



AJOU UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of International Studies

Ajou University GSIS – Civil Society Studies

Master of Arts in Social Studies (Civil Society)



Shape the Future of Civil Society!

Are you committed to social change, human rights, and global development? The Department of Civil Society Studies at Ajou University GSIS equips students with the skills and knowledge to drive positive change at local, national, and international levels.



Social Change

Drive meaningful transformation in communities worldwide.



Human Rights

Advocate for equality and justice across societies.



Global Development

Create sustainable solutions for international challenges.

Introduction to the Program

The Department of Civil Society Studies at Ajou University was established to educate students about the essential role of civil society in global governance, development, and social change. The program aims to bridge academic knowledge with practical applications, ensuring students are well-prepared to engage with civil society organizations worldwide. Civil society is a crucial actor in addressing issues such as climate change, human rights, governance, and sustainable development. The program equips students with both theoretical and practical knowledge to engage with these challenges.

Ajou University's GSIS (Graduate School of International Studies) is renowned for its interdisciplinary approach, fostering global leaders who contribute to sustainable development and international cooperation. As part of this vision, the Civil Society Studies program integrates K-Culture, emphasizing its role in civil society, cultural diplomacy, and policy innovation. Students will explore how cultural initiatives influence social movements, governance, and non-profit management.

Why Choose Civil Society Studies at Ajou University?

Affordable Tuition & Diverse Scholarships Opportunities

Our program offers lower tuition fees compared to the International Business (MBA) program, making it a cost-effective option for students seeking quality education in civil society studies.

Strong Student Support & Global Alumni Network

Ajou University has a proven track record of supporting KOICA students, offering a robust support system that ensures a seamless and enriching academic experience for both new and continuing students.

Practical Training & Field Research

Students gain hands-on experience through research opportunities with NGOs, international organizations, and government agencies, enhancing their professional skills and global perspectives.

Integration of K-Culture and Civil Society

The program explores the role of Korean culture (K-Culture) in civil society, cultural policies, and international cooperation, providing a unique interdisciplinary



Program Curriculum

The program covers a broad range of topics essential to understanding and working in civil society:

The Civil Society Studies program provides an in-depth, interdisciplinary curriculum that covers key aspects of civil society and its relationship with governance and global affairs:

1 Core Courses

Governance & Public Policy, NGO Management, Human Rights & Social Justice, Sustainable Development

2 Specialized Courses

K-Culture & Civil Society, Cultural Policy & Arts Management, International Cooperation & Advocacy

3 Field Training

Practical internships and research projects with global organizations

Course List (Civil Society Studies)

- Research Methods in Social Sciences
- Quantitative Research Design and Methods
- Introduction to Civil Society Organization
- Civil Society Organization and Global Cooperation
- Civil Society and the State
- Civil Society and Public Policy
- Civil Society Organization and International Organization
- Civil Society Organization and International Organization
- Political Economy of the State and International Affairs
- International Negotiations
- Financial Management of Civil Society Organization
- Marketing and Funding for Civil Society Organization
- Human Resources Management and Volunteer Management of Civil Society Organization
- ODA: Theory and Practice
- Social Movements and Social Change
- Advanced Seminar on Current Issues in Civil Society
- Civic Education
- Project and Business Development for Civil Society Organization
- Development Project Management
- Development Strategies and Analysis
- Introduction to International Development and Cooperation
- Foundation of Development Policy
- Cross Cultural Management
- International Relations and Peace
- Organizational Behavior
- Korea and World Economy: Past, Present & Future
- Korean Politics
- Green Development
- Social Development and Poverty Reduction



K-Culture and Civil Society

K-Culture is a growing global phenomenon, influencing governance, community development, and international cooperation. In this program, students will explore:

