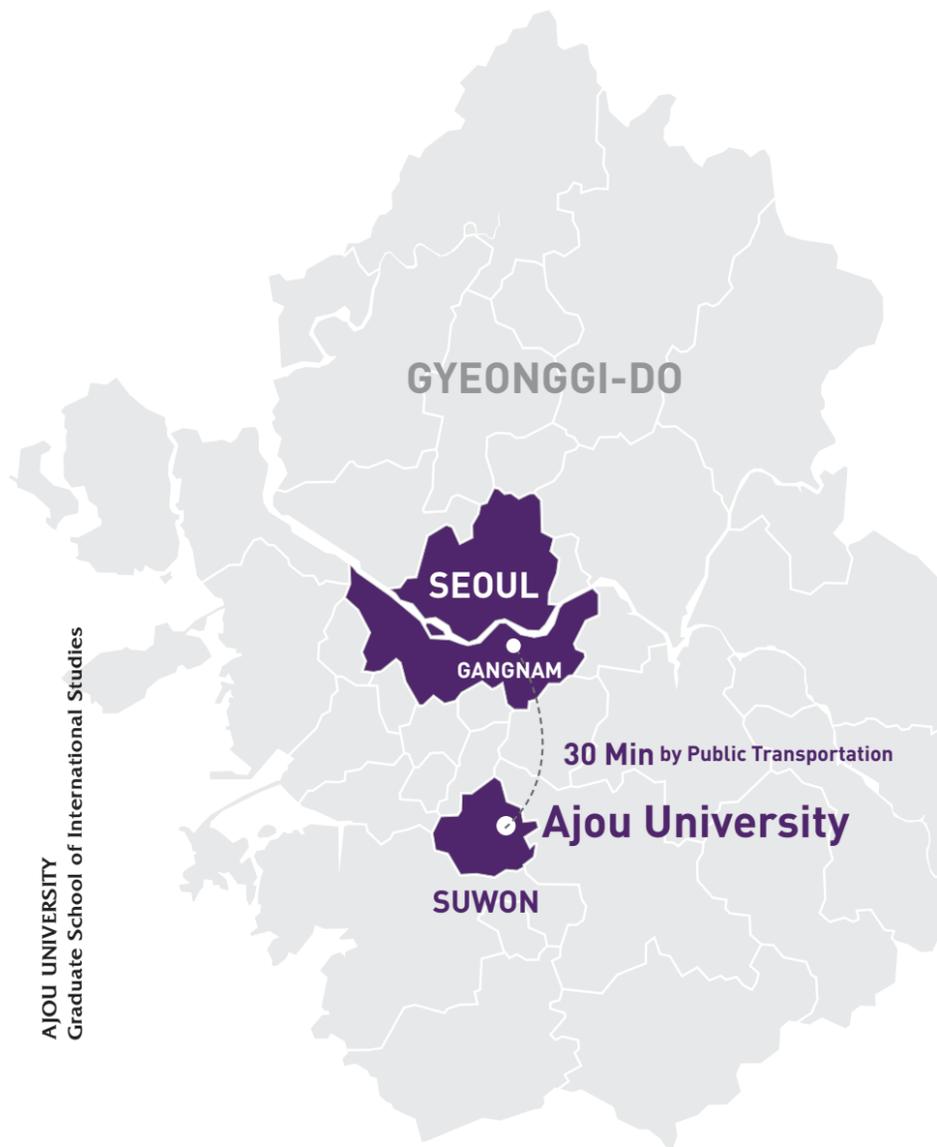


AJOU UNIVERSITY

Ajou University is one of the most prestigious and respected universities in Korea. Ajou University is a comprehensive university with a wide variety of academic disciplines in both undergraduate and graduate schools.

Founded in 1973, Ajou University today is ranked globally in 101-150 group according to the Young University Ranking 2023 (for universities less than 50 years old) published by THE, Times Higher Education, a UK-based global university evaluation agency.

