SNU Joins World Top 50

Seoul National University is committed to diversifying its student body and faculty, fostering global exchange, and promoting path-breaking research in all fields of knowledge.

- **50th in the World University Rankings**
  *by The Times Higher Education, 2008*

- **24th in SCI paper publications**
  *by Thomson Scientific 2007 DB*

- **16th in producing CEOs of Global Fortune 500 companies**
  *by Ecole des Mines*

Having risen 68 places in the last four years, SNU was ranked by *The Times* as the 50th best university in the world in 2008. It was also ranked as one of the world’s top 30 universities in a survey of opinion amongst the world’s top scholars. SNU confidently looks forward to even more impressive achievements in the future.
President LEE Jang Moo awarded an Honorary Doctorate to UN Secretary General BAN Ki-Moon on July 3, 2008. BAN, who graduated in 1970 with a B.A. in International Relations, urged today's students to “play a larger role in setting the global agenda.” Striking a more personal note, he also commented that “In the 38 years since I graduated, I have felt an enormous debt of gratitude to SNU for the way it prepared me for what was to come.”

SNU hosted a Global University Presidents’ Summit on its ‘Foundation Day’. The presidents of eight major universities participated in the summit, including the presidents of Yale University, University of Tokyo, University of Auckland, University of Vienna, Waseda University, University of Alberta, City University London and the University of British Columbia.

“It was an honour to have the opportunity to discuss the important question of the changing role of universities in present-day society with so distinguished a group and in such impressive surroundings.”

Malcolm Gilles, Vice-Chancellor of City University of London

The XXII World Congress of Philosophy was held at Seoul National University between July and August, 2008. It was the first time in its history that this “Philosophers’ Olympics” has been held in Asia.

SNU has signed international academic exchange agreements with 530 institutions in 43 countries as of October 2008. It was in 1986 that SNU signed its first-ever international agreement with UCLA. SNU renewed the long-standing and very successful agreement in June 2008.

SNU has around 200 foreign faculty and is actively recruiting scholars from all around the world. Twenty-two international scholars joined SNU faculty in 2008. Among them are Professor Paul J. Crutzen, winner of Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1995 (pictured to the left) and Professor Heisuke Hironaka who won the Fields Medal in 1970. SNU is committed to diversifying its faculty body and planning to recruit 100 more international faculty between 2009 to 2010.

“I came to SNU because I was attracted by its excellent research atmosphere and beautiful campus scenery. The school gave me an unforgettable strong impression, with its members conducting world-class research in such a pleasant environment! It is my great pleasure to teach students and work with researchers who have an unquenched thirst and passion for study and research.”

Professor Robert Ian McKay was senior lecturer of computer sciences at University of New South Wales at Australian Defense Force Academy from 1985 to 2000 and became an associate professor at SNU in 2006.

“Korea, especially SNU, has given the world some great philosophers, like SNU graduate KIM Jaekwon. And the students in my classes seem to have a natural flair for doing philosophy. There must be something that makes people here exercise their brains the right way so they’re able to think clearly about complicated issues. Maybe it’s because everything has to get done so quickly—all that pressure makes the brain agile.”

Professor Mark Siderits was a professor of philosophy at Illinois State University for nine years and joined SNU in 2008.
Educati ng for Creativity

"We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled but as candles to be lit."
- Robert Shaffer, Indiana University

SNU only hires top class faculty: 95.6 percent of the faculty have doctorates and most of these were earned at prestigious overseas institutions. SNU also admits the very best students: typically the top 1% of those who take Korea’s national university entrance examination. The combination of these ingredients with top class facilities and the traditional warmth of the Korean people produces a student experience that is second to none.

Thou ght-Provoking Summers

SNU’s International Summer Institute is an intensive six-week program for undergraduates led by specially selected professors from all over the world. The courses are conducted entirely in English and include relevant field trips in Korea. The Summer Institute provides an exceptional opportunity for both local and international students to study at SNU with some of the world’s best teachers.

"The students I taught at SNU were all brilliant and attentive. They worked selflessly on the required presentations. Truly inspirational!"
Shirin Akiner, Professor at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

"I'll never forget the summer I spent here studying amongst these mountains."
Ilyes Kamoun, Student, Harvard University

"The students here are passionate learners who are eager to consume everything they can."
HAN Min Kyu, Student, Johns Hopkins University

Education Without Borders

Joint Degree / Double Degree Programs

SNU has nine joint degree programs and one double degree program which enable students to study and conduct research abroad while they pursue their master’s or doctoral degrees. Students in those programs can complete their coursework at both universities and receive degrees from both universities.

