



Scholarship Information

KOREA-LAC TECH CORPS PROGRAM

March 2026

Competitiveness, Technology, and Innovation Division

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Introduction

The Inter-American Development Bank is looking for public servants with a willingness to receive a scholarship for a fully funded master's degree program in Korea. With the financial support of the Knowledge Partnership Korea Fund for Technology and Innovation, the Bank will provide up to 20 scholarships for mid-level public servants from 26 LAC borrowing member countries of the Bank.

These scholarships will cover the full tuition, application/admission fee, accommodation, monthly allowance for living expenses, educational materials, health insurance, preparatory course, Korean language course, orientation activities, and economy-class trip to and from Korea.

Ajou University, Graduate School of International Studies - **Public Innovative ICT Management (PIIM) Program** was selected as hosting university for the LAC Tech Corps Program and offers a joint Degree in **Master of Public Management (MPM) and MBA in AI/IT Business**.

The Public Innovative ICT Management (PIIM) is designed to empower mid-level public servants with an *enriched understanding of ICT-related areas and* the latest ICT trends and innovative managerial insights.

The infographic is set against a background of a modern building and a map of Latin America. On the left, a blue vertical bar contains the text 'ABOUT' and three statistics: '~20 Scholarships', '26 LAC Borrowing Member Countries', and '18 Months'. The main area is titled 'Fully covers -' and lists eight categories of coverage, each with an icon and a label: Tuition (graduation cap), Application/admission (laptop with globe), Accomodation (house), Monthly allowance (classical building), Health insurance (plus sign in a circle), Preparatory course, Korean classes, & orientation activities (notepad with symbols), Economy-class round trip (airplane), and Educational materials (stack of books). The IDB logo is in the bottom right corner.

ABOUT

- ~20 Scholarships
- 26 LAC Borrowing Member Countries
- 18 Months

Fully covers -

- Tuition
- Application/admission
- Accomodation
- Monthly allowance
- Health insurance
- Preparatory course, Korean classes, & orientation activities
- Economy-class round trip
- Educational materials

IDB

1. Eligibility

The selection of program beneficiaries will be made through a competitive process based on merit, considering the link between the applicant's professional profile and the academic program offered. The following table lists the eligibility criteria for participating in this program.

TABLE 1. Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility	Description
Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a citizen among the 26 IDB LAC member countries
Academic degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Bachelor's degree or equivalent with a superior academic record
Professional experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least three (3) years of full-time professional work experience (at the time of application) in the public sector, acquired after obtaining a university degree
Current employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently working as a public servant in a public agency in the country of your nationality. • For the purposes of this program, a public servant is understood to be any appointed official, employee, or consultant who provides services full-time to a national, state, or local institution, regardless of the type of employment arrangement. • Priority will be given to public servants linked to institutions involved in the design and/or implementation of public policies for growth, competitiveness, scientific and technological development, the promotion of innovation, and productive development. For example, economic development and planning, information technologies, cybersecurity and data protection, digital transformation, regulation and governance, competitiveness and innovation, sustainability, productive development, industry, among others.
English proficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency in oral and written English to be able to pursue studies (as determined by TOEFL or IELTS exam scores)
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 years old or less at the time of application.

Private sector employees or professionals working or living outside the region are not eligible.

Those with relatives (up to the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including the spouse) working at the IDB, IDB Invest or IDB Lab are not eligible. Neither family members of IDB executive directors or alternate directors.

2. About the Academic Program

2.1 Curriculum

The Program comprises of required coursework (5 courses for 15 credits hours), a special coursework (1 course for 6 credits hours), and elective coursework (6 courses for 18 credits hours) for the non-thesis track.

For the thesis track to receive MPM degree students must complete the required coursework (5 courses for 15 credits hours), a special coursework (1 course for 6 credits hours), elective coursework (4 courses for 12 credits hours), research coursework (2 courses for 6 credits hours) and finish writing a thesis. Program curriculum is detailed in Table 2.

TABLE 2. Curriculum

Required course/Tracks	Coursework name
Required Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Based Governance • ICT Public Management • Organization Theory in Public Management • Economic Analysis and Public Policy • Statistics
Non-thesis Track 1 Public Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-government Framework and Public ICT Project Management • Korean Governmental Accounting • Public Relations and Risk Management • Technology Management and Innovation • Civil Society and Public Policy • Green Development • Social Development and Poverty Reduction • Social Movement and Social Change • International Trade and Development • Introduction to International Development and Cooperation • Capstone Project • Internship
Non-thesis Track 2 Innovation and Managerial Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Process Management • Organizational Behavior • Marketing Management • Financial Management • Supply Chain Management • Strategic Management • Global Entrepreneur Leadership • Capstone Project • Internship

**Non-thesis Track 2
Analytics and ICT**

- AI Business Model Innovation
- AI and Machine Learning Application
- Econometric Method
- Introduction to Information Technology and Management
- Electronic Commerce
- Digital Media and Content Creation & Branding
- Quantitative Research Design and Method
- Capstone Project
- Internship

Thesis Track

- Research 1
- Research 2

Special Course

- SEBS – Sharing the experiences of building a smart city

Korean Language and Culture Course

- Beginning Korean Language 1
- Beginning Korean Language 2

2.2 Graduation Requirements

Students must complete at least 39 credits, earn a GPA higher than 3.0 (higher than B), and pass comprehensive exams on 2 subjects to graduate. Comprehensive exams can be taken from the fall semester.

Thesis track students will earn research credits for working on a thesis, which must be submitted for graduation.

All international students are required to take Beginning Korean Language I.