Located in the City of Suwon and 30 km away from Seoul, Ajou University can be reached in an hour by public transportation from the center of Seoul city. Convenience and comfort are the main features that characterize the living environment on and off the campus of Ajou University.



Ajou GSIS

The Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS) at Ajou University was established in 1996 as a part of Ajou University's efforts to foster international education in Ajou, and to boost the concerted efforts of Ajou to better contribute to the global community as a responsible educational institution. Specifically, the programs offered in Ajou GSIS were designed to give graduate-level students chances to be exposed to the high level of academic standards both inside and outside of the classroom combined with the learning experience through active engagement with the faculty, staff, and fellow students from all over the world.

Ajou GSIS constantly strives to provide the best education to help young talents from around the world undertake the increasingly complex and diverging challenges we are facing. At Ajou GSIS, we work hard to turn the bright minds of the world into global leaders who are ready to take on the responsibilities. Through our rigorous academic programs, we train our students so that they will be able to make a difference in their work, and create positive impacts locally and globally.

In 2024, we have a student body of about 260 at the master's degree programs from 20 different countries. Over the last decades, more than 1,400 students from 78 countries received their Master's degrees from Ajou GSIS, and we are so proud of our alumni for their efforts and contributions to their communities, countries, and the global community.

The Primary Missions

- To educate the future leaders in government, business and civic organizations who can effectively meet the challenges of the globalizing world.
- To secure a pool of future international experts needed by the developing countries with a view to providing them with a meaningful role and encouraging their active participation.
- To nurture students' capacity to contribute to the development of their fields.



Why Ajou GSIS?

Academic Excellence

We strive for academic excellence so that our students are ready to meet the world.

- Medium of instruction in all courses: English
- Emphasis on active and engaged learning
- Outstanding faculty who are leaders in their professional fields and prominent practitioners of global affairs

Top in Diversity

We are one of the top 5 universities in South Korea with the most diverse student body. Every semester, students from many dozens of different countries around the world come to Ajou University to broaden their horizons. By being immersed in diverse educational environments with shared academic and professional interests, students can maximize their learning potentials and broaden their global perspectives.

Outstanding Scholarship Opportunities

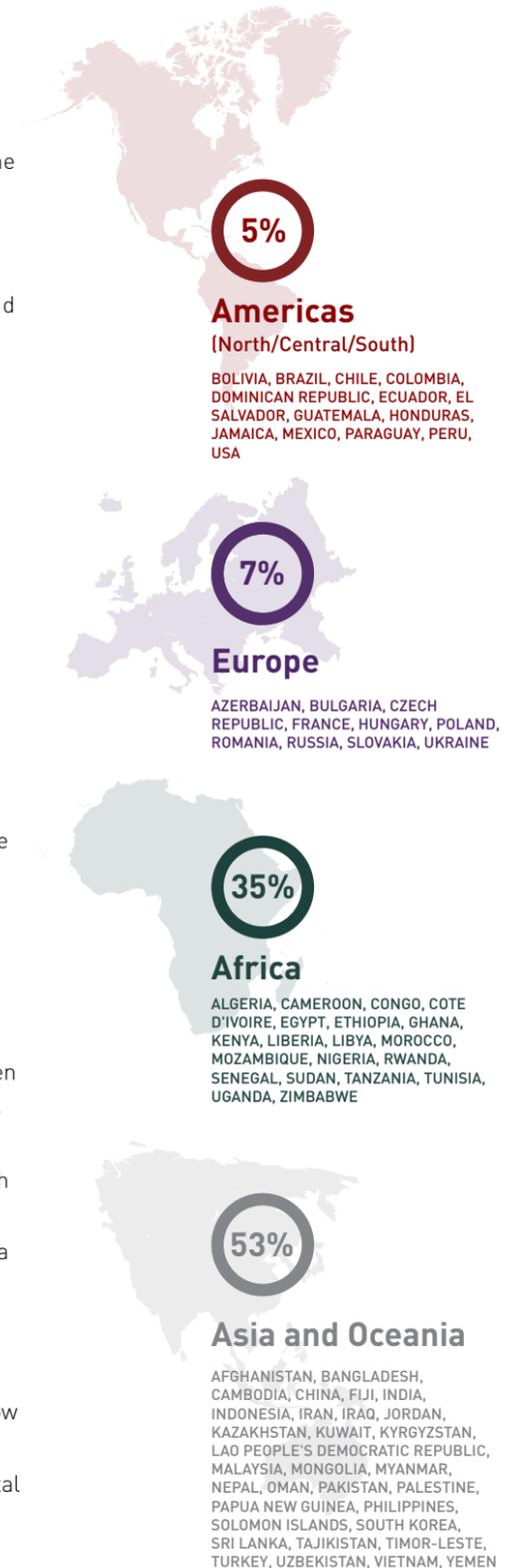
Ajou GSIS offers various scholarship benefits to students based on their academic performances. Approximately 90% of all enrolled students receive institutional scholarships every semester.

