# Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars:

## Unveiling Shared Pasts, Shaping Common Futures

**2025**

**Organized by**
**Korean National Commission for UNESCO**

**Funded by**
**Korea Heritage Service, Republic of Korea**

## Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars

The Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars offer a unique funding opportunity designed to promote innovative and collaborative research in the field of transnational heritage studies. This programme aims to support early-career scholars and researchers who address critical global challenges through the lens of Korean heritage.

The 2025 grants programme will select two research teams through an open call. These teams will receive funding to conduct small-scale research projects. In October 2025, based on the outcomes of these pilot studies, successful teams will receive additional funding to continue their research for another year.

Applications for the 2025 Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars are now open, with a submission deadline of 28 February 2025.

### 1. Grant Overview

☞ **Grant Amount**

> 2025: Up to KRW 10,000,000 (approximately $6,800 USD) per team for the first year.
>
> 2026: Additional funding of up to KRW 12,000,000 (approximately $8,200 USD) per team will be provided based on the evaluation of the first year's performance.
>
> *Note: Final payment amounts may vary due to exchange rate fluctuations.*

☞ **Grant Period:** The grant period is one year (2025), with the possibility of an additional year of funding based on the evaluation of the first year's research outcomes.

☞ **Eligibility:** Each research team must consist of at least two members: a Principal Investigator (PI) and at least one co-researcher, both of whom must either be currently enrolled in a doctoral programme or have obtained their doctoral degree within the past three years. Furthermore, each team must include at least one Korean national affiliated with a university or research institution outside Korea and at least one non-Korean national.

※ *Eligibility will be determined based on the date of doctoral degree completion as of the application deadline, February 28, 2025.*

### 2. Funding Coverage

The Grant Funds may be utilized to support the following:

☞ Compensation for Research Personnel: Grant funds may be allocated to the Principal Investigator (PI) and co-researchers who directly contribute to the project. All personnel expenses must adhere to applicable tax laws and local regulations, ensuring compliance with relevant financial and legal requirements.

☞ Administrative Expenses: Costs directly related to the project, such as printing, photocopying, document imaging, and slide production, may be covered using grant funds.

☞ Dissemination Costs: Expenses for disseminating project progress and/or results, including publication costs, as well as organizing workshops, conferences, or meetings directly related to the project, are permissible.

※ *Expenditures should be carefully documented and justified in compliance with the grant's terms and conditions.*

However, the following items cannot be covered by the Grant Funds:

☞ Any form of expenditure unrelated to the research purpose

☞ Computer hardware, including laptops, electronic notepads, digital cameras, etc.

☞ Other permanent resources

3. **Research Focus Areas:** Projects that take Korean heritage as a subject of comparative study or incorporate it into the research content, focusing on one of the thematic areas listed below;

☞ Politics of Heritage: Examine how heritage practices and narratives reinforce or challenge national identity, political ideologies, and power dynamics.

☞ Heritage and Memory: Explore the role of heritage in shaping collective memory, with particular attention to contexts marked by conflict, colonial legacies, and systemic racism

☞ Inclusion and Exclusion in Heritage: Investigate issues of representation and marginalization within heritage narratives and practices, addressing questions of equity and diversity.

☞ Heritage for Sustainable Futures: Assess the potential of heritage to contribute to global sustainability, particularly in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4. **Selection Process**

The selection of research teams will involve a rigorous two-stage evaluation process:

☞ **Stage 1: Proposal Review:** A review committee composed of subject-matter experts will evaluate submitted proposals based on their alignment with the programme's objectives, feasibility, and overall quality.

☞ **Stage 2: Review Committee Interviews:** Shortlisted teams will participate in online interviews conducted by the evaluation committee. These interviews will assess the teams' research capabilities, the originality and innovation of their proposed projects, the potential impact of their research outcomes, prospects for future development, and the feasibility of fostering long-term collaboration with Korea.

Teams that demonstrate excellence in both stages will be selected for funding.

**5. Evaluation Criteria:** Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria;

| Criteria | Evaluation Indicators | Score |
|---|---|---|
| Research Capacity | Academic qualifications, career achievements, and research methodology. | 20 |
| Collaboration Potential | Experience in international research, language skills, and global networks. | 20 |
| Research Impact | Expected outcomes, originality, and innovation | 20 |
| Future Potential | Growth and development as a researcher | 20 |
| **Potential for Cooperation with Korea** | Interest in and potential for sustained cooperation with Korea. | 20 |
| **Total** | | 100 |

**6. Reporting Requirements**

☞ **Mid-term Progress Report:** A mid-term progress report must be submitted prior to the online review meeting scheduled for July 2025.

☞ **Research Report:** By mid-October 2025, teams are required to submit a research report on their selected topic, along with a financial report and a detailed research plan for 2026.

☞ **Publications and Presentation:** Teams are required to publish at least one article presenting their research findings in a peer-reviewed academic journal by the end of 2026.

> *If awarded additional funding, they must present their work at the 8th Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) Conference, which will take place in November 2026 in Wellington, New Zealand. Additionally, they are expected to publish a second journal article by the end of 2027. By mid-October 2026, teams must also submit a final research report on their chosen topic, accompanied by a detailed financial report.*

**7. Tentative Schedule for The Year 2025**

| Period | Key activities |
|---|---|
| January – February | ☞ Call for Applications: Applications must be submitted by Friday, February 28 (Seoul local time). |
| March | ☞ Application Evaluation: Two research teams will be selected.<br>- 1st stage: Proposal Review<br>- 2nd stage: Review Committee Interviews<br>☞ Contract Signing: Formal agreements will be established with the selected teams. |
| March – July | ☞ Research Implementation Phase: Research teams will implement their research projects. |
| July | ☞ Mid-Term Review Meeting (Online): Each team will present a 15–20 minute progress report. |
| July - October | ☞ Continuation of Research: Teams will continue their research activities. |

| October | ☞ Submission of Preliminary Research Reports: By mid-October, each team must submit a research report on their chosen topic, along with a financial report and a detailed research plan for the year 2026. |
| | ☞ Evaluation and Selection: The research results will be evaluated, and outstanding teams will be selected for the additional research grants. |
| November-December | ☞ Project Finalization: Comprehensive settlement of project finances. |

## 8. How to apply

Applicants for the Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholar must submit a complete application to the Korean National Commission for UNESCO at naeun.kim@unesco.or.kr before the submission deadline of **February 28, 2025** (Seoul local time).

The application must contain:

☞ A completed application form (see the attached application form)

☞ CVs of the Principal Investigator and co-researchers (in PDF format)

☞ Copies of doctoral degree certificates or certificates of enrolment for the Principal Investigator and co-researchers

☞ A preliminary budget plan (either in a separate form or included in the application form)

Shortlisted applicants will be notified individually and may be required to participate in interviews, which will be conducted online during the second week of March 2025. Successful applicants will be notified and contacted by mid-March 2025.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at naeun.kim@unesco.or.kr.

**Contact**

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