SNU Partners for Joint Degree and Double Degree Programs

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<tr>
<th>Joint Degree / Double Degree Programs</th>
<th>Partner Colleges / Universities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate School of International Studies</td>
<td>ESSEC (École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales), France</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Business Administration</td>
<td>Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Guanghua School of Management, Peking University, China Université de Paris-Sud 11, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Engineering</td>
<td>George Mason University, USA École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint-Étienne, France</td>
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SNU Has It All

16 Colleges with 98 Departments for Undergraduate, Master’s and Ph.D. Programs


“One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star.”

- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Path-Breaking Research

Human RNA Project

The Human Genome Project (1990-2000) estimated the number of genes in human DNA to be between 20,000 and 25,000, which is very low for our species. Biologists say that RNA, ribonucleic acid, might be the key to explaining what makes human different from other species. Professor KIM V. Narry, co-winner of the 2008 L’Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science, is at the forefront of the field of RNA research. She made a major contribution to the understanding of how micro RNAs are created and processed in cells. Until recently RNA was considered to be nothing more than a ‘messenger’ that delivers DNA information. KIM found RNA forms regulatory networks and has some control functions in cells. This suggests that we could cure cancers upon having a thorough understanding of RNA. Professor KIM’s RNA research papers have been published in Nature (2003), Nature Genetics (2008), Molecular Cell (2008), and Cell (2006 & 2009).

Making Computers Remember More

HWANG Cheol Seong, professor of semiconductor engineering, is an enthusiastic and prolific scholar who has authored 67 papers for SCI journals within the last three years. His research is focused on the manufacturing of advanced DRAMs. To maximize storage capacity of DRAM, its layers should be as thin as possible while preventing current leakage. Professor HWANG spent several years developing ultra-thin layers of DRAM capacitors with titanium materials. In 2007 he successfully made a layer of 10 nanometers (nm = one billionth of a meter) which significantly improves the performance of DRAM. This work was published in Advanced Materials and highlighted by Nature Asia Materials.

Unraveling the Mystery of Human Memory

Memories change over time, which is why it is said you cannot recall the same memory again. Brain science explains that this is because brain proteins change synapse networks when memories are stored or retrieved. Professor KAANG Bong-Kiu, head of the National Center for Memory, gives more precise explanations of how the brain is physically organized during the memory process. KAANG found when a long-term memory like fear is recalled, proteins in synapses between neurons are immediately degraded to destabilize existing memory. KAANG proved that protein degradation is required to form new memories in his article published in the journal Science in 2008. KAANG also discovered a new protein called CAMAP (a CAM-associated protein) which plays an important role in forming a long-term memory in synapses and published the finding in Cell (2007).

Small is Powerful

Nano expert HYEON Taeg-hwan has developed a new technology for producing nanoparticles with a size of 50 to 100 nanometers (nm = one billionth of a meter) which can be used in both the diagnosis and treatment of cancers at 1/1000th the cost of existing methods. HYEON also found a way to insert a fluorescent material into this nanoparticle. When used with an MRI, this fluorescent particle allows the visual examination of cancers that were previously invisible. Professor HYEON published this development in Nature Materials in 2004. Two years later, it was named a New Hot Paper by Thomson Reuters -- meaning his article was one of the world’s most cited academic papers of the year.
Graduates Who Make a Difference

“Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.”
– Albert Einstein

Adding Value to the World Economy

SNU has made a crucial contribution to Korea’s rapid economic development and an increasingly visible contribution to the global political system. More than one-third of CEOs in the top 500 Korean companies, and 43.9% of the ministers and vice-ministers in the Korean government, are SNU graduates. In 2008, a survey by the École des Mines placed SNU amongst the world’s top twenty universities as an educator of CEOs of Fortune 500 companies.

SNU Alumni CEOs of Global Fortune 500 Companies

An Unfailing Faith in Justice
SONG Sang-Hyun, President of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Born in Korea in the 1940s, SONG Sang-Hyun ’63 could not avoid experiencing the oppression of colonialism and the tragedy of the Korean War. As a young boy he witnessed his grandfather being brutally tortured by colonial authorities for leading an independence movement and also saw his classmates senselessly killed during the war. Song grew up to be a professor of law who embodies the protection of human rights. He taught at SNU for 30 years and was also one of the longest serving advisors to the Supreme Court of Korea. When the world’s first permanent international criminal court was established in 2002, Song was elected one of its first 18 judges and is now serving as the ICC’s 2nd President. Song once explained it was his personal experience that gave him an unfailling faith in world peace and justice. “I have long envisioned a well-functioning permanent international court bringing to justice those who commit heinous crimes against humanity. Impunity has always infuriated me.”

