



**International Scholar
Exchange Fellowship
2026-2027**

최종현학술원
Chey Institute for Advanced Studies

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The Chey Institute for Advanced Studies (hereinafter the Chey Institute or CHEY) is a non-partisan institute established in 2018 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passing of former SK Chairman Chey Jong-hyon, the founder of the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS). Upholding his legacy, the Chey Institute pursues its vision of becoming a **global knowledge platform leading future change**. In line with this mission, the Institute seeks to identify rapidly evolving geopolitical issues and develop practical solutions for peace and prosperity; analyze the challenges and opportunities presented

by scientific innovation and propose strategies for future response; and contribute to society by creating and disseminating knowledge grounded in universal human values.

The Chey Institute continues to work closely with top academic institutions, research organizations, and think tanks worldwide, and is committed to further expanding its global network of scholars and institutions engaged in addressing the pressing challenges of the 21st century.

The Chey Institute supports the following international academic exchange programs:



△ Trans Pacific Dialogue

▽ KFAS 50th Anniversary Future Talent Conference



△ Shanghai Forum

▽ Beijing Forum



▽ Amidst the Global Complex Crisis, Korea's Foreign Policy & Security Strategy



1. INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP (ISEF) PROGRAM

The Chey Institute for Advanced Studies administers the International Scholar Exchange Fellowship (ISEF), a program originally launched by the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS) in 2000. Since its establishment, the fellowship has supported 1,012 scholars worldwide. ISEF fellows pursue six-month or one-year research residencies in Korea, working in collaboration with professors at leading universities and researchers at prominent academic institutions. The program is intended not only to advance the scholarly endeavors of individual fellows, but also to foster deeper academic understanding and to promote international cooperation and development.

2. INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC FORUMS

Under the guiding principle that universities should play a central role in the “Rise of Asia,” the Chey Institute collaborates with leading universities to cohost a wide range of international academic forums.

These include the Beijing Forum, cohosted annually with Peking University under the theme “The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All”; the Shanghai Forum, cohosted with Fudan University, with a focus on global finance, the economy, and governance; and the Tokyo Forum, cohosted with the University of Tokyo under the theme “Shaping the Future.”

In addition, the Chey Institute organizes other major academic gatherings in cooperation with world-renowned universities, including the Nanjing Forum, the Tianjin Forum, and the International Confucianism Forum, thereby contributing to the advancement of global dialogue and the dissemination of knowledge.

3. SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION SERIES

The Chey Institute aims to capture noteworthy trajectories of innovation, explore its impact on society, and disseminate knowledge and insight that help solve future challenges. The Chey Institute Scientific Innovation Series explores how scientific and technological advances shape human life and society. Since 2019, the Chey Institute has hosted numerous Scientific Innovation Series conferences featuring world-leading scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs. The topics addressed by these exceptional speakers span neuroscience, biotechnology, quan-

tum science, astrophysics, space technology, advanced semiconductors and batteries, cybersecurity, and renewable energy.

4. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION COUNCIL

The Science and Technology Innovation Council takes the lead in advancing cutting-edge scientific and technological fields by fostering interdisciplinary synergy and strong academia–industry collaboration. Bringing together distinguished scholars and industry leaders worldwide, the Council aims to drive the development of foundational technologies, address critical technological challenges, and contribute to innovation for a sustainable and inclusive future.

5. TRANS-PACIFIC DIALOGUE

Hosted annually by the Chey Institute since 2021, the Trans-Pacific Dialogue (TPD) is a bipartisan track-1.5 conference that brings together 70-80 government officials, experts, and business leaders from the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan to address pressing global issues. Key topics have included critical global and regional issues such as US-China strategic competition, the Russia-Ukraine war, semiconductor and EV battery supply chain resilience, US-ROK-Japan trilateral cooperation, North Korean nuclear issue, a potential Taiwan contingency, AI infrastructure, and energy security.

