

TAMU + KAIST

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Program (IRES)

What you will know

1

Communicating in S. Korea

2

Accessing Money

3

Packing

4

Transportation: ICN ↔ KAIST

5

Weekend Attractions

Communicating in S. Korea

1.1

Weigh your communication needs, budget, and length of time abroad in order to decide which mobile option for communicating with family, friends, local contacts, and emergency resources will suit you best.

Options to consider:

A. Unlocked Phone & Local Sim Card

1. Bring an "unlocked" phone to Korea
 - *A phone is "unlocked" when it is not tied to a single carrier and will work on another service provider's network.*
2. Purchase a local SIM card at the **airport** then insert it into your phone, or register an eSIM through your phone setting
 - *Most plans will be "pay as you go" and are best for use for local calls, texts, and data.*

B. Local Phone & Local SIM Card

1. On arrival, purchase an inexpensive local phone for use with a local SIM card

* *Benefit of having a Korean phone number*

It enables you to use Kakao taxi (dominating in Korea and Uber of Korea) and many other things like food delivery services.

Communicating in S. Korea

1.2

C. Current Phone with International Plan

1. Find out what international plans are available with your current cell service provider

- *International phone plans sometimes include **expensive** data or roaming charges, so make sure you understand the plan that is relevant for your provider.*

D. Current Phone with Wifi Access

1. Ask about “**WiFi egg**” (Pocket WiFi) in the airport stores

- *Use WiFi to communicate over apps such as Skype, WhatsApp, Viber, or FaceTime.*
- *Although communicating over wifi can be inexpensive or free, make sure you are familiar with how accessible wifi will be in S. Korea.*
- *If you will rely on WiFi for communication, identify an **emergency communication** method without WiFi, even if this involves incurring expensive phone charges.*

This is a good option you can consider as an alternative of the option A.

Accessing Money in S. Korea

2.1

Follow these steps to make sure you will have enough money to support yourself while abroad, and you will be able to access your money via a local bank or ATM.

Bring and Use Your US Credit Cards

You will never encounter any occasions that do not accept US-issued credit cards, so it is a good idea to bring and use your credit cards.

1. Call your bank(s) before you travel abroad

- *Tell your bank where you are traveling (including stopover countries) and for how long. Your bank will put a travel notification on your account so that it does not freeze your credit card account for suspicious international activity.*
- *Ask what your bank's policy is for international ATM and transaction fees. It is best if you have low or no international fees.*
- *Ask if your bank has partner banks abroad so that you can utilize banks and ATMs without a fee.*

2. Look up the daily cost of living for a university student in South Korea, as well as the exchange rate from US dollars to local currency.

- *Currently, \$1 US dollar equals to \$1,327 Korea Won, which implies a 1 to 1.33 currency exchange ratio, and of course, it is favorable to you.*
- *This will help you budget for your overall time in Korea, as well as plan how much money you should carry on a daily basis.*