A Man of Passion and Conviction
LEE Jong-wook, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)

The late Dr. LEE Jong-wook ’76 dedicated his life to improving the health of the world’s population and especially that of the poorest and most marginalized communities. As a world leader in public health, LEE tackled the most difficult problems head on, upholding the highest principles. He boldly took the fight against HIV/AIDS, trying to make all people have access to proper medicine. He also led global efforts to prepare for a human influenza pandemic, persuading the world leaders to develop a national pandemic preparedness plan. Because of his conviction, the world is now better prepared for pandemic influenza than it has ever been in the history. When LEE collapsed in his office in 2006 at the age of 61, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said “LEE Jong-wook was a man of conviction and passion. He was a strong voice for the right of every man, woman and child to health prevention and care, and advocated on behalf of the very poorest people.”

“A Voice From Heaven”
JO Sumi, Soprano

It was not long after JO Sumi made her debut at the Teatro Communale Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste that the late conductor Herbert von Karajan called her “a voice from heaven”. JO Sumi is one of the few coloratura sopranos who can perform ‘Queen of the Night’ reaching a perfect high F. Within 10 years of her debut, JO staged at major opera houses and concert halls including La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden. In 1993 she won both the prestigious prize La Scala d’Oro and a Grammy Award for the Best Opera Recording. But it was not just her gifted, ‘one in a million’ voice that made her “a diva of the highest order”. JO was close to a mezzo-soprano whose highest note was C when she entered SNU in 1981. However, after years of intense vocal training she became the soprano who she was born to be. Now a legendary musician with a career spanning 25 years and 50 recordings, she said in a recent interview, “My singing is still steadily developing. I can feel it.”

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A Most Productive Research University

24th in the World in SCI Publications

SNU’s global reputation rests on its past and present research achievements and the vibrant research culture that underpins these achievements. With excellent access to state-of-the-art research facilities provided by both public and private resources, our faculty produced 4,291 peer-reviewed research articles in 2007, making them the 24th most productive group of scholars in the world, and therefore, more productive even than their peers at Oxford and Yale Universities.

Yearly Ranking by Number of SCI Publications


World University Ranking by SCI Publications

Field Rankings by ESI Result [1998 – 2008]

The following graphs show SNU’s field rankings by ESI publications. ESI (Essential Science Indicators) indexes the top 1% of the most cited institutions from the ISI Web of Knowledge offered by Thomson Scientific. SNU achieved the citation thresholds in 17 of the 22 ESI fields in the analysis from January 1, 1998 to August 31, 2008. Non-university institutions are excluded in from the lists.

Pharmacology & Toxicology

Materials Science

Engineering

Microbiology

Computer Science

Annual Research Budget

(amount unit: USD)

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<th>10 mil.</th>
<th>300 mil.</th>
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<td>Total Research Funds</td>
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<td>Non-Governmental Funds</td>
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Statistics as of October 1, 2008

General Information

- Founded in 1946 as the first national university of Korea
- Built on the largest campus in Seoul
- A comprehensive university with 16 Colleges, 1 Graduate School and 9 Professional Graduate Schools
- 3,568 full-time faculty members
- 16,512 undergraduate students and 9,439 graduate students

Schools

16 Colleges with 84 departments for undergraduates
- Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Nursing, Business Administration, Engineering, Agriculture and Life Sciences, Fine Arts, Law, Education, Human Ecology, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Music, Medicine, Liberal Studies

1 Graduate School with 98 Majors
- Public Health, Public Administration, Environmental Studies, International Studies, Dentistry, Business Administration, Medicine, Law, Convergence Science Technology

9 Professional Graduate Schools
- Public Health, Public Administration, Environmental Studies, International Studies, Dentistry, Business Administration, Medicine, Law, Convergence Science Technology

Faculty

- Full-time Faculty 3,568
- Lecturers 1,810
- Professor Emeritus 647
- International Faculty 353

Students

- Undergraduate 16,512
- Graduate 9,349
- International Students 2,626

How Old Is SNU?

In 2006 SNU held a grand ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the University, but the origins of SNU actually date back more than 100 years. The National Law Academy, which was the first modern legal education institution in Korea, was established in 1895 and later became the present College of Law of SNU. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of SNU was originally founded as the Agriculture, Industry and Commerce School in 1904. Several educational institutions were merged into the newly-established Seoul National University on October 16, 1946, which was designated as the official date of the University’s founding.