Variety of Student Activities

Our students are encouraged to participate in curricular and co-curricular student activities inside and outside of the classroom, helping them broaden their global view. We host a wide and diversified range of activities such as the International Symposium, Ajou International Day, Industrial Site Visits, and field trips that meet a variety of student interests. Our students publish an academic magazine, the Gazette, every semester. Students can have chances to get accustomed to the way Korean society is running by being a part of the Korean buddy program with NUBI Ajou.

Strong Alumni Network

Ajou GSIS has a powerful alumni network with 1,419 graduates who are now performing key roles as successful global leaders. Many of our alumni are professionals currently working for national governments, intergovernmental organizations, global and local NGOs, global companies, academic and research institutions, and more. Our supportive alumni network exerts a critical positive influence on students' career development and career building.



Our Education

Department of Civil Society Studies

Master of Art in Social Studies(Civil Society)

The Department of Civil Society Studies was established in 2021 by expanding the focus of the educational curriculum of the Department of NGO Studies which had been in successful operation since 2000. The principal aim of the Department of Civil Society Studies is to educate students about the issues related to civil society. 'Civil Society' is one of the most important concepts in the social sciences today and a key policy agenda among policymakers and practitioners. It refers to the collection of social organizations and groups that are distinct from, yet interact with, the government and the market. As many pointed out, apart from being a watchdog of government and business, a vibrant civil society is an important social partner for good governance for balanced and long-lasting socioeconomic development.

Civil societies in the contemporary world encounter many difficult issues, including developmental challenges, the system-level crisis of ideologies, digital technology revolutions, climate change, and questions related to democracy and human rights at local, national, and global levels. The study of civil society and its key players, civil society organizations, is not only at the forefront of multidisciplinary academic debates on complex and interconnected issues but the focus of professional interests and careers on many pressing agendas.

In the Civil Society Studies program, students learn about the relationships between academic debates and the everyday practices and policies of civil society and civil society organizations(CSOs). The Civil Society Studies program supports developing strong local and global networks of people and organizations in civil society based on the combination of theories and practices.

To achieve these goals, the Civil Society Studies program provides students with a wide variety of subjects, organized around two themes. The one is our focus on the issues and agendas of the field. The other is our emphasis on the imperatives of the management capacity of people in civil society organizations. We seek to design our educational curriculum with a balance between these two themes. Under these two themes, we offer diverse courses that reflect the current challenges around the globe, ranging from the theoretical perspectives on different aspects of civil society, practical survey of the diverse socioeconomic problems, managerial skills for CSOs, to cooperation among civil society, government, and international organizations for better governance. After graduation, students will seek to develop careers in diverse CSO's at both local and global levels.

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
- 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 Problems and Change-making
- 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
- Leadership and Ethics Workshop I & II
- Arts Management
- Digital Media Content Creation & Branding
- AI & Machine Learning Application
- Global Entrepreneur Leadership (from Admiral Yi)
- Music Industry Management