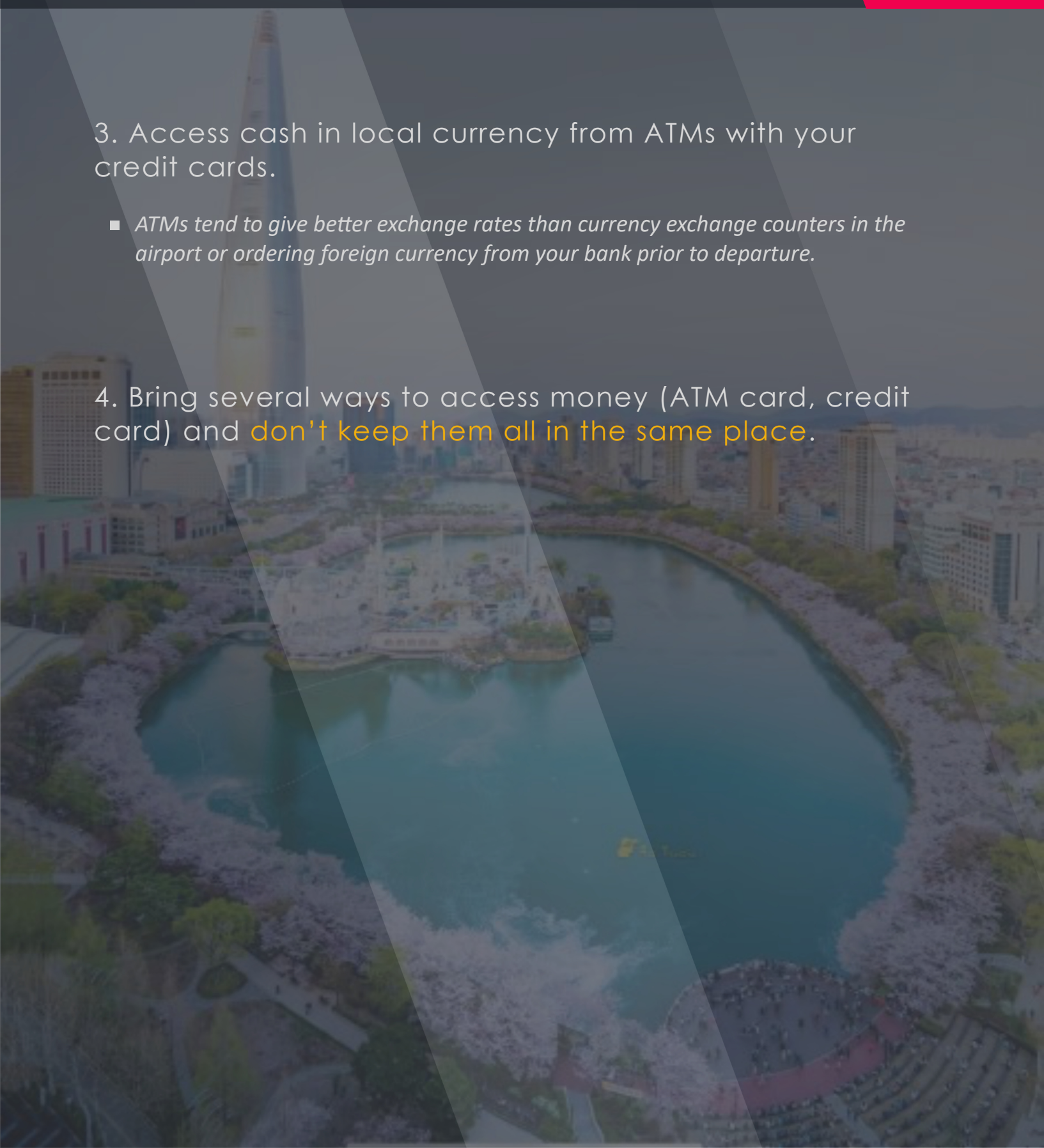
Accessing Money in S. Korea

2.2

3. Access cash in local currency from ATMs with your credit cards.

- *ATMs tend to give better exchange rates than currency exchange counters in the airport or ordering foreign currency from your bank prior to departure.*

4. Bring several ways to access money (ATM card, credit card) and **don't keep them all in the same place.**



Packing

Many students overpack when preparing for an abroad experience. It is best to pack lightly, as most students return home with more luggage than when they left. July is one of the hottest months in Korea. The monthly average temperature is 75°F. Daytime averages hit 81°F for the month and nights are much warmer than they are during winter, averaging 68°F. The record temperature in Seoul in July was 101°F. Personally, being from Texas, I find this weather condition still very delightful and enjoyable.

- *Pack clothing appropriate to the climate of Korea.*
- *Pack essential toiletries, such as contact lenses and contact solution.*
- *Make sure you understand the **luggage restrictions** associated with your airline and ticket type.*
- *Do not pack any irreplaceable items.*
- *You may need a plug adapter and/or a voltage converter for your electronics.*
 - ▶ *Unlike the United States, South Korea operates a 220-volt electrical system, and it is highly recommended to purchase a plug adapter (\$5-\$15) in the convenience stores at the airport (ICN).*
- *Bring enough medication for the duration of your time abroad.*
 - ▶ *Over-the-counter medication should be in original containers.*
 - ▶ *Prescription medication should be in original containers and you should have a copy of your prescription.*
- *Bring a photocopy of your passport, and keep this in a separate place from your actual passport.*
 - ▶ *If you lose your passport, it is important you have a copy. Also, leave a photocopy of your passport with a trusted friend or family member at home.*

