

Sookmyung  
\* Women's \*  
University

Guidebook for  
International Students  
05. Korean Life Legal Education



숙명여자대학교 유학생서비스팀  
Office of International Student Services

# Korean Life Legal Education

## 1 Entities supporting foreign students

### E-Government for Foreigners

e-Government for Foreigners (<http://www.hikorea.go.kr>, ☎1345) is an agency operated by the ROK government and provides consultation on civil petitions and information in foreign languages necessary for foreigners sojourning in the ROK to adapt to life in the ROK through the telephone or the electronic telecommunications network.

e-Government for Foreigners can be contacted by telephone at ☎1345 anywhere throughout the country during the hours of 09:00 to 18:00.

### Study in Korea

Study in Korea (<http://www.studykorea.go.kr>) is a website run by the National Institute for International Education and provides general information on study and life in the ROK, and reports experiences by foreign students who studied in the ROK.

If one has a question about study in the ROK, one can leave the question and have it answered on the bulletin board at the website.

### Staff responsible for foreign students at each school

The heads of schools where foreign students are studying or in training (referring to universities and colleges and higher educational institutions) shall designate staff in charge of the management of foreign students

If a foreign student has a question about school life or seeks help in adapting to life in the ROK, he can receive consultation from the staff responsible for foreign students at his school.

### Foreign diplomatic missions stationed in the ROK

A foreign student can register as a national residing abroad or renew his expired passport at the embassy, legation, representative office, consulate general, or consulate of his home country in the ROK (hereinafter 'diplomatic missions in the ROK') and seek assistance there when a disaster, war, and the like occurs or when he requires assistance for personal reasons.

The diplomatic missions in the ROK are listed on the [About the Ministry section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs] website.

## 2 Residence types in the ROK

### Dormitory

Most universities and colleges and some middle and high schools have their own dormitories. Such dormitories are located inside or relatively close to the school, making commuting easy, and they are relatively cheap. They also have amenities like a library, computer room, gym, and cafeteria. However, the living rules are strict to protect everyone's privacy. Dormitories have single rooms and multiple-person rooms like two- or four-person rooms. The move-in conditions, expenses, etc. can vary among schools, and foreign students should inquire about them to the schools.

### Boarding house

Boarding houses are general homes that provide rooms and meals to boarders in exchange for monthly boarding charges. They are a good way to experience life in a Korean home, but it is difficult to keep one's privacy because many people live in one house. There are many boarding houses near schools, and one should visit them in person to see what they are like and how much they cost before deciding to live in one.

### Leasing a house: 'Key money' and monthly rent

Other than dormitories and boarding houses, students tend to lease houses with 'key money' (a substantial deposit) or by paying monthly rent.

#### ① Lease a house with monthly rent

To lease a house with monthly rent in the ROK, one usually provides a deposit in advance and pays the monthly rent, and once the contract period expires, receives the deposit back from the lessor.

#### ② A key-money lease

A substantial deposit called 'key-money' is paid upfront and no extra rent is paid during the term of lease. Once the term of lease expires, the deposit is returned. Foreign students usually prefer a monthly rent lease because the key money deposit is quite large. One can find a house to lease by oneself or use a real estate agent to find a suitable house.

## Purchase of a house

If purchasing a house, the transaction party shall jointly report the following matters, such as its actual sale price, within 30 days to the Mayor (refers to the Gu-Free City Mayor, and Special Autonomy City and Self-Governing Province Mayor) with jurisdiction over the real estate, etc. (if the sales contract clarifies rights, the real estate implies the droit) area, Governor, or Gu head. However, if one party is stipulated by the nation, or local government or under Attached Table 1 of the “Enforcement Decree of the Act on Report on Real Estate Transactions, etc.” (hereinafter “nation, etc.”), the nation, etc. shall report the information

### ★ Procedure

- ① Personal information on the purchaser and seller
  - ② The conclusion date of the contract, intermediate payment and final payment
  - ③ The location, lot number and category of the real property in question  
(in the case of a contract for a right to acquire any real property, the subject matter of such right)
  - ④ Type of the real property in question (in the case of a contract for a right to acquire any real property, the type of such right)
  - ⑤ The actual transaction price
  - ⑥ A plan for the supply of fund needed for acquisition of the house being transacted
  - ⑦ Whether the purchase will move into the house being transacted and the estimated timing of moving
  - ⑧ Conditions or deadline to which the transaction contract is subject, if any
  - ⑨ Personal information of the licensed practicing real estate agent, and the name, phone number and location of the brokerage office established and registered  
(this provision shall apply only if the licensed practicing real estate agent has prepared and delivered a transaction contract)
- Provided that if one of the parties to a transaction is the state, a local government or a person prescribed by Presidential Decree, the report shall be filed by the state, etc.

