Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars:

Unveiling Shared Pasts, Shaping Common Futures

2025

**Administered 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 programme offers 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.

As part of an additional call for applications in 2025, one research team will be selected to receive funding for a small-scale research project. Dependent upon satisfactory outcomes of this first-year research, the selected team may be eligible to receive continued funding to further develop and expand their research in a second year.

Applications for this additional round of the Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars programme are now open, with a submission deadline of 31 July 2025.

1. Grant Overview

☞ **Grant Amount**

> 2025: Up to KRW 10,000,000 for the selected team for the first year.
>
> 2026: Additional funding of up to KRW 12,000,000 for the selected team will be available subject to the results of the evaluation of the first year's performance.
>
> ※ *Note: Final payment amounts may vary due to exchange rate fluctuations.*

☞ **Grant Period:** The Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars programme will be carried out in two phases as outlined below:

① **Year 1 (2025):** <u>From contract signing to 27 February 2026</u>

The selected research team will receive funding to carry out their research project during the first phase. Based on the outcomes of Year 1, a review panel will evaluate the team's performance and determine whether to extend funding for an additional year.

② **Year 2 (2026):** <u>From contract signing to 30 November 2026</u>

If selected for continued funding, the research team will receive support to extend and deepen their work for another year. The Year 2 project is expected to build on the Year 1 research, by expanding, refining, or advancing the initial findings into more comprehensive and high-quality outcomes.

☞ **Eligibility:** It is recommended that each research team be composed of two members: one Principal Investigator (PI) and one co-researcher.

※ *Applicants are encouraged to form a two-person research team, though an additional co-researcher who also meets the eligibility criterion in point ① below may be included at the discretion of the PI.*

① Both the PI and any co-researchers must either be currently enrolled in a doctoral programme or have obtained their doctoral degree within the three years prior to the application deadline, 31 July 2025.

② In this additional call for applications, there are no nationality restrictions for either the Principal Investigator or co-researchers.

[Employment and Grant Eligibility: Conflict of Interest Guidelines]

Researchers who apply for employment at the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) during the grant period and are subsequently hired will be considered to have a conflict of interest. In such cases, the grant eligibility or the employment eligibility may be revoked.
This regulation will be strictly enforced to prevent overlapping benefits and to ensure a fair and transparent process for both research funding and employment opportunities.

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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. The selected team will be one that demonstrates excellence in both stages.

   ☞ **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: Interviews with Review Committee:** 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 the Republic of Korea.

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 the Republic of Korea	Interest in and potential for sustained cooperation with the Republic of Korea.	20
Total		100

6. **Reporting Requirements**

☞ **For Year 1 (2025) Grantees:**

① The research team must submit an interim progress report in a form agreed with KNCU prior to the online review meeting for the project, which is tentatively scheduled for November 2025.

② A financial report in a form agreed with KNCU must be submitted by 30 November 2025.

③ By February 2026, the team must submit both a final research report for Year 1 in a form agreed with KNCU and a research proposal for Year 2.

④ In addition, the Year 1 grantee will be expected to publish at least one scholarly article based on the research findings in a peer-reviewed academic journal by the end of 2026.

☞ **For Year 2 (2026) Grantees (if selected for continued support):**

① A final research report for Year 2 in a form agreed with KNCU must be submitted by October 2026, along with a financial report in a form agreed with KNCU by 30 November 2026.

② Final research outcomes are expected to be presented at the 8th Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) Conference, to be held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 29 November to 2 December 2026.

③ The research team is also expected to publish a second scholarly article based on the extended project in a peer-reviewed academic journal by the end of 2027.

7. **Tentative Schedule for Year 1**

Period	Key activities
June - July	Call for Applications: Applications must be submitted by Thursday, 31 July 2025 (Seoul local time).
August	Application Evaluation: One research team will be selected through a two-stage review process: • Stage 1: Proposal Review • Stage 2: Interviews with Review Committee Contract Signing: Formal agreements will be established with the selected team.
August - November	Research Implementation Phase: The selected research team will implement their proposed project.
Early to mid-November	Reporting & Review Meeting: • Submission of Interim Progress Report • Online Review Meeting: The team will present a 15–20 minute presentation summarizing the interim progress of their project.

By 30 November	Submission of Financial Report *Note: For administrative purposes, the financial report must include projected expenditures for the two-month period extending into 2026.*
November - February 2026	Continuation of Research: The research team continues its project toward finalizing Year 1 outcomes.
February 2026	Final Submission & Evaluation: ● Submission of Final Research Report for Year 1 and Research Proposal for Year 2 ● Evaluation of Year 1 outcomes and decision regarding continued support

8. How to apply

Applicants for the Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholar programme must submit a complete application to the Korean National Commission for UNESCO at naeun.kim@unesco.or.kr by **31 July, 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 August 2025. Successful applicants will be notified and contacted by the end of August 2025.

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

Contact

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