
- 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.
- 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 are encouraged to use English for the application form, but the RT topic questions and prepared materials can be written in either English or Korean. Please keep in mind KASC 18 interviews and the conference itself will be held entirely in English.

Application due through website by

EST: December 22, 2024 @ 12:00 PM

KST: December 23, 2024 @ 13:59 PM

Application requirements

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

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.

Applicants may have their application fee waived by these ways:

1. If applicants apply during December, and attend an info session, they may have their application fee waived with a KASC 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.

FAQ

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): \$4,000

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 Seoul (specific airport TBD).

- KASC (Korean Delegates): \$4,000 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 Seoul.

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



INSTAGRAM: kasc-usofficial



WEBSITE:

<https://iscdc.org/kasc/>



EMAIL:

American chair

vgrau@iscdc.org

KOREAN CHAIR

EKIM.KASC18@GMAIL.COM