YONSEI
Toward Truth and Freedom
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For 135 years, Yonsei University has steadfastly held the helm of Korea’s modernization, steering the nation through the turbulent waves of industrialization, democratization, and informatization. Now, Yonsei will embrace the challenges and opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and relentlessly pursue innovation in higher education.

The world is currently at a crossroads, and humanity must make choices in this time of great transition. Disruptive science and technology are redefining human biology and civilization, and democracy contends simultaneously with economic advancement and social equity. Individuals yearn for security and prosperity, without surrendering their dignity and identity.

Yonsei University purposes to contribute to peace and advancement of humankind. On a smaller scale, it aims to provide a platform for innovation and cooperation for those who come to Yonsei University, where they can freely pursue their dreams and design their future. Yonsei will lighten the world by fostering academic research that makes a difference, education that inspires, and community spirit that serves.

Yonsei University prioritizes education that nurtures ‘innovative leaders with a community spirit.’ Through a series of university-wide dialog, members of Yonsei are sharing the philosophy that self-interest is not the driving force of economic and social progress, but that common prosperity is.

In support of such academic and social pursuits, Yonsei will introduce state-of-the-art educational technology and systems that will serve as the backbone of multidimensional innovation in education. It will also focus on reforming administrative support, campus space, and university policy, in preparation for the exciting and formidable future that lies ahead.

President of Yonsei University
SUH SEOUNG HWAN
Mission Statement

Yonsei University is dedicated to educate future leaders of our society in the spirit of Christianity, fostering a strong and lasting commitment to the principles of truth and freedom. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples, then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” [John 8:31-32]

Philosophy

Yonsei University serves as the “alma mater” of all arts and sciences to nurture leaders who will contribute to the Korean and international society, in the ecumenical spirit of Christian teaching epitomized in its motto of “truth and freedom.” Yonseians will inherit mankind’s cultural legacy, and lead academic development through creativity and critical thinking. We will also serve others with an open heart, and contribute to the prosperity of humankind.

With these missions, we Yonseians will demonstrate our leadership to realize the Yonsei spirit globally.
Yonsei's history is consistent with the milestones of South Korea's social development.

Yonsei University was founded in 1885 by visionaries who recognized the value of education that transcends racial and national boundaries. The pure passion and dedication of Yonsei's founders to nurture future leaders in the service of humanity live on to this day. Over the past 135 years, approximately 350,000 people have earned a degree at Yonsei University, contributing to the development of society in the spirit of truth and freedom.

1885
- Gwanghyewon, Korea's first modern hospital, is founded as a royal hospital.

1886.3
- Chejungwon opens as the first medical school in Korea.

1885.4
- Chosun Christian College is accredited as Yonhi College, a private institution. Humanities, Mathematics and Physics, Business, Agriculture and Theology is newly accredited.

1904.9
- Through a donation from Mr. L. H. Severance, the hospital is reconstructed, and the medical college is finalized.

1957.1
- Yonhi University and Severance Medical College merge to become Yonsei University.

1957
- Wonju Campus (College of Health Science) is established.

1959.4
- Korean Language Institute is established.

1978.10
- Yonsei University celebrates its 100th anniversary.

1985.5
- Yonsei Cancer Center is opened.

1959
- Korean Language Institute is established.

1987
- Korean Language Institute is established.

1989
- Korean Language Institute is established.

2007.3
- Wonju Campus starts the first Residential College (RC) education in Korea.

2010.3
- International Campus officially opens.

2010

2011.3
- Residential College (RC) education begins at the International Campus.

2014.4
- Yonsei Cancer Center is opened.

2017.9
- Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment (IGEE) is founded.

2020.6
- Yonsei ranks 85th in QS World University Rankings 2021.

2019.4
World-class research and education competitiveness

Yonsei University is widely recognized as a world-class university. It is steadily gaining recognition in global university rankings, including first in South Korea and 47th globally in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020, 85th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2021, and third nationally and 147th worldwide in Nature Index 2020.

