Kookmin University is committed to educating Korea’s next generation of leaders, to be equipped with practical knowledge and a community mindset that values compassion and cooperation.
Kookmin has evolved from a "university for the nation" to a prestigious private education institution dedicated to nurturing global leaders and creating positive change through pragmatism and a community mindset.

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, Kookmin announced the new slogan "75 Years of Innovation, the Future of Kookmin" and held a wide range of commemorative events.

75th anniversary of Kookmin

Evolution from a university for the nation to a university for the world

1946 – Became the first private university established after the liberation of Korea

Shin Ik Heu appointed as the first president after the foundation of Kookmin University

1959 – Value of intellect and freedom based on a foundation of action, practicality, and empiricism

Kim Sung Gon inaugurated as chairman of the board
New school buildings built in Changsung-dong

1971 – Establishment in Bugak to actualize the university's long-term educational vision

Kim Sung Gon, a successful businessman, took the helm of the Kookmin Foundation in 1959, after the demise of Shin Ik Hee, going on to usher in a period of growth and advancement for the university.

1971 University moved to Jeongneung-dong, Seongbuk-gu, Korea
1974 Construction of the campus landmark building (present-day Bugak Hall) completed
1976 Master's programs launched after securing approval to establish a graduate school
1978 PhD programs launched

1980 – Pursuit of further growth as a mid-tier university

1980 Elected to "comprehensive university" status; six colleges launched (College of Humanities, College of Law, College of Economics and Commerce, College of Engineering, College of Design, and College of Education)
1981-1997 College of Law, College of Social Sciences, College of Forest Science established, along with 11 specialized graduate schools and professional graduate schools

1989 College of Arts established
1999 College of Physical Education and Graduate School of Techno Design established
2001 College of Architecture established
2002 Graduate School of Business IT and Graduate School of Total Arts established

1998 – Evolution into a comprehensive university with diverse academic offerings to meet the demands and interests of the time

1998 College of Arts established
1999 College of Physical Education and Graduate School of Techno Design established
2001 College of Architecture established
2002 Graduate School of Business IT and Graduate School of Total Arts established
2006 College of Business Administration and College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science established
2012 Yu Ji-seo inaugurated as 11th president of the university
2014 College of Automotive Engineering and Graduate School of Global Entrepreneurship established and construction of the Innovation & Partnership Building and Global Center completed
2016 Yu Ji-seo inaugurated as 11th president of the university

2006 – Taking a bold step forward into the new millennium

2006 College of Business Administration and College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science established

2012 Yu Ji-seo inaugurated as 11th president of the university
2014 College of Automotive Engineering and Graduate School of Global Entrepreneurship established and construction of the Innovation & Partnership Building and Global Center completed
2016 Yu Ji-seo inaugurated as 11th president of the university

2006 Global Center for Humanities and Area Studies, College of Creative Engineering, College of Science and Technology, and College of Computer Science established

KMU CRC selected for funding as part of the second phase of a project of the Ministry of Science and ICT
Selected for the UINCEUS Leaders in Industry-University Cooperation Plus project by the Ministry of Education

2017 – Kookmin University, an institution ahead of its time striving to become a truly global university

2017 Kim Ji-hyeong inaugurated as 22nd chairman of the board

Global College of Humanities and Area Studies, College of Creative Engineering, College of Science and Technology, and College of Computer Science established
KMU CRC selected for funding as part of the second phase of a project of the Ministry of Science and ICT
Selected for the UINCEUS Leaders in Industry-University Cooperation Plus project by the Ministry of Education

2018 Selected for the University Innovation Support Pilot Project by the Ministry of Education

2019 Graduate School of Software established
EXPANDING HORIZONS TO THE BIGGER WORLD

Amid the rapid changes underway in learning environments today, KMU is creating a new paradigm of higher education by building an advanced academic world of its own.
Different Thinking, Different Future

While turning potential into a strong competitive advantage and creating partnerships based on responsibility, compassion, and understanding, the KMU will change the world by pushing itself to achieve innovation.

Practice-oriented Education

Academia-industry partnerships with both domestic and international corporations
- Operation of the Hyundai Motor Group Automobile Track and LG Electronics Industry-Academia Cooperation Center
- Partnerships with Microsoft Korea, GM Korea, IBM Korea and other global businesses

Software-centered Education

Utilization of software as a specialized tool for education in the era of information and communication technology
- Selected as a software-centered university with government grants totaling KRW 10.8 billion
- Offering of coding classes for all first-year students and IoT training for all the classes
- Internship and employment opportunities in Silicon Valley and participation in the California State University research project

Convergence Education

Operation of innovative programs that combine seemingly unrelated fields of study
- Capstone Design (creative construction) Competition
- “Team Team” (Interdisciplinary Class)
- Learning philosophy together with disabled people (philosophy of law and sports for people with disabilities)
- Bringing imagination into reality through AR game programs (AR convergence design + game software)

Civic Engagement

Expansion of student engagement in communal problem solving
- Field trips to cultural heritage sites in Seongbuk-gu
- Production of musical about the unification of Korea
- Autonomous car class at Seongbuk-gu Office for students in grades 1 to 12
- First university in Korea to undertake the community mapping project

Education Designed to Foster Creative Individuals

Reinforcement of high-tech education for aspiring leaders in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Selected as a Leading University of Innovation in the 4th Industrial Revolution (UAV/unmanned automotive vehicle)
- First Korean university to hold the Fourth Industrial Revolution Festival
- Leader in self-driving and solar vehicles and smart fashion
- Home to the largest 3D printer in Korea
- Operation of a modular smart fashion platform research center
- Launch of the Graduate School of Techno Design 3D Printing Product Innovation Design Lab

Start-up Incubator

Encouragement of young entrepreneurs and support of their entry into international markets
- Ranked first in terms of entrepreneurship education in the University Rankings by the JoongAng Ilbo daily newspaper in 2017-2018
- Operation of “Slam Innovators’ Studio,” an academic course designed for students to gain product development experience in IT businesses
- Held “Kookmin Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp”
Through the student exchange agreements with 433 universities in 59 nations around the world, the KMU is broadening the horizons of education.

**Study Abroad Programs**

**Student Exchange Program**
KMU students can choose to spend a semester or two at one of our partner institutions and earn credit towards their degree. KMU also welcomes exchange students from all over the world which makes our campus more diverse. KMU supervises over 500 student exchange with partner universities annually.

**Visiting Student Program**
KMU students can choose to study abroad as a Visiting Student if they wish to study at a non-exchange institution. Visiting students will need to pay tuition to both home university and host university, and KMU will provide scholarship which covers the home university’s tuition and some living expenses.

**Dual Degree Program**
KMU students have an opportunity to graduate from KMU and a partner university under the dual degree agreement. Some of our dual degree partners are including University of Oregon in the US and University of Victoria in Canada.

**Language Training Program**
KMU students can learn English, Spanish or Japanese at our partner universities during the Summer/Winter vacation period. The 3 to 6 week language program is a great way for students to learn the foreign language and culture at the same time.

**Sunglok Global Exposure (SGE)**
SGE program is KMU’s faculty-led program which is organized by each department or college. KMU students participating in the SGE will be able to deepen their knowledge through hands-on experiences related to their majors.