From ICN to KAIST

4.1

Airport Shuttle Bus (recommended)



Take the Shuttle at #5

High Speed Rail - KTX (fast)



What to do at Daejeon Gov. Complex

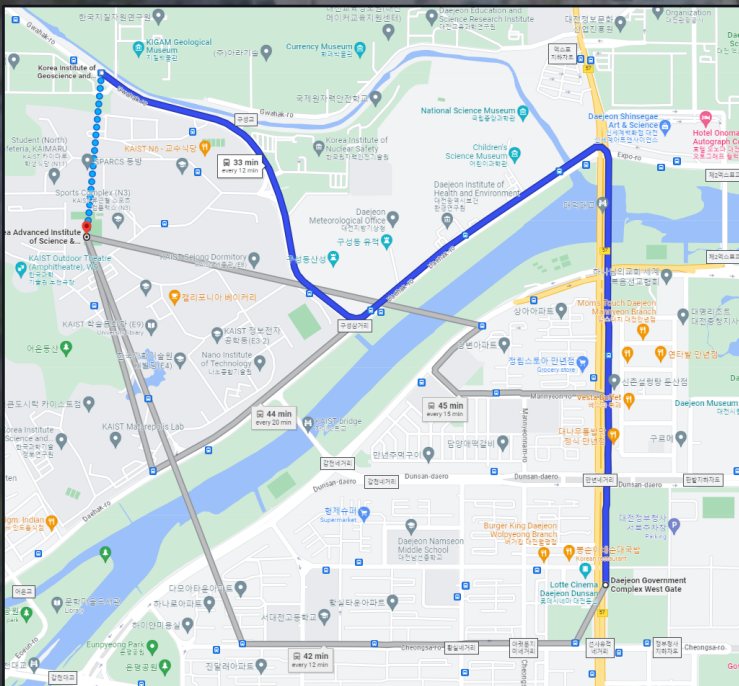
Taxi (recommended)

Estimated fair range: \$5~\$7

Local Bus Transit

*Need Korean Currency

1. Take Bus #604 at Gov. Complex West Gate stop
2. Get off at the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety stop
3. Across the street from KAIST East Gate