### 3 Finance

#### Bringing foreign money into the ROK

##### ★ Subjects to make an import declaration of foreign money

Foreign students entering the ROK and carrying a means of payment (excluding other domestic payment methods than domestic currency, KRW-denominated traveler's check, and KRW-denominated cashier's check) exceeding USD 10,000 shall make an import declaration of such to the head of the appropriate custom-house [at a financial company, etc.

##### ★ Procedure to make an import decoration of foreign money

When carrying into the ROK a means of payment exceeding USD 10,000, an import & export (change) declaration (certificate) shall be submitted to the head of the appropriate custom-house.

Upon receiving an import declaration of foreign money, the head of the competent customs office or the head of a foreign exchange bank shall confirm the report and acquisition of the means of payment and issue a report (confirmation) certificate of foreign money to the concerned resident or non-resident

#### Exchange

##### ★ Limit on the amount of exchange

There is no limit to the amount of money that can be exchanged. However, some currency exchanges may have set the amount to be exchanged for a certain currency per person at a time.

Where the amount of a currency exchange exceeds USD 10,000 equivalent, it shall be notified to the Customs Office and notified to the National Tax Service (Article 4-8 (1) 3 and 6-2 (2) 2 of the Foreign Exchange Transactions Regulation).

## Receiving a remittance

### ★ Opening of an account

A foreign student may open a savings account and a trust account at a foreign exchange bank to receive remittances from his home country (Articles 2-6-2.(1).2 of the 「Foreign Exchange Transactions Regulation」).

To open an external transaction account, an identification should be presented, such as a passport or foreigner registration certificate.

※ Matters regarding the limit on one remittance, remittance procedures, remittance fee, etc. should be in conformity with the law of the country from which the remittance is made (in general, the home country of a foreign student).

### ★ Receipt of a remittance

To receive a remittance, a passbook, an identification such as a passport or foreigner registration certificate, and a seal (and signature) should be submitted.

## Use of a credit card

If a foreign student intends to use a credit card issued in his home country, he should check whether it can be used overseas before entering the ROK. If it can be used only in his home country, it should be replaced with one that can be used overseas.

Foreign students may apply for credit cards in the ROK, which requires an identification such as a passport or foreigner registration certificate

## 4 Transportation system in the ROK

### Intra-city transportation

- Intra-city buses, subways, taxis, and the like are available for transportation within a city and its suburbs.
- The routes of intra-city buses are indicated by their numbers and destinations. Intra-city buses are convenient because they serve numerous routes and stops throughout the city. The fare can be paid in cash or with a transportation card. Those who use transportation cards receive a discount off the regular fare.
  - ※ One can buy transportation cards from vendors at bus stops or subway stations or can even add the transportation card function to a credit card.
- Subways run in Seoul, Busan, Daejeon, Daegu, and Gwangju. The fare can be paid with a ticket or a transportation card. One can get a discount by paying with a transportation card. Tickets can be purchased from ticket vending machines or at ticket windows in the subway stations.
- Taxis are expensive compared to intra-city buses and subways but are extremely convenient when one does not know how to get to the destination or during hours when buses are not running. Taxis are metered, and the fare varies depending on distance and riding time. Extra charges apply after midnight.



## Intercity transportation

- Intercity and express buses, trains, ships, and airplanes, etc. are available for transportation between cities nationwide.
- Intercity and express buses are convenient for traveling to nearly every region across the country and are easy to find as each city has one to three bus terminals. Buses run frequently everyday on the most heavily used routes and only a few times a day on other routes. One should check the bus schedule at the website or by telephone beforehand. Tickets can be bought at the terminal or reserved at the website of the route.
- There are several types of trains in the ROK: KTX (high-speed railroad), Saemaeul, Mugunghwa, and other trains. The KTX is fast and stops at a few stations. It gets to the destination the fastest and is the most expensive. The Mugunghwa is slow and stops at every station. It takes a long time to reach its destination, but the fare is low. The Saemaeul moves at a rate between the KTX and Mugunghwa. One should check which train goes to his destination and choose the most suitable one. A train ticket can be bought or reserved at a train station, the Let's Korail train ticket booking website ([www.letskorail.com](http://www.letskorail.com)), or a sales agency for train tickets.
- Ships are used to travel to islands. To go to distant places, one can choose to fly. Ship or flight service can be suspended in the event of inclement weather. One should check whether departures are on schedule with the appropriate operators.

