Established in 1946 as the first national university in Korea, Seoul National University (SNU) is indisputably the most prestigious institution of higher education in Korea.

It has fostered leaders in every sector of Korean society, thereby making a significant contribution to the remarkable socio-economic transformation of Korea.

For instance, SNU has educated and trained by far the largest number of top-notch researchers. It was the 20th most productive research university in publishing SCI papers. According to L'Ecole des Mines de Paris (MINES Paris Tech)’s survey, SNU claims as its graduates the 5th largest number of CEOs at Global 500 companies.

As a truly comprehensive and integrated university, SNU has 16 colleges, 1 graduate school, and 9 professional graduate schools.

Striving to be more than just the best university in Korea, SNU aims to grow into one of the top 20 institutions in the world by 2025 and is making every effort to achieve this goal.
UN Secretary General BAN Ki-Moon ’70 gave a passionate speech to SNU students upon being conferred an Honorary Doctorate on July 3, 2008. Ban urged today’s students to “play a larger role in setting the global agenda.” He emphasized, “By changing the world, we change our destiny. That is the lesson of Korea’s past. It will be the text of our future as well.”

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.”

Seoul National University has endeavored to undertake innovative projects specifically designed for the globalization of the institution. To establish a strong foundation for this, SNU has partnered with 817 institutions in 56 countries as of June 2010, reaching out not only to renowned universities in the West but also flagship universities in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Its realm of influence goes beyond domestic borders. SNU is presently home to over 2,500 foreign students from 88 countries. To these students, SNU promises and delivers the finest in higher education.
Educating for Creativity

SNU is committed to fostering global leaders equipped with profound knowledge, practical wisdom, and social responsibility.

– SNU Mission Statement

SNU only hires top-class faculty: 95.6 percent of the faculty have doctorates and most of those were earned at prestigious 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.

Thought-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 Akken, Professor at the 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, Johns Hopkins University

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

Education Without Borders

Joint Degree / Double Degree Programs

SNU has 13 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 these programs can complete their coursework at both universities and receive degrees from both universities.

SNU Partners for Joint Degree and Double Degree Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNU Partners</th>
<th>Partner Colleges / Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate School of Business Administration</td>
<td>Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ESSEC MBA (Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales), France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guanghua School of Management, Peking University, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Natural Sciences</td>
<td>George Mason University, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Engineering</td>
<td>L’Insa de Toulouse (Institut National des Sciences Appliquées), France</td>
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<td>“m2i” Network of Engineering Institute, France</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faculty of Engineering, University of Georgia, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Agriculture and Life Sciences</td>
<td>North Carolina State University, USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNU Has It All

Path-Breaking Research

SNU is committed to creating advanced knowledge and technology that can contribute to the progress of mankind.

- SNU Mission Statement

Leading RNA Research

- The Human Genome Project (1990-2003) 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 humans 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).

Leading the Way 2010

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 Hwang successfully made a layer measuring only 10 nm (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.

Small is Powerful

- Nano expert HYEON Taeg-hwan has developed a new technology for producing nanoparticles with a size of 50 to 100 nanometers 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 2006. 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.

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-Kiun, 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).
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 2009, a survey by the École des Mines de Paris placed SNU amongst the world’s top five universities as an educator of CEOs of Fortune 500 companies.

A Man of Passion and Conviction

LEE Jong-wook, former 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 on the fight against HIV/AIDS, trying to give all those in need access to proper medicine. He also led global efforts to prepare for a human influenza pandemic, persuading world leaders to develop a national pandemic preparation plan.

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 care and disease prevention, and advocated on behalf of the very poorest people.”

A Man of Passion and Conviction

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 unfailing 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

A Voice From Heaven

JO Sumi, Soprano

It was not long after JO Sumi made her debut at the Teatro Comunale 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 performed 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 Silvia d’Oro and a Grammy Award for the Best Opera Recording. But it was not just her gift, ‘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 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.”

Adding Value to the International Community

SNU Alumni CEOs of Global Fortune 500 Companies
As a national university, SNU is committed to maintaining and furthering Korean culture. At the same time, as a global university, it is committed to playing a leading role in establishing a global society of peace and mutual respect.