* As of April 1, 2020

38,555 Students

5,643 Faculty

7,090 Number of Courses (* as of 2020 Spring Semester)

139.5 Scholarship (Unit: Billion KRW)

14,004 On-Campus Housing Capacity (Unit: Number of Persons)

339,777 Alumni (Unit: Number of Persons)

5,643 Research Funding (Unit: Billion KRW, 2019)

6,174 Article Publications (Unit: Case)

23 Campuses

23 Colleges + 2 Divisions + 20 Graduate Schools

135 135th ANNIVERSARY

724 GLOBAL ALLIANCE NETWORK

* As of April 1, 2020
Yonsei University has taken the responsibility to nurture neo-renaissance talent that will lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution and has initiated educational innovation that is transforming the paradigm of higher education. All Yonsei students are now eligible to receive digital literacy training. Yonsei has established various institutions and infrastructure for advanced education to enable students, the leaders of the next generation, to collect and analyze data and deploy computational reasoning skills, with extensive knowledge of the humanities.
University Social Responsibility
Fostering Leaders with a Community-oriented Mindset

Faced by an uncertain future due to rapid technological advancement and changes in the global environment, Yonsei University recognizes the sustainable development of humanity as a key goal. To this end, Yonsei has established various institutions, including the Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment (IGEE) and the Institute for Higher Education Innovation (IHEI), to provide programs and activities that will help resolve social issues.

Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment (IGEE), Fostering Global Citizens
The Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment was founded in 2017 under the leadership of Honorary Chairman Ban Ki-moon, the 8th UN Secretary-General. Since then, IGEE has hosted the Global Engagement & Empowerment Forum on Sustainable Development (GEEF), and undertaken diverse training and volunteer activities to cultivate global citizens.

Institute for Higher Education Innovation (IHEI), Providing Hands-on Training Centered on Problem Solving
The Institute for Higher Education Innovation was established to foster future-oriented talent who can understand the challenges of those in need and proactively address the social issues that they face. It implements an on-site training curriculum and extracurricular activities that build students’ social innovation capacity.

Yonsei University Health System (YUHS), Empowering People through Treatment beyond Borders
The Yonsei University Health System provides financial support to patients in need and runs various programs that help patients readjust to society after treatment by providing holistic care. Ongoing medical service-based social projects include the Severance 1% Sharing Movement, Good Samaritan SOS Project, and Global Severance, Global Charity.
Yonsei University provides an environment and system that helps researchers to focus solely on their research, which is key to university competitiveness. Yonsei is enhancing its status as a research-oriented university by continually improving its proactive research support system and policies (including administrative support, allocation of research facilities, and joint research-matching), thereby promoting more creative research, innovative technology, and knowledge gathering.

Support Platforms for International Collaborative Research

Yonsei Frontier Lab was opened in 2017 to help Yonsei researchers communicate seamlessly with leading researchers around the world. Yonsei University also established Open Network Lab, a joint research hub for researchers, to provide a support platform for international joint research.

Improved Research Support for Newly-Appointed Faculty

Recruiting outstanding faculty is crucial for strengthening university research competitiveness. To build a creative research atmosphere and to encourage the spirit of challenge in our newly-appointed faculty, Yonsei University has operated the Research Initiative for the Future since 2014.
MULTI-CAMPUS,

YONSEI CAMPUSES

Sinchon Campus
A place of innovation that upholds the tradition and heritage of the Yonsei Spirit

Mirae Campus
An independent campus with strong interdisciplinary research and education

Yonsei University Health System
Northeast Asia’s medical hub with global competitiveness

International Campus
The center of innovative global education

ONE YONSEI

Mirae Campus
An independent campus with strong interdisciplinary research and education

International Campus
The center of innovative global education

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Yonsei, the Blue

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Situated in the political, economic, social, and cultural center of Korean society, Yonsei University has witnessed the history of growth and development of the nation.

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Yonsei University Sinchon Campus is located in the middle of downtown Seoul, the capital of Korea, where tradition and cutting-edge technology coexist.

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The legacy of our founders who practiced the values of sharing and devotion in this much-beleaguered nation 135 years ago continues to this day through the Yonsei spirit of truth and freedom. Yonsei University has stood firm as the steward of economic development and democratization of Korea. Underlying the historical success is the creative insight of Yonseians, together with their unflinching dedication to community and society. Even now, as a new period in our globally-shared civilization begins, Yonseians shine brightly in their unique ways, as they faithfully follow their calling.

Here is a short list of Yonseians, whom we celebrate for the year 2020.

Yonseians Shining Brightly

Bong Joon Ho
Film Director, Sociology ’88
With his movie Parasite, Bong swept up awards at nearly every major international film festival between 2019 and 2020 — a monumental achievement in the 100-year history of Korean film.

Lee Juyeol
Governor of Bank of Korea, Business ’70
Well-versed in macroeconomic and financial markets, Lee is the very person who makes decisions on currency and credit policies in Korea.

