

# Department of Geography

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## What is Geography?

Geography is an integrative spatial science that investigates various phenomena in our living space. Geographers are interested in understanding the ways in which economies, politics, cultures, and societies are organized and carved in space and how human activities and physical environment are influenced each other. The quest for the understanding of space has persisted in the long history of human being, and modern geography has developed diverse research methods to analyze spatial phenomena. In addition, recent developments in Geographical Information Science (GIS) allows geographers to focus on the acquisition, management and display of spatial information with the help of information technology. The uniqueness of geography lies in its integrative perspective that incorporates natural and social science as well as information science, which empowered geographers to play a crucial role in studying the spatial organization of economies and society, environmental changes and developing strategies for improving human life.

## Geography at Kyung Hee University

The Department of Geography, Kyung Hee University has been an intellectually vibrant, research-intensive academic department at the center of Korean Geography since its inception in 1958. The Department has made significant contributions to the geographical society in Korea by educating a huge number of undergraduates, awarding many masters and doctorates. In addition, KHU Geography has led academic society by its pioneering and monumental research and the leadership and public involvement of faculty members. It is an honorable legacy of KHU Geography to represent the development of Korean geography. The department ran “the Professional Education Program of Space-Time Big Data” program between 2014 and 2018 as part of the CK-II project(University Specialization Project) by the Ministry of Education. As the initiation of the program, the KHU geography has built a new paradigm of geography in the era of big-data with the full financial support by the government.

At KHU, the Geography undergraduate program focuses on three disciplines: physical, human, and GIS (Geographic Information Science). The Department offers a wide range of courses to allow students to have specialties in natural environment, human geographies, and GIS as well as providing a solid foundation of geography. The offered courses are as wide as including geomorphology, climatology, biogeography, hydrology, urban geography, economic geography, regional development, transportation geography, cultural geography, social-political geography, urban planning, tourism geography, cartography and geographic information systems, and remote sensing. Also, students are encouraged to be a data-scientist by participating specialised courses in Space-Time Big Data. There are many opportunities for undergraduates to present and publish their research and group activities, which makes KHU geography the center of the birthplace of new ideas and insights.

At the graduate level, the Geography at KHU is widely acknowledged as one of the leading departments in terms of its research accomplishments. The Department provides strong commitment to graduate education by recruiting leading scholars, furnishing labs, equipment, and appliances as well as outstanding scholarship opportunities. Vigorous research

activities and scholarly publication are highly recommended and encouraged. Students with excellence in their works have opportunities to present research in international conferences and make international network with prominent scholars in their own fields. The nature of geography discipline as an integrative, spatial, and multidisciplinary science makes the challenges of young scholars more promising in the era of fusion science and the world of complexity.

## Degree Requirements

To obtain a Bachelor’s Degree of Geography, the following requirements are to be satisfied:

- complete a minimum of 130 credits
- for a major in geography, complete 64 credits of major courses in geography including 19 credits of required courses
- for a double major in geography, complete 48 credits of major courses in geography including 18 credits of required courses
- acquire a minimum English proficiency test scores in one of the followings; TOEIC 700, TOEFL(CBT 203, IBT 74), TEPS 650, OPIc IM or TOEIC Speaking 130

## Courses

### Year 1

Introduction to Physical Geography, Introduction to Human Geography, Understanding Spatiotemporal Information, Spatiotemporal Data and Statistics, Climatology, Economic Geography, Cartography

### Year 2

Geomorphology, Urban Geography, Fieldwork in Physical Geography, Fieldworks in Human Geography, Introduction to Spatial Big Data, Biogeography, Soil Geography, Introduction to Mobilities Studies, Transportation Geography, Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and Science, Geography of Leisure & Tourism, Climate Change and Future of City, Open Source Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing

### Year 3

Environmental Biogeography, Regional Geography of Korea, Archeological and Historical Geography, Regional Development, Cultural Geography, GIS and Spatial Analysis, Practice of Big Data Programming, Global Crisis Management and Future Action, Natural Hazard, Hydrology, Urban Transportation Planning, Climate Data Analysis, Spatial Statistics and Its Applications, Independent Learning & Research 1(Geography), Independent Learning & Research 2(Geography), Teaching Unit Analysis(Geography), Lesson Plan for Teaching Materials(Geography), Teaching Logics and Essay(Geography)

### Year 4

Water and Environment, GIS Projects, Tourism Place Management Project, Urban Daily Life and the Quality of Life, Political Geography, Applications of Geographic Information and Technology, Capstone design(Geography), Graduation Thesis

## Careers and Graduate Destinations

Job opportunities are diverse and wide-open for geography graduates. Students have found their places in urban and regional planning research centers, environment-related research institutes, various agencies of central and local government, businesses, GIS companies and map-making companies and big-data related information technology companies. To deal with the changes in job market and support students to find the most adequate place, the department has tried to build new curriculums, such as transportation planning, tourism geography, territorial disputes and place name issues as well as fortifying our traditional strengths.

## Faculty

Sang-Hyun Chi, Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2011, Professor, Social and Political Geography, hyungeo@khu.ac.kr

Suh-hee Choi, Ph.D. Purdue University, 2011, Assistant Professor, Tourism Geography, suhhee@khu.ac.kr

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Sungjae Choo, Ph.D. State University of New York at Buffalo, 1993, Professor, Economic Geography/Regional

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Eungul Lee, Ph.D. University of Colorado at Boulder, 2007, Associate Professor, Climatology, eungul.lee@khu.ac.kr

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