1

Cultural Industries

How Korean cultural industries contribute to civil society and social change

2

Global Influence

The role of Korean cultural influence in global civil society

The role of K-Culture in cultural diplomacy and global engagement

3

Policy and Management

Policy and management of cultural industries

Policy frameworks governing cultural industries and their impact on governance

4

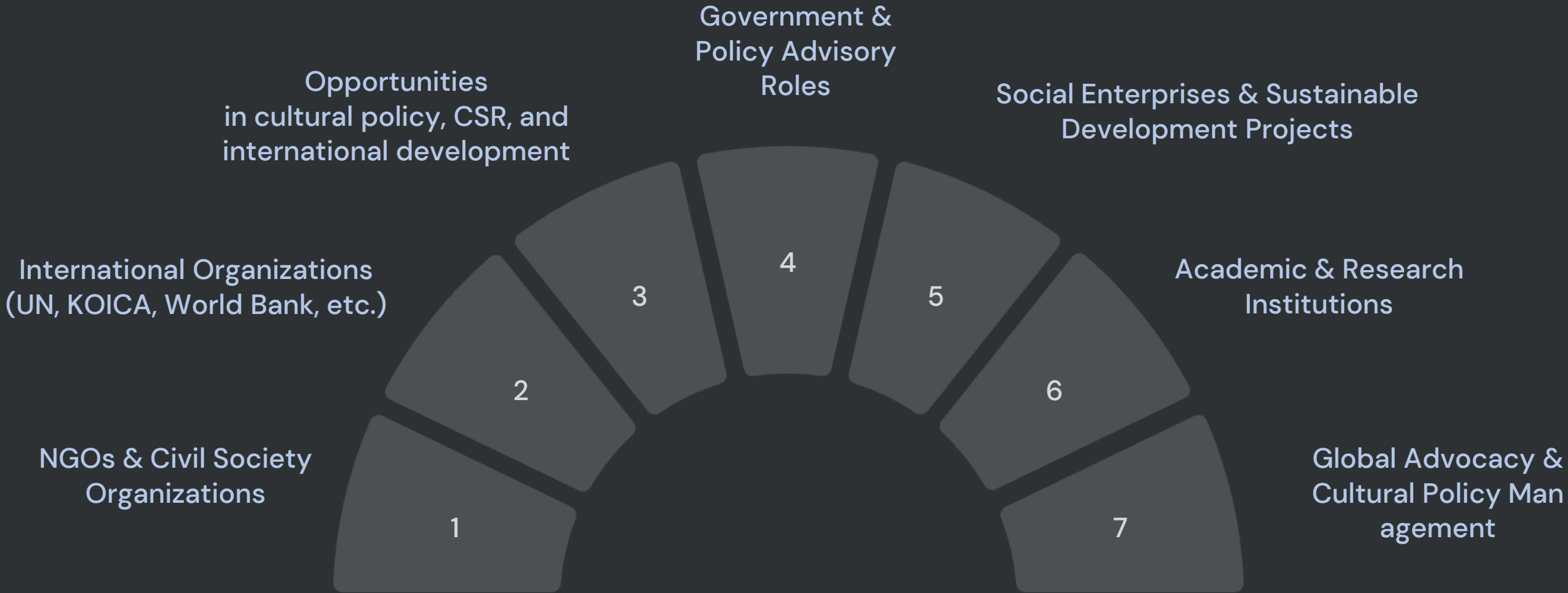
Sustainable Development

K-Culture as a tool for sustainable development and cultural diplomacy

Strategies for integrating cultural branding into non-profit and development sectors

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Civil Society Studies program are well-prepared for leadership roles in various sectors, including:



Student Life & Activities



International Conferences & Workshops

Engage with global experts in civil society, governance, and cultural policies.



Field Research & Internships

Gain hands-on experience with leading NGOs, international organizations, and government agencies.



Leadership Training & Networking

Develop essential skills through leadership workshops and expand your professional connections.



Ajou International Day celebrations & Cultural Exchange program

Celebrate diversity and connect with a vibrant international student community.



Community Engagement & Social Impact Projects

Contribute to meaningful initiatives that shape local and global civil society.

GSIS and Interdisciplinary Learning

Ajou University's GSIS provides a dynamic learning environment where students can explore interdisciplinary connections between civil society and other fields.

Key areas of integration include:

K-Culture and Arts Management

Understanding the role of culture in shaping governance, public engagement, and non-profit initiatives

Global Cultural Influence

Opportunities to engage with Korea's expanding global cultural footprint through research and fieldwork

Relevant Courses

Cultural policy, digital branding, arts management, and social entrepreneurship

Interdisciplinary Research & Collaboration

Students can explore how cultural initiatives intersect with civil society, governance, and sustainable development



Alumni Success Stories



Many of our graduates have gone on to leadership roles in international organizations, government agencies, and influential advocacy groups. Our alumni network provides strong mentorship and career support for current students.

Our alumni have taken on impactful roles in global organizations, government agencies, and leading advocacy groups. The strong Ajou GSIS alumni network continues to support and mentor students in their professional journeys. Many graduates are now working in high-profile positions at the UN, international NGOs, development agencies, and policy think tanks.



Who Should Apply?



International Cooperation

This program is ideal for individuals passionate about social change, public service, and international cooperation. Graduates pursue careers in NGOs, government agencies, international organizations, and research institutions.



Career Pathways

Graduates pursue careers in NGOs, government agencies, international organizations, and research institutions.

Admission & Scholarships

90%

Financial Aid

of students receive financial aid, making this program an excellent opportunity for aspiring changemakers.

100%

Opportunity

commitment to supporting outstanding students through competitive scholarships.

Ajou GSIS offers competitive scholarships for outstanding students. Nearly 90% of students receive financial aid, making this program an excellent opportunity for aspiring changemakers. For detailed admission requirements and scholarship opportunities, visit our website.

Contact Information

Join Us Today!

-  Website: [Ajou GSIS Civil Society Studies](#)
-  Instagram: [@ajougsis](#)
-  Facebook: [Ajou GSIS](#)
-  Youtube: [@ajougsis](#)
-  Email: gsis@ajou.ac.kr

Step into a world of impact. Become a leader in Civil Society!