6. CHEY-CSIS JOINT PROJECTS

The Chey Institute for Advanced Studies and the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), a leading US think tank, launched the “Joint Commission on Northeast Asia and the Korean Peninsula” to discuss on the future of the Northeast Asian relations and the US-ROK alliance. In 2021 and 2022, the joint commission held private and public sessions on addressing geopolitical risks in Northeast Asia and the Korean peninsula. The Chey Institute and CSIS published a joint report, “The Future of Northeast Asia and the Korea-US Alliance.” In March 2023, CHEY-CSIS organized a joint conference on the topic “Cooperation on Scientific Innovation, Supply Chains, and Geopolitical Risk in Northeast Asia.” This was followed by a final conference in May 2024, which examined the impact of the U.S. presidential election on Northeast Asia and the Korean Peninsula.

2 About the International Scholar Exchange Fellowship

The International Scholar Exchange Fellowship (ISEF) program seeks to enhance global academic exchanges and cooperation by providing scholars with the opportunity to reside in Korea and conduct research for six months or one year. Established in 1999, the program began supporting scholars the following year.

Over the past 26 years, a total of 1,012 ISEF fellows have been selected from countries including Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

The 2025-2026 ISEF fellows arrived in Seoul in August 2025. This group consists of 10 scholars from institutes in China, Vietnam, Mongolia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sweden, all of whom have successfully commenced their proposed research in collaboration with their host scholars at leading Korean universities and research institutes.

The fellowship provides comprehensive support for outstand-

ing scholars, including a monthly research stipend, initial settlement support, publication support, round-trip airfare, and accident insurance. To further enrich their experience, the Chey Institute also offers Korean language courses, academic seminars, and educational visits to cultural sites and industrial facilities, enabling fellows to gain deeper insight into Korea.

Over the past 26 years, with the participation of more than 1,000 scholars, the world has undergone tremendous change. Asia in particular has witnessed remarkable growth, including the rise of China and the economic development of Southeast Asia. In response, the ISEF program has expanded its scope from an Asia-focused initiative to a truly global fellowship, actively welcoming qualified researchers and scholars at all levels, including postdoctoral researchers, from around the world. Fellows are invited to conduct research across all academic disciplines—including, but not limited to, the humanities, social sciences, energy, information technology, and life sciences—with full freedom to define their research topics within these fields.

ISEF fellows by country and discipline

Country	Economics	Business	Political Science	Public Administration	Law	Sociology	Education	Psychology	Anthropology	Journalism	Geography	History	Philosophy	Literature	Energy	IT	Life Sciences	Total
China	77	32	60	22	52	46	21	6	14	32	14	110	66	25	37	63	22	699
Mongolia	5	4	2		1	2	2		2		6	2			10	13	10	59
Vietnam	6	3	4		3	3	9	2	3	2	6	7	3		3	5	6	65
Thailand			1	1			3	1	2						8	1	6	23
Myanmar		1	4		4		1	3	2		2	4	2		4	10	14	51
Laos	4					6	8		3		2	1			3		1	28
Cambodia	2	1	4	2		6	2		8		2	2		1	1	2	1	34
India	1						2	1			1	1			1	1	1	9
Indonesia			3	1												1	1	6
Malaysia	2		1			1	2									3	2	11
Philippines		1					1						1					3
Iran				1			1								2		1	5
Iraq												1						1
Kazakhstan	1		1			3	1		1		1							8
Uzbekistan			2													1		3
Colombia			1												1			2
Russia	1							1				1						3
Pakistan				1		1												2
Total	99	42	83	28	60	68	53	14	35	34	34	129	72	26	70	100	65	1012



Scientific Innovation Series



Tokyo Forum



Nanjing Forum

About the International Scholar Exchange Fellowship 2026-2027

1. PURPOSE

The ISEF program seeks to enhance international exchanges and cooperation by promoting cross-cultural understanding and academic advancement. To this end, the Chey Institute invites qualified scholars from **around the world** to carry out research in collaboration with leading Korean universities and research institutions.