TABLE 3. Graduation Requirements

Track	Korean	Major Required	Major Elective	SEBS	Research	Total	Comprehensive Exam
Thesis Track	0	15	6	6	6	39	2 subjects
Non-thesis Track	0	15	12	6	0	39	2 subjects

2.3 Duration and Academic Calendar

TABLE 4. Academic Calendar

Semester	Date	Schedule
Korean classes	2026. 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online
Preparatory course	2026.08- 2026.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival, Orientation • Orientation & preliminary session, Campus Tour • Course registration
1st Semester Fall Session	2026.09– 2026.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall semester • Mid-term examination period • Field Trip • Final examination period
Winter Break	2026.12 - 2027.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter break
2nd Semester Spring Session	2027.02-03 2027.03-2027.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring semester course registration • Spring semester • Preliminary application for Thesis Advisor • Mid-term examination period • Final examination period
Summer Break	2027.06- 2027.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer break • Summer special session
3rd Semester Fall Session	2027.08-2027.09 2027.09 – 2027.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall semester course registration • Fall semester • Mid-term examination period • Thesis defense • Final examination period
Graduation	2027.12 2027.12-2028.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis submission • Graduation Ceremony • Departure • Graduation date

3. Application Details

3.1 Required Documents

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO AJOU UNIVERSITY (All documents must be presented in English)

- A Copy of the Online Application Form (available for download after completion of online application)
- Statement of Purpose (500 words minimum)
- A valid English proficiency test score (a minimum score of 71 for TOEFL IBT or 5.5 or above for IELTS)
- Original Apostilled/Attested (by Korean Consular) Undergraduate Graduation Certificate^{1,2}
- Original Apostilled/Attested (by Korean Consular) Undergraduate Transcript^{1,3}
- Employment Certificate Letter³
- One recommendation letter from current employer (must use Ajou template)
- Copy of Passport
- Agreement Form for Academic Verification (available for download after completion of online application; printed and signed)

*Please submit your online application [here](#) first and then submit your offline application to the University, both within the application deadline. Please note that offline documents sent to the University will not be returned.

English Proficiency Requirement

- Certified English proficiency scores (TOEFL iBT 71, IELTS 5.5 or above) valid until the application submission deadline.
- TOEFL MyBestScores and iBT Home Edition scores are accepted. Test dates for all four sections of the applicant's MyBestScores report must be within the valid date.
- (English as a Medium of Instruction) Applicants who have completed their Bachelor's Degree from the following countries are exempt from submitting an English Proficiency Test score report: United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Republic of South Africa.

¹ After obtaining the apostille/attestation, the applicant must submit the original apostille/attestation, not a copy thereof.

² Do not submit your original diploma to the University, as documents cannot be returned once submitted. It is suggested to submit a graduation certificate letter or any equivalent document that can serve as proof of graduation degree and date.

³ If the original is not in English, it must be translated and notarized prior to receiving apostille/attested.

Apostille/Attestation (Korean Consulate Confirmation)

- Applicants from Apostille member countries must obtain an Apostille verification certificate for their documents.

Apostille member LAC countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

- Applicants not from Apostille member countries must obtain Attestation (Consular Confirmation) from the Korean Embassy.
- Applicants from Apostille member countries cannot submit consular-confirmed documents; they must submit apostilled documents.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO IDB (techcorps@iadb.org)

Any public servant who wishes to apply for the scholarship program must submit the following documents to the IDB within the application deadlines.

1. **An employment verification letter** from the public institution where the applicant works, indicating:
 - a. Full name of the candidate
 - b. Current position
 - c. Division or unit
 - d. Type of employment (civil servant or consultant/contractor)
 - e. Duration of employment
 - f. Confirmation that the candidate is a current employee
 - g. The letter must be signed and issued by a high-level authority of the entity and/or by appropriate relevant authority.
2. **Applicant's commitment letter:** The applicant must sign a commitment letter stating their obligation to successfully complete their studies and return to the public sector of their country of nationality to continue providing their services.

3.2 Application Key Dates

TABLE 5. Application Key Dates

Item	Dates
Online and Offline Application to Ajou University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 13 – June 19, 2026
Official nomination letter to IDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 13 – June 19, 2026
Online Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• End of May – End of July, 2026
Announcement of Final Admission Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 2026
Visa Issuance and Survey for Flight Ticket Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 2026
Beginning of the academic semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 1, 2026

3.3 Summary of Application Steps

APPLICATION STEPS

1. Express interest to apply and submit letter of employment verification and letter of commitment to IDB

March - June 19, 2026

Notify the Program team at techcorps@iadb.org your interest to apply. Submit the letter of employment verification and letter of commitment to IDB. Any questions regarding the scholarship program and eligibility will be answered by the Program team.

2. Prepare application documents

March- June19, 2026

Carefully refer to the brochure for the required documents to submit your application directly to the University. Any questions regarding the application documents will be answered by Ajou University gsis_admission@ajou.ac.kr
**Early documentation preparation and application is highly encouraged to avoid complications.*

3. Submit your online application

April 19- June 19, 2026

Following the application guidelines, complete and submit your online application on the Ajou University portal.

4. Send your offline application to the University

April 19 - June 19, 2026

Physical documents must be sent to the University for your application to be considered. Please note that documents sent to Korea will not be returned.

5. Notify the Bank of completion of application

April 19 - June 19, 2026

Email techcorps@iadb.org to notify completion of both online and offline application submission.

4. Where to apply and Inquiry

- To submit your application, go to the Ajou application homepage at <https://www.ajou.ac.kr/gsis-apply/index.html>
- For complete information about the Program, application guidelines, and to download templates, please see <https://korealactechcorps.com/>
- *For questions or clarifications about the Scholarship program and eligibility, please contact: techcorps@iadb.org*
- *For questions related to application documents, please contact gsis_admission@ajou.ac.kr*
- *Information on the Graduate School of International Studies at Ajou University: Website: <http://gsis.ajou.ac.kr>*