## Driving a car

In addition to mass transportation, one can drive his own car. To drive a car in the ROK, one should pass a driver's license test by the government or obtain an international driver's license in his home country before entering the ROK.

## 5 Telecommunications system of the ROK

### ★ Telephone

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- One can use a mobile phone; landline phone; Internet phone; and public phone.
- There are several telephone operators, and they offer a wide selection of products.
- When making a local call, one should first dial the telephone exchange number and then the telephone number (area code for a mobile phone call), and when making a long-distance call, first dial the area code and then exchange number and telephone number. For an international call, first dial the service provider code (for instance, 001 or 002) and the country code and telephone number.

### ★ Domestic post

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- One can send letters and packages to a domestic address through the post office. The postage rate varies by size, weight, and delivery time. For standard mail, one does not have to visit a post office, but only buy and attach a stamp to the letter and put it in a red postbox on the street.

- A bulky or heavy package can be delivered by parcel service. The post office and many delivery service companies offer parcel service where an employee comes to the location of the customer, collects the parcel, and delivers it to the designated address.

### ★ International post

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- One can send letters and packages overseas by airmail or surface mail. Airmail is expensive compared to surface mail but is much quicker.
- The post office and many companies deliver international mail.

## Mobile Phone

### ★ Joining mobile phone

- To join the mobile phone, the branch or agency of the mobile carrier requires a copy of alien registration card or that of passport. Alternatively, a copy of the passport must be submitted, and if the agent applies, the agent should bring its ID card(see respective mobile carrier home page and terms and conditions).
- It is important to note that if the remaining period of the expiration date of stay in Korea is within 60 days, joining a mobile phone is not available. In this case, one can use prepaid mobile phone

### ★ Use of mobile

- If one subscribed to a mobile phone (excluding prepaid mobile phone), the one must pay the mobile phone fee, which is the sum of the monthly fee and user fee on the fixed date of each month. You have to pay the mobile phone fee, which is the total monthly fee. the middle of the month. In the case of the commencement or termination of the service, lease of a terminal, change of the rate system, etc. the basic fee, additional user fee, terminal rental fee, and short-term mobile phone rental fee are calculated as the actual number of days of use.
- A mobile phone registered under the name of a foreign student, the service will be suspended immediately upon the expiration of the legal period of staying. However, this is not the case if the one is a superior customer determined by the mobile carrier or submission of documents proving the extension of the legal stay. (see each mobile carrier's website and terms).

### ★ Service cancelation

- If one wishes to cancel his or her mobile phone, the one should bring its alien registration card or a copy of the passport to the branch or agency of the mobile carrier. Where it is impossible to apply for termination of an agent depending on the mobile carrier, please check in advance (see each mobile carrier's website and terms and conditions).

## 6 Medical

### Medical treatment

#### ★ Public health clinics

- Public health clinics are public medical institutions run by the ROK government. Most public health clinics conduct public health projects such as vaccinations and primary care. The costs are relatively low.

#### ★ Clinics and hospitals

- Clinics and hospitals are usually specialized in fields such as internal medicine and otolaryngology. They mainly provide primary care, but hospitals also hospitalize patients for simple treatments.
- If one's injury or disease is serious, one should use a general hospital. The waiting time is longer and treatment is more expensive, but treatment by different specialized departments is available at one place.

#### ★ Pharmacies

- One can easily buy simple household medicines at pharmacies including digestive, headache, motion sickness medicines, and ointments for cuts/wounds.
- The ROK separates the prescription and dispensing of drugs, so prescription drugs can be bought at pharmacies only with a doctor's prescription.

## Insurance for medical expenses

### ★ Health insurance under the 「National Health Insurance Act」

- Health insurance under the 「National Health Insurance Act」 is one form of social insurance where the subscribers pay premiums, and the National Health Insurance Corporation pays their medical expenses when they use hospitals, etc.
- Since medical expenses are greater if one uses hospitals, etc. without health insurance, one should subscribe to health insurance when sojourning in the ROK for long.

### ★ Health insurance of private insurance companies

- Foreign students can buy health insurance from a private insurer in their home country or the ROK. If they receive treatment for disease or injury in the ROK, they should take the receipts, statements, etc. and ask their insurer to reimburse them later.





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