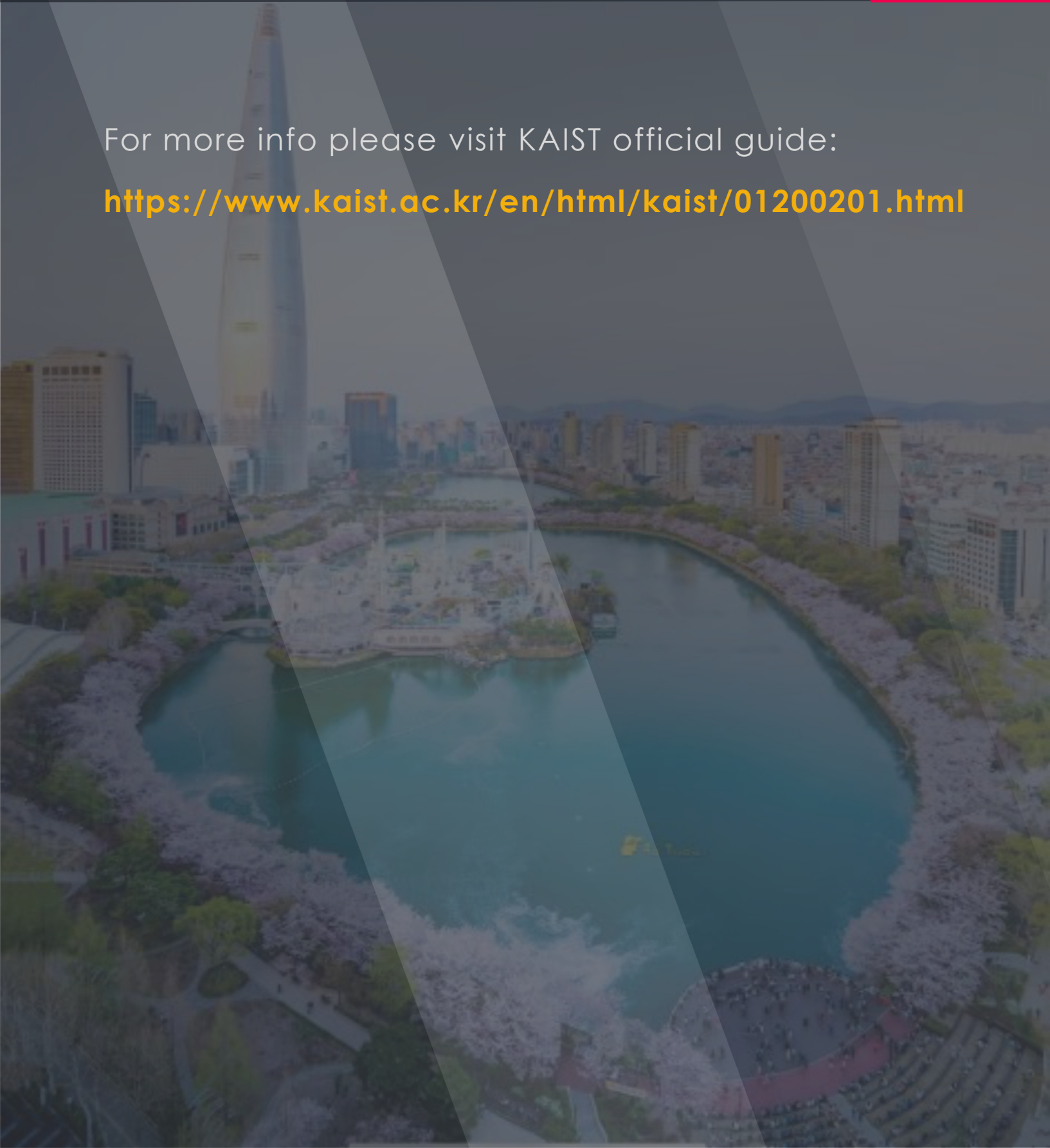


From ICN to KAIST

4.3

For more info please visit KAIST official guide:

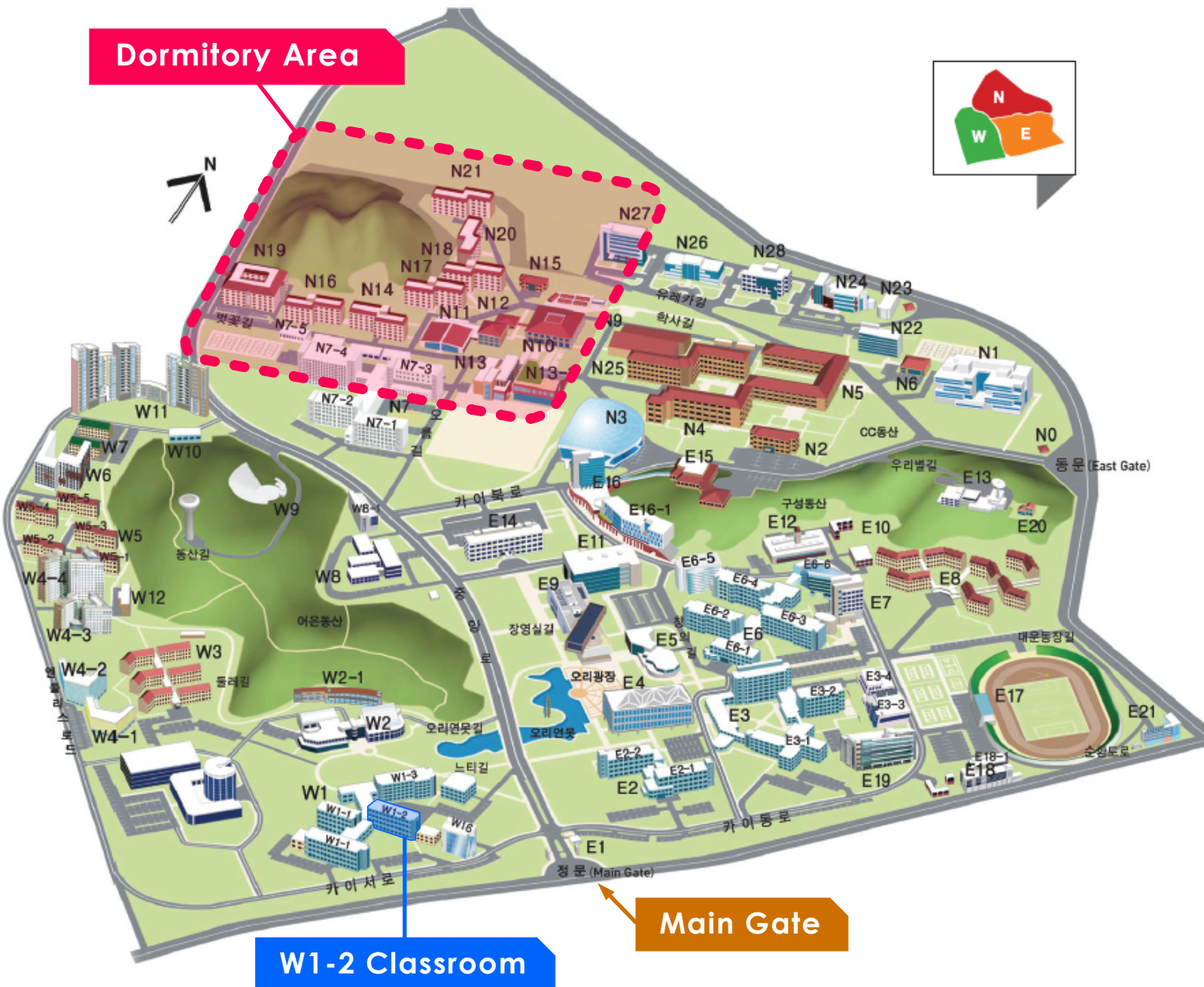
<https://www.kaist.ac.kr/en/html/kaist/01200201.html>