2. FIELD OF RESEARCH

- Open to all academic disciplines
(The ISEF program welcomes applicants from all fields worldwide.)

3. ELIGIBILITY

- Faculty members and researchers at overseas universities or research institutions holding a doctoral degree (including postdoctoral researchers).
- Applicants must, in principle, be no older than 50 years of age at the application deadline.
 - ※ Applicants must be able to conduct research in English and should not have any health issues that could hinder research activities
 - ※ Those **not** eligible include:
 - Individuals whose prime interest is to teach in Korea
 - Korean citizens
 - Individuals currently residing in Korea or already conducting research in Korea

4. RESEARCH PERIOD

- 1 Year
 - From September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027
- 6 Months
 - From September 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027
 - From March 1, 2027 to August 31, 2027
- * **For post-doctoral researchers, a one-year extension may be granted upon review.**

5. APPLICATION MATERIALS

- 1) Online Application (www.chey.org - Global Exchange - ISEF - Apply - Application)
- 2) Research Proposal

- 3) 2 Letters of Recommendation (at least one Recommendation must be from a source not affiliated with the applicant's home institution.)
 - 4) Certificate of Employment (issued within the past 3 months)
 - 5) Certificate of Ph.D. degree
 - 6) 2 Research Samples (books or research papers)
 - 7) **English abstracts of no more than 300 words must be provided for each book or research paper**
 - 8) Letter of Research Affiliation from the host institution in Korea (if available at the time of application)
- * Please refer to the detailed application guidelines on pages 6-9.

6. SUBMISSION

- Applications must be submitted directly through the Chey Institute website. Only online applications are accepted. Status updates can be viewed under "Application History."

7. SELECTION PROCESS

- 1) Preliminary screening:
Review by a panel of scholars from the applicant's field of expertise
- 2) Comprehensive screening:
Final decision through comprehensive screening by the Chey Institute for Advanced Studies Steering Committee (interviews may be arranged if necessary)

8. APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Application Deadline: February 20, 2026
- Announcement of Results: April 3, 2026

9. DETAILS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Research Grant
 - Monthly Research Stipend: 3,500,000 KRW (approx. 2,520 USD)
 - One-time Publication Support: 1,000,000 KRW, awarded upon review and acceptance of the final research paper at the conclusion of the fellowship
- * If fellows do not enter Korea within one month of the recommended entry date set by the Chey Institute, they will

lose eligibility for the research stipend for that month.

- Publication Incentives
 - 2,000~5,000 USD for articles published in journals indexed in SSCI, AHCI, and SCI
 - 1,000 USD for articles published in journals registered with the National Research Foundation of Korea

* Publication incentives are available for articles published within 2 years of the official completion date of the fellowship, provided that the publication includes the following acknowledgment:

"This work is supported by the Chey Institute for Advanced Studies' International Scholar Exchange Fellowship for the academic year of 2026-2027."

The amount will be determined after careful evaluation of the journal's impact and the fellow's level of contribution.

- Initial Settlement Support
One-time payment of 1,000,000 KRW
 - Round-trip Airfare
Economy class airfare between Seoul and the nearest airport from the fellow's residence
 - Medical Insurance
 - Accident Insurance and National Health Insurance
- * All financial support is provided directly to fellows, not to their home or host institutions.

10. RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Korean Language Course:
The Chey Institute offers regular Korean classes for fellows during their fellowship period, running from September to July of the following year. In August, fellows are expected to deliver short presentations in Korean.
- Cultural Tours
Cultural tours are provided once during the fellowship year. Fellows will visit major Korean cities and cultural heritage sites to gain a deeper understanding of Korean history and traditions.
- Industrial Site Visits
Visits to prominent industrial sites and research centers are arranged to provide fellows with insights into Korea's industrial development.

11. PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH

- Initial Research Report
Fellows must submit an initial research report on their proposed research project by September 25, 2026.
- Interim Progress Reports
Fellows are required to submit progress reports on November 15, 2026; February 15, 2027; and May 15, 2027.
- Final Research Paper
Fellows must submit a Final Research Paper based on their research by February 15 or August 15, 2027, depending on their research period. Papers must conform to international academic formatting standards.
(Date for Submission of Final Research Paper is subject to change)

- Final Research Seminar

A one-day ISEF Academic Seminar will be held before the end of the fellowship. Fellows are required to participate and present the results of the research conducted during their fellowship period. Presentations must be delivered in English.

12. OBLIGATIONS

- Fellows must devote themselves to their stated research project and shall not engage in any employment other than that approved by the Institute.
- Fellows may participate in activities within the limits permitted by their visa status.
- Fellows must comply with all laws of the Republic of Korea during the fellowship period.
- Fellows may not receive any other forms of financial support other than that provided by the Chey Institute's International Scholar Exchange Fellowship Program.
- Fellows may not engage in any other profit-seeking activities, except where explicitly permitted under their visa status.
- Fellows must reside in Korea for the duration of the fellowship and may not leave Korea without prior approval from the Chey Institute.
- Fellows shall return to their home countries after the conclusion of their fellowship.
Failure to comply with the above regulations may result in disadvantages or expulsion from the ISEF Program.

4 Application

HOW TO APPLY

Please read the following instructions carefully before applying online.

* Application Process

1. Confirm eligibility (see “Eligibility” on page 4).
2. Go to www.chey.org - Global Exchange - ISEF - Apply - Application to create and authenticate your account.
3. Complete the online application by filling out all necessary information, submitting your research proposal, and attaching all relevant files.
4. Enter your recommenders’ email address on the application page to request recommendations and provide them with the official recommendation letter format.
5. Confirm submission under “Application History.”

1. BEFORE APPLYING

Carefully review “About the International Scholar Exchange Fellowship (ISEF) 2026-2027” to ensure you meet all eligibility requirements. Applicants who do not meet these requirements will be rejected without notice.

2. ONLINE APPLICATION

1) Membership Registration & Email Authentication

- Go to the Chey Institute website (www.chey.org - Exchange Programs - ISEF - Apply - Application) and click the “Apply”
- An authentication number will be sent to your e-mail.
- Enter the authentication number when you first log in to the application page. Be sure to remove any spaces preceding the authentication number.
- Reset your password on the application page of the Chey Institute website.

2) Online Application

- The ISEF Application consists of four sections: Personal Information, Academic Information, Additional Information, and Submission of Documents. You may save your progress only after completing each page. Incomplete pages cannot be saved. The application will be deemed complete only after all four sections have been finalized.
- All entries must be made in English. (*Chinese may be used where appropriate but should be accompanied by English unless otherwise specified.*)
- Required fields (*) must be completed to proceed to the next item.
- All questions must be answered fully and carefully.
- After completing the application form, you may temporarily save your progress and return later to make changes by logging in and accessing “Application History.” Once you make your final submission, you cannot make further changes to your application. However, you may still send additional requests for letters of recommendation.
- A recent identification photograph must be attached, in the same format as a passport photo.

3) Submission of Research Proposal

- Research proposals must be uploaded as a doc, docx, pdf, or ppt file. The file name should be your full name (e.g., Wang Lei.docx).
- Research proposals must be at least four pages (A4, single-

spaced) and use Times New Roman, 12-point font.

