



Scholarship Information

KOREA-LAC TECH CORPS PROGRAM

Public Innovative ICT Management (PIIM) Program
Master of Public Management (MPM) and MBA in AI/IT Business
Ajou University

Competitiveness, Technology, and Innovation Division

Financed through the Knowledge Partnership Korea Fund for Technology and Innovation

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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 13 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.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
Master's Degree Program in South Korea
Full Scholarship for Public Sector Professionals

UP TO 13
FULL SCHOLARSHIPS

26
ELIGIBLE BORROWING MEMBER COUNTRIES

18
MONTHS

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

Studies	Accommodation
Tuition	Housing
Application / Admission Fees	Monthly Stipend
Health Coverage	Travel & Preparation
Medical Insurance	Round-trip Airfare
	Preparatory Course
	Korean Language Classes
	Orientation Activities
	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	Be a citizen among the 26 IDB LAC member countries¹
Academic degree	A Bachelor's degree or equivalent with a superior academic record
Professional experience	- 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 - 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 or employee, who provides services full-time to a national, state, or local institution, regardless of the type of employment arrangement.
Current employment	<i>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.</i>
English proficiency	Proficiency in oral and written English to be able to pursue studies (as determined by TOEFL or IELTS exam scores)
Age	40 years old or less at the time of application.

Note: Private sector employees and 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.

¹ The 26 borrowing member countries of the IDB are Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

2. About the Academic Program

2.1 Curriculum

The Program comprises 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), 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	• ICT Based Governance • ICT Public Management • Organization Theory in Public Management • Economic Analysis and Public Policy • Statistics
Non-thesis Track 1 Public Management	• 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	• 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
Preparatory course	2027.02-2027.03	• Arrival, Orientation • Orientation & preliminary session, Campus Tour • Course registration
1st Semester Spring Session	2027.03– 2027.06	• Spring semester • Mid-term examination period • Final examination period • Korean online courses
Summer Break	2027.06- 2027.08	• Summer break • Summer special session
2nd Semester Fall Session	2027.08-2027.09 2027.09-2027.12	• Fall semester course registration • Fall semester • Preliminary application for Thesis Advisor • Mid-term examination period • Final examination period • Korean online courses
Winter Break	2027.12- 2028.02	• Winter break
3rd Semester Spring Session	2028.02-2028.03 2028.03 – 2028.06	• Spring semester course registration • Spring semester • Mid-term examination period • Thesis defense • Final examination period • Korean online courses
Graduation	2028.07 2028.07-2028.08	• Thesis submission • Graduation Ceremony • Departure • Graduation date

3. Application Details

3.1 Required Documents

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO AJOU UNIVERSITY

No.	List of Documents	Description
1	One Copy of Online Application Forms	Available for download and print after completing the online application. Must be printed and signed before sending the physical copy. Digital signatures are accepted.
2	One Statement of Purpose	Minimum of 500 words, maximum of 2000 words.
3	One Official English Proficiency Test Score	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.
4	One Undergraduate Diploma or graduation certificate	Official undergraduate diploma document issued in English with the Apostille attached. If the document is not in English, it must be translated and notarized prior to getting it Apostilled.
5	One Undergraduate Transcript	Official undergraduate transcript issued in English with the Apostille attached. If the document is not in English, it must be translated and notarized prior to getting it Apostilled. When there is no explanation of the undergraduate institution's grading system on the official transcript, a separate explanation should be included with the transcript.
6	One recommendation letter	Must come from