KAIST MAIN CAMPUS MAP

본교 캠퍼스 안내

- 🏠 홈페이지 (Website) www.kaist.ac.kr
- ☎ 대표전화 (Phone) +82- 42-350-2114
- ☎ 긴급연락 (Emergency Call) +82-42-350-4000



Dormitory Area



W1-2 Classroom

Main Gate

Weekend Attractions

5.1

Near KAIST

- ◆ KAIST Campus Tour <https://kaist.ac.kr/kr/html/kaist/011001.html>
- ◆ Yuseong Hot Spring https://www.yuseong.go.kr/tour/sub01_02.do
- ◆ Daejeon Expo Science Park <http://www.dime.or.kr/kor/page.do?menuIdx=652>
- ◆ Gyejoksan Red Clay Trail <https://www.daejeon.go.kr/tou/TouContentsHtmlView.do?menuSeq=885>
- ◆ Sung Sim Dang Bakery <https://www.sungsimdangmall.co.kr/>
- ◆ Hanbat Arboertum <https://www.daejeon.go.kr/gar/contentsHtmlView.do?menuSeq=2290>

Seoul

Hongik University & Yeonnam Dong
(better known as Hong-Dae to feel the vibe of k-pop)

N Seoul Tower
<http://www.nseoultower.co.kr/eng/>

Leeum Museum of Art
<https://www.leeum.org/>

National Museum of Korea
<https://www.museum.go.kr/site/main/home>

Han River Park
<https://thesoulseoul.net/2019/08/18/hangang-han-river-parks-seoul-korea/>



Gyeongbokgung Palace
<https://www.royalpalace.go.kr/>

Bukchon Hanok Village
<https://hanok.seoul.go.kr/front/index.do>

Insadong
https://korean.visitseoul.net/shopping/%EC%9D%B8%EC%82%AC%EB%8F%99%EA%B8%B8_/80

Changdeokgung
http://www.cdg.go.kr/cms_for_cdg/show.jsp?show_no=54&check_no=18&c_relation=35&c_relation2=97

Jongmyo Shrine
<https://jm.cha.go.kr/agapp/main/index.do?siteCd=JM>

Cheonggyecheon

COEX
<http://www.coex.co.kr/>

Lotte Tower & Lotte World
<https://www.lwt.co.kr/ko/main/main.do>

Field Trip to Sejong City

5.3

Sejong National Arboretum



Image from: <https://lindagoeseast.com/2021/07/07/sejong-national-arboretum/>

https://www.lottehotelmagazine.com/en/travel_detail?no=437

Sejong Smart City Center



<https://smartcity.go.kr/en/>