- At the beginning of your research proposal, please indicate your full name, affiliation, field of research, and proposed research topic.
- **Research proposals should include the following:**
 - Statement of Purpose: Clearly specify your academic interest within your field.
 - Background: Situate your research within the broader academic context by referencing major works and established scholarships in your field. A bibliography may be attached. In addition, explain how your proposed research project builds upon your own prior research and how it aligns with your future academic goals.
 - Objectives: Provide a clear and detailed description of your proposed research objectives.
 - Scope, Design, and Methodology: Outline the scope, design, and methodology of your proposed research project.
 - Schedule: Demonstrate how your project can be completed within the fellowship period.
 - Significance: Explain the significance of your proposed research project for your academic field, your professional development, and your home country.
 - Dissemination: Describe how you plan to disseminate your research findings in your home country and elsewhere.
- **Publications: Provide a complete list of your publications, translated into English. Standard academic citation and bibliographical formats must be used.**



ISEF Special Workshop



ISEF Cultural Tour



UKC Deep Tech Forum



CHEY Advisory Committee on Science and Technology

3. SUBMISSION OF SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS

- After completing the online application form, applicants must submit the following documents electronically via the “Submission of Documents” page: 2 Letters of Recommendation, 2 research samples, a Certificate of Doctoral Degree, a Certificate of Employment, and, if applicable, a Letter of Research Affiliation from the host institution in Korea.

1) Certificate of Doctoral Degree

- Applicants must upload a certificate of their doctoral degree.
- Graduates of Chinese universities must also upload a certificate of graduation.

2) Certificate of Employment

- Must be issued within 3 months of the submission date.

3) Letter of Recommendation

- Applicants must submit 2 letters of recommendation. Recommendation requests and formats can be sent to referees through the “Submission of Documents” page. Each recommender should be provided with a copy of the applicant’s statement of proposed activity in advance.
- **At least one recommendation must come from a source not affiliated with the applicant’s home institution.**
- Recommenders should hold appropriate academic or professional positions and be well qualified to assess the applicant’s abilities and qualifications to carry out the proposed research project in Korea. They should also comment on the academic value of the applicant’s research, including its relevance to teaching or scholarship in the applicant’s home country.

4) Research Samples

- 2 research samples that best represent the applicant’s work must be submitted. Applicants may either submit books or research papers.
- Research paper submissions must include an English abstract of fewer than 300 words along with the full text of the research paper.
- Book submissions must include an English abstract of fewer than 300 words, and an original copy must be sent to the Chey Institute by mail.

4. HOST INSTITUTION IN KOREA

- If applicants have already secured a host scholar, they may attach a letter of research affiliation from the host institution in Korea to their application. The form may be downloaded from the Chey Institute homepage (Global Exchange – ISEF – Forms & Documents–Download for ISEF Program–Letter of Research Affiliation).
- Upon selection as an ISEF fellow, applicants must contact the appropriate Korean institution and scholar without delay to finalize their research affiliation. The letter of research affiliation should then be uploaded to the application page or sent directly to the Chey Institute.



ISEF Final Academic Seminar



Visit to SK Hynix



Korean Language Class



Visit to SK Afforested Plantation

- Fellows are expected to identify and secure their own host scholars, as they are best positioned to determine the most suitable academic match for their field of study and research proposal. Direct communication between fellows and host scholars throughout the research period is strongly encouraged to ensure effective collaboration. Applicants are also advised to inquire about available accommodation (e.g., dormitories or apartments) and to clarify roles and responsibilities with their host scholar before arriving in Korea.

5. CONFIRM SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- After submitting the application form, applicants may check the status of their submission through “Application History.”
- The results of the ISEF 2026-2027 selection will be announced on April 3, 2026. Applicants may also check the “Application History” page for the results.

6. IMPORTANT NOTICE

- 1) All documents must reach the Chey Institute by the application deadline in order to be considered for the following academic year beginning in September.
- 2) All communications, including questions regarding applications, should be directed to the Chey Institute (ISEF@chey.org).
- 3) Incomplete application forms and/or those not accompanied by proper documents may be rejected without notice.
- 4) Documents submitted will not be returned to applicants.
- 5) Acceptance into the ISEF fellowship may be rescinded if an applicant is found to have provided false or misleading information.

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