- SNU Mission Statement

Cia-Cia Tribe Adopts Korean Alphabet for their Writing System

In 2009, two linguists from Seoul National University, LEE Ho-Young and KIM Ju-won, helped the Cia-Cia tribe of Indonesia adopt hangeul as their own alphabet. Hangeul is seen in Korea as one of the major inventions that changed the course of history. Before its creation, only the nation’s elite had been able to read and write using Chinese characters. Hangeul, the new simple phonetic alphabet, allowed literary culture to flourish among ordinary citizens and provided a way to record and represent the life of the middle and lower classes. The linguists hope that hangeul can do the same for the Cia-Cia tribe. As Kim Ju-won states, “By giving unwritten languages their own alphabets, we can help save them from extinction and thus ensure mankind’s linguistic and cultural diversity.” The Cia-Cia, who until now didn’t have a writing system to record their own language, are now documenting their 600-year-old history using the Korean alphabet.

A Green Campus Becomes Even Greener

Surrounded by green mountain ranges, SNU has been well known, in addition to its academic excellence, for having the most beautiful campus in the nation due to its natural setting, but was also the most energy consuming education institution in terms of CO2 emissions per capita until recently. In 2008, SNU adopted the Declaration for a Sustainable SNU, setting the goal to reduce the CO2 emissions of the entire campus by 50% and to create an environment-friendly campus eliciting the active participation of all members of the university community. It has also established the Asian Institute for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability, which is devoted to environmental research and practice.

We Are All Social Workers

Every single student at SNU is encouraged to become a voluntary social worker. The curriculum is well organized to encourage and allow students to become involved in more than one community service project during their college years, as students can earn credits for doing such volunteer work. First year students can choose either to help the poor and children or to work with social service institutions. The most devoted participants in these local community service projects are eligible to travel abroad for an international service project in one of the least developed countries. LEE Jae Sun, a student of the College of Humanities, went to Russia to help them repairing the damage caused by floods. She said, “It was the hardest and the most rewarding 15 days of my life.”

Saving Thousands of Smiles

Professor KIM Woong-Han of SNU Hospital has saved the lives of over 100 children with heart conditions in Mongolia and Uzbekistan over the past 10 years. The survival rate of children with heart deformities in Korea is 98%, however in less developed countries many children die because they cannot receive relatively simple procedures. This harsh reality drove him to begin traveling abroad each year. He says his energy comes from watching the smiles of children who before surgery had had trouble even breathing. Professor BAEK Rong-Min [pictured], a world-renowned plastic surgeon currently on staff at SNU Bundang Hospital brings smiles to the faces of children. Since 1994 he has visited Vietnam annually and operates on around 200 children every year. He has brought beautiful smiles to the faces of more than 2,900 Vietnamese children born with facial deformities such as cleft lip and palate. SNU, being well aware that serving abroad isn’t only about operating on patients, brings local doctors from underdeveloped countries to Korea for advanced medical training in such procedures to save children’s smiles.

Students enjoy ‘green campus’ activities

Students went to the Philippines to help build houses

SNU doctors are seeing patients in Vietnam

The first Cia-Cia lesson at an elementary school in Bau-Bau City

SNU Reaches Out
General Information

- Founded in 1946 as the first national university of Korea
- A comprehensive university with 16 Colleges, 1 Graduate School and 9 Professional Graduate Schools
- 3,670 full-time professors are teaching 26,941 students
- Main campus and medical campus are located in Seoul as the largest campus in the city, and the Graduate School of Convergence Science Technology is in Suwon.
- Annual budget is approximately 914 million USD.

Faculty

<table>
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<tbody>
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<td>Lecturers</td>
<td>1,237</td>
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<td>Professors Emeriti</td>
<td>688</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time International Faculty</td>
<td>173</td>
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Students

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<td>Undergraduates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>10,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Students</td>
<td>2,609</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

World Rankings

- 5th in the Professional Ranking of World Universities by L’Ecole des Mines de Paris, 2009
- 20th in SCI publications by the analysis on Thomson-Reuters’ Database, 2008
- 50th in the QS World University Rankings 2010 by Quacquarelli Symonds Limited, 2010
- 12th in engineering filed by 2010 Field Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities by Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, 2010

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.