Suh Kyung-bae
Chairman and CEO, Amorepacific group, Business ’81
Suh is one of the most respected business icons in Korea. His single-minded dedication to R&D in traditional medicine and western cosmetics is the secret in making Amorepacific a global name in the beauty and health industry.

John A. Linton
Director of Severance Hospital International Health Care Center, Medicine ’80
Linton is taking the lead in helping the underprivileged and is reaching out to help tuberculosis patients in North Korea, who have no access to professional medical care.

Cheon Jinwoo
Director of IBS Center for Nanomedicine, Chemistry ’81
Cheon has made remarkable achievements in connecting nanoscience to medicine, enabling research in the field of nanomedicine for the first time in Korea.

Han Kang
Writer, Korean Language and Literature ’89
In 2016, Han was the first person from Asia to win the UK Man Booker International Prize, for her book The Vegetarian.

John Delury
Professor of Graduate School of International Studies
As a member of the 21st Century Leaders Council of the (U.S.) National Committee on American Foreign Policy, John Delury is one of the leading experts in U.S.-China relations, politics, and history on the Korean Peninsula and East Asia.

Kwon Sun-joo
Former Chairman & CEO of Industrial Bank of Korea, English Language and Literature ’74
Kwon is the first woman to have assumed the title of CEO of a Korean bank and is currently a non-executive director of KB Financial Group.
Underwood International College (UIC)
Underwood International College is a highly selective, English-language, four-year liberal arts institution, which combines the intimate, elite learning environment of an American-style liberal arts college with the faculty and resources of Korea’s top private research university. UIC students can choose from an extensive list of classes conducted entirely in English and taught by a distinguished group of international and Korean scholars. With a student body drawn from around the world (2,800 students from 75 countries), UIC is becoming a globally renowned liberal arts college.

Global MBA (GMBA)
Founded in 1998, the Yonsei Global MBA program is the first full-time MBA in Korea where all classes are conducted in English. The Yonsei Global MBA program cultivates creative and ethical professional managers with a global perspective through outstanding education and leading research. Graduates are active world leaders in various fields, including corporate management. GMBA ranked 52nd globally by The Times Higher Education/Wall Street Journal in 2018.

Global Leaders College (GLC)
Global Leaders College is committed to providing education to talented people and to equipping them to play key roles in the international stage based on their overall understanding of Korean culture, politics, and economy. In parallel with its curriculum mainly delivered in Korean, GLC offers a variety of educational services including customized academic guidance and face-to-face writing tutorials as well as ample Korean cultural programs. As of 2020, GLC consists of over 1,000 students from 57 countries and accommodates five majors in International Commerce, Korean Language & Culture Education, Culture & Media, Bio & Living Engineering, and Applied Information Engineering.

Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS)
The Graduate School of International Studies was established in 1987 to meet the growing global demand for international academic institutions and to educate individuals to become global experts. With the entire curriculum conducted in English, 65% of the student body are international students from diverse cultural backgrounds. Dual degree and exchange programs with over 650 partner universities in 70 countries also enable GSIS students to graduate with a key competitive edge.

Korean Language Institute (KLI)
Founded in 1959, the Korean Language Institute (KLI) has been playing a key role in Korean language education around the world, teaching Korean language and culture to international students, professors, and diplomats. www.yskli.com

Study at Yonsei

STUDY AT YONSEI

Yonsei University collaborates with 724 partner universities in 77 countries to provide various opportunities for students around the world to develop their perspectives and insights as global citizens. Yonsei offers degree programs and study abroad programs to help outstanding students from abroad gain academic excellence while experiencing Korean language, society, and culture.

Study at Yonsei in Korea

Global MBA (GMBA)
Yonsei International Summer School (YISS)
YISS offers a wide range of courses taught by leading experts and professors, also featuring internship programs that help students gain real-life work experience. The exciting learning environment continues outside the classroom with a variety of extracurricular activities.

Global Leaders College (GLC)

Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS)

Korean Language Institute (KLI)

Winter Abroad at Yonsei (WAY)
WAY offers two separate sessions that focus on academic achievement with various courses and intensive Korean language courses along with special cultural and historical lectures. Participants can enjoy special Korean winter activities on the weekends.

YISS

YISS

Study at Yonsei

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YISS
Yonsei University's challenges for the future

The noble spirit of “Yonsei: Toward Truth and Freedom” has persevered throughout the waves of modern Korean history for the last 135 years and will continue making strides.

Please join us on our journey for the sustainable development of humankind.

More...

Please refer to the web page for more information.

More...about.yonsei.ac.kr/eng