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**International Scholar
Exchange Fellowship
2025-2026**

CHEY INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

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The Chey Institute for Advanced Studies (hereinafter Chey Institute or CHEY) is a non-partisan institute launched in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the passing of former SK Chairman Chey Jong-hyun, the founder of the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies. The Chey Institute for Advanced Studies seeks to identify geopolitical risks that threaten regional and global stability and shape strategies to mitigate these risks, explore the challenges and opportunities posed by scientific innovation on the entire spectrum of our society, and investigate the impact of scientific and technological innovation on geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics.

Entering the new millennium, the Chey Institute launched international academic programs such as the International Scholar Exchange Fellowship (ISEF) and Asia Research Centers. The International Scholar Exchange Fellowship program has supported 1,002 foreign scholars to conduct research in Korea for six months or one year, in collaboration with professors and researchers at Korean universities and academic institutions. 12 Asia Research Centers (ARC) in partnership with major universities have been established in 7 countries to promote active

exchanges among Asian scholars.

The Chey Institute will continuously partner with leading academic institutions, research organizations, and think tanks around the world to establish a global network of top thinkers and groups working to solve the challenges of this century.

The Chey Institute supports the following international academic exchange programs.

1. INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP (ISEF) PROGRAM

The Chey Institute invites Asian scholars to Korea every year for six months or one year to conduct research projects in collaboration with professors and researchers at leading universities and academic institutions in Korea. This program is designed not only to support the research of individual scholars, but also to enhance academic mutual understanding, and promote cooperation and development in Asia.

Building on 25 years of fostering academic collaboration and supporting over 1,000 fellows from Asian countries, the



Trans Pacific Dialogue



Beijing Forum



Shanghai Forum

Chey Institute for Advanced Studies is now committed to expanding ISEF's scope to a truly **global scale**, welcoming scholars from around the world to join this initiative.

2. ASIA RESEARCH CENTERS (ARC)

The Chey Institute supports 12 Asia Research Centers (ARC) established in 7 countries, namely China, Mongolia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos. ARCs provide support for research projects, academic conferences, and research publications.

3. INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC FORUMS

Under the guiding principle that universities should play a central role in the "Rise of Asia," the Chey Institute collaborates with major universities in Asia, including China, to cohost a wide range of international academic forums. The Chey Institute has expanded its support for these forums, both in terms of themes and partner countries. The Beijing Forum, Shanghai Forum, Tokyo Forum, Tianjin Forum are all examples of this growing support.

After making its 20th anniversary of Beijing Forum last year, we pledged to embark on a new chapter of 20 years with a theme, "The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All—The Era of Innovation and Advancement of Mankind." Meanwhile the Nanjing Forum focused on "Tradition, Transformation and Creation—Modernization in East Asia." Tokyo Forum's theme centered around "Shape the future, design for tomorrow."

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

5. CHEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Chey Advisory Committee on Science and Technology is dedicated to identifying challenges and impacts of advanced science and technology where the ultimate goal is to successfully prepare for rapidly evolving future. In order to achieve its goal, the advisory committee, comprised of scholars of well-known international institutions, has actively pursued solutions through interdisciplinary forums and shared academic results with intellectual leaders in our society. The unique role of the advisory committee is to establish a global cutting-edge science and technology network formed by international knowledge exchange.

6. TRANS-PACIFIC DIALOGUE

The Trans-Pacific Dialogue (TPD), hosted annually by the Chey Institute for Advanced Studies since 2021, is a track-1.5 conference held under the Chatham House Rule. It gathers around 70-80 government officials, experts, and leaders from the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan to address pressing global issues. Key topics have included US-China strategic competition, US-ROK-Japan trilateral cooperation, North Korea, global supply chains, and the geopolitical and geoeconomic impact of science and technology, including AI.

7. 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 aims to enhance regional academic exchanges and cooperation by providing Asian scholars with an opportunity to live in Korea and conduct research for six months or one year. This program was established in 1999 and began supporting scholars the following year.

A total of 1,002 ISEF fellows have been selected over the last 24 years including Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The 2024-2025 ISEF fellows arrived in Seoul this past August. This cohort consists of 15 scholars from China, Vietnam, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, and Laos. They have successfully begun conducting their proposed research in collaboration with their host scholars at the major universities and research institutions in Korea.

Over the past 25 years and with the support of more than 1,000 scholars, the world has undergone tremendous change.

Asia has seen remarkable growth, including the rise of China and the economic development of Southeast Asia. In response, **we aim to expand the scope of ISEF fellows from an Asia-focused scale to a global one. Furthermore, we plan to actively invite postdoctoral researchers of fields to elevate and deepen the impact and support of the ISEF program.**

The ISEF program provides outstanding scholars with comprehensive research expenses during their stay in Korea, which include round-trip airfare, settlement support, a monthly research stipend, a research grant, and medical insurance.

Scholars are expected to conduct research in the fields of humanities, social sciences, energy, IT, and life sciences. Scholars are given the freedom to choose their research topics within these fields.

The Chey Institute also offers Korean language classes, seminars, and educational trips to cultural sites and industrial facilities to enhance the ISEF fellows' understanding of Korea.

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	21	52	46	21	6	14	32	14	109	66	25	37	62	22	696
Mongolia	5	4	2		1	2	2		2		5	2			10	13	10	58
Vietnam	6	2	4		3	3	9	2	3	1	6	7	3		2	5	5	61
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		5
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
Total	99	41	83	27	60	67	53	14	35	33	33	128	72	26	69	99	63	1002



Scientific Innovation Series



Tokyo Forum



Nanjing Forum

3

About the International Scholar

Exchange Fellowship 2025-2026

1. PURPOSE

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

2. FIELD OF RESEARCH

- All fields (*ISEF program addresses scholars around the globe regardless of their field*)

3. ELIGIBILITY

- University faculty and institution researchers from eligible countries with doctoral degrees
- **European/American postdoctoral researchers in science field (newly added)**
- Applicants, in principle, must be 50 years old or younger
- Applicants should be able to carry out research in English, and they should not have any health issues to hinder their research
- Those **not** eligible:
 - Persons whose prime interest is to teach in Korea
 - Korean citizens

4. RESEARCH PERIOD

- 1 Year
 - From September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026
 - 6 Months
 - From September 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026
 - From March 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026
- * For post-doctoral researchers, a one-year extension is possible after evaluation

5. APPLICATION

- 1) Online application
- 2) Research proposal
- 3) 2 letters of recommendation (at least one recommendation should come from a source not affiliated with your institution.)

- 4) Certificate of Employment
- 5) Certificate of Ph.D. degree
- 6) Research samples: books or research papers
- 7) **An English abstract 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 detailed application guidelines from page 6 to 9

6. SUBMISSION

- Applicants should submit their application directly to the Chey Institute website. You can find your status on the "Application History" page.

7. SELECTION PROCESS

- 1) Preliminary screening:
 - Preliminary screening 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. DEADLINE

- February 21, 2025
 - * All original documents must reach the Chey Institute by the deadline.
 - * Announcement of results: April 4, 2025

9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Research grant
 - Monthly research stipend of 3,500,000 KRW (approximately 2,500 USD)
 - One-time grant of 1,000,000 KRW will be provided after applicant submits final research paper by the end of the fellowship
 - * If fellows do not enter Korea within one month of the rec-

ommended date of entry set by the Chey Institute, the fellowship will become invalid.

- Publication incentives
 - 2,000~5,000 USD (for an article published in journals indexed in SSCI, AHCI, and SCI)
 - 1,000 USD (for an article published in journals indexed in the National Research Foundation of Korea)
 - * Publication incentives are provided for articles published within 2 years of the date of the fellow's return to his/her country. The article must indicate that the research was funded by the Chey Institute's ISEF program. The amount of incentives may vary upon careful evaluation of the journal's influence and the writer's level of contribution.
- Settlement support
 - One-time payment of 1,000,000 KRW
- Round-trip airfare
 - Economy class round-trip airfare between Seoul and the nearest airport from the fellow's residence
- Medical insurance
 - National health insurance
 - Accident insurance
 - * Research expenses for the International Scholar Exchange Fellowship Program are provided directly to the fellows, and not to home institutions or host institutions

10. RESEARCH SUPPORT

- Korean language classes
 - The Chey Institute holds regular Korean classes for the fellows during their stay. Classes are offered from September to July of the following year. In August, fellows are expected to deliver presentations in Korean.
- Cultural tours
 - Cultural tours are provided once during the year. Fellows will visit major Korean cities and cultural areas to learn about Korean history and traditions.
- Visits to industrial sites
 - Visits to prominent industrial sites and research centers will provide fellows with an opportunity to learn about Korea's industrial development.

11. RESEARCH PRESENTATION

- Interim progress reports
 - Fellows are required to submit progress reports on their proposed research project on November 15, 2025, and February 15 and May 15, 2026.
- Final research paper
 - Fellows are required to submit their final research papers based on their research by February 15 or August 14, 2026, depending on the research period. Research papers should use international standard formatting for academic papers.

- Final research seminar

A one-day ISEF Academic Seminar will be held before the end of the ISEF fellows' research period. Fellows will be required to make a presentation on their research results based on the research conducted during the ISEF research period. Presentations should be made in English.

12. OBLIGATIONS

- Fellows shall devote themselves to their research project without committing to any type of outside employment.
- Fellows may participate in activities within the limits permitted by their visa status.
- Fellows shall not violate any Korean law during the fellowships.
- Fellows shall not receive any other forms of financial support.
- Fellows shall reside in Korea for the duration of the fellowship and will not leave Korea without prior approval from the Chey Institute.
- Fellows shall return to his/her home country after the conclusion of their fellowships.
- Failure to comply with the above regulations specified as "Obligations" 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
2. Go to www.chey.org (Exchange Program - ISEF - Apply - Application) to authenticate your email
3. Complete the online application by filling out the necessary information, submitting the research proposal, and attaching relevant files
4. Enter your recommenders' email address at the application page to request a recommendation and send them a recommendation letter format
5. Confirm submission

1. BEFORE APPLYING

Read "About the International Scholar Exchange Fellowship (ISEF) 2025-2026" carefully to make sure that you meet all the requirements, such as eligible field of research and country. Those who do not meet such requirements will be rejected without notice.

