

Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars:

Unveiling Shared Pasts, Shaping Common Futures

2026

**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.

The 2026 grants programme will select one research team through an open call. The selected team will receive funding for a focused research project. In October 2026, based on the outcomes of this project, the selected team may be eligible to receive continued funding to further develop and expand their research in a second year.

Applications for the 2026 Korean Heritage Research Grants for Early-Career Scholars are now open, with a submission deadline of **22 February 2026**.


1. Grant Overview

Grant Amount

2026: Up to KRW 10,000,000 for the selected team for the first year.

2027: 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: The final payment amount is subject to change depending on exchange rate fluctuations and in accordance with applicable financial regulations.


 **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):** From contract signing to 30 November 2026

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):** From contract signing to 30 November 2027

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 the 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; however, 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, 22 February, 2026.

② Nationality is not a criterion for eligibility; there are no nationality restrictions for either the Principal Investigator or co-researchers.

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 will follow a rigorous two-stage evaluation process. The selected team will be one that demonstrates excellence across 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: 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.

5. Reporting Requirements

☞ **For Year 1 (2026) Grantees:**









- ① **Mid-term Progress Report:** A mid-term progress report must be submitted prior to the online review meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for July 2026.
- ② **Research & Financial Report:** By mid-October 2026, the team must submit a research report on their selected topic, and a detailed research proposal for 2027. The financial report must be submitted no later than the end of the research period.
- ③ **Publication:** The team is required to publish at least one article presenting its research findings in a peer-reviewed academic journal by the end of 2027, regardless of whether it is selected for continued support beyond 2026.

☞ **For Year 2 (2027) Grantees (if selected for continued support):**

- ① **Mid-term Progress Report:** A mid-term progress report must be submitted prior to the online review meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for July 2027.
- ② **Research & Financial Report:** Final research outcomes are expected to be presented at a well-established international academic conference, to be identified in consultation with and approved by KNCU. The financial report must be submitted no later than the end of the research period.

6. Tentative Schedule for The Year 2026

Period	Key activities
January – February	☞ Call for Applications: Applications must be submitted by Sunday,

	February 22, 2026 (Seoul local time).
February – March	 Application Evaluation: One research team will be selected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st stage: Proposal Review - 2nd stage: Review Committee Interviews  Contract Signing: Formal agreements will be established with the selected research team.
March – July	 Research Implementation Phase: The team will implement the research project.
July	 Mid-Term Review Meeting (Online): The team will present a 15–20 minute progress report.
July – October	 Continuation of Research: The team will continue their research activities.
October	 Submission of Preliminary Research Reports: By mid-October, the team must submit a research report on their chosen topic and a detailed research plan for the year 2027.  Evaluation and Selection: Research outcomes will be evaluated, and decisions on additional research funding will be made.
November – December	 Project Finalization: Comprehensive settlement of project finances and submission of the financial report.

7. 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 via the official website of *Transnational Heritage Joint Research Grants* before the submission deadline of **February 22, 2026** (Seoul local time).

The application must contain:

1. A completed application form (see the attached application form)
2. CVs of the Principal Investigator and co-researchers (in PDF format)
3. Copies of the doctoral degree certificate or certificate of enrollment for the Principal Investigator and co-researchers
4. A preliminary budget plan (either in a separate form or included in the application form)
5. Optional scientific document

The shortlisted applicants will be notified individually and may be required to participate in interviews, which will be conducted online during early of March 2026. Successful applicants will be notified and contacted by mid-March 2026.

Contact Information:

For enquiries, please contact:

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