2. ONLINE APPLICATION

1) Email authentication

- Eligible applicants must first go to the Chey Institute website (www.chey.org) - Exchange Programs - ISEF - Apply - Application page and click the "Apply" button to proceed with Email Authentication

- An authentication number will be sent to your e-mail address.
- Please enter the authentication number the first time you log in to the application page. Make sure there are no spaces preceding the authentication number.
- Reset your password on the application page of the Chey Institute homepage.

2) Complete the application form

- The ISEF Application section of the website consists of four pages: personal information, academic information, additional information, and submission of documents. You may save your progress only after completing each page. You cannot save an incomplete page. The application will be deemed complete only after all four pages have been completed.
- All items must be entered in English. Chinese may be entered in some cases, but always with English.
- Required fields (marked with a red dot) must be entered in order to move to the next item.
- Every question must be answered completely and carefully.
- After completing the application form, you may temporarily save your progress and return later to make changes by logging in and accessing the information from the Application History. After you make your final submission, you will not be able to make changes to your application. However, you may make additional requests for recommendation letters.
- Please attach a recent ID photograph.

3) Submit your research proposal and attach relevant documents

- Research proposals should be attached 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 a minimum of four pages (A4, single-spaced) and use Times New Roman (12-point font).
- At the beginning of your proposal, please indicate your full name, affiliation, field of research, and proposed research topic.
- **Research proposals should include the following:**
 - Statement purpose: Be specific about your academic interest within your field.
 - Background: Place your research project in an academic context by referencing major works by other scholars in this field. A bibliography may be attached in order to provide the background of your proposed project. Also, describe how your proposed research plan is related to your previous study/research and fits your future academic goals.
 - Objectives: Write a clear and detailed description of your proposed research objectives.
 - Scope, design, and methodology: Describe the scope, design, and methodology of your proposed research project.
 - Schedule: Explain how your project can be completed within the duration of this fellowship.



ISEF Special Workshop



ISEF Cultural Tour



UKC Deep Tech Forum



CHEY Advisory Committee on Science and Technology

- Significance: Explain the significance of your proposed project for your academic field, your own professional development, and your home country.
- Dissemination: Describe your plans for disseminating your research findings in your home country and elsewhere.
- Publications: Include a complete list of your publications, translated into English. You should use standard citation and bibliographical format.

3. SUBMIT SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS

- After completing the online application form, you must submit 2 recommendation letters, 2 research samples, a certificate of doctoral degree, a certificate of employment, and a letter from the host institution (if applicable) on the

“Submission of Documents” page.

1) Certificate of Doctoral Degree

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

2) Certificate of Employment

- Issued within 2 months from the date of submission

3) Recommendation Letters

- Applicants must submit 2 recommendation letters. Applicants can send recommendation letter requests and formats to recommenders through the “Submission of Documents” page. A copy of your statement of proposed activity should be given to each recommender before this form is sent.
- **At least one recommendation should come from a source not affiliated with your institution.**
- Recommenders should be in a position to comment on your abilities and qualifications to carry out the stated research project in Korea. Also, the recommender should state the value of your research in relation to your teaching responsibilities in your nationality.

4) Research Sample

- 2 research samples that best represent your work (e.g., books or research papers) must be submitted. Applicants may either submit books or research papers.
- Research paper submission must include an abstract of fewer than 300 words and the full text of the research paper.
- Book submission must include an 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 available, please attach a letter of research affiliation from your host institution in Korea to your application. You may



ISEF Final Academic Seminar



Korean Language Class



Visit to SK Hynix



Visit to SK Afforested Plantation

download the form from the Chey Institute homepage. (Exchange Programs - ISEF - ISEF Archive - Download - Letter of Research Affiliation)

- Upon selection as an ISEF fellow, you must contact the appropriate Korean institutions and scholars immediately to arrange your research affiliation. You should either upload it on the application page or send the Chey Institute a letter of research affiliation as soon as arrangements are made.
- Fellows should find their own host scholars as they best understand their field of study and research proposals. It is also best for fellows and host scholars to contact each other directly for improved cooperation and exchange during the research period. You are also advised to inquire whether the institution’s accommodations, such as dormitories or apartments, are available for use. You must discuss each other’s role and involvement thoroughly before arriving in Korea.

5. CONFIRM SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- After submitting your application form, you may check the application status from the Application History.
- ISEF fellows will be announced on April 4, 2025. You can also check the Application History for 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, which begins in September.
- 2) All communications, including questions about your application, should be directed to the Chey Institute (ISEF@chey.org)
- 3) If an application form is not completely filled out and/or is not accompanied by proper documents, the application may be rejected without notice.
- 4) Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants.
- 5) Accepted ISEF fellows may have their acceptance rescinded if he/she is found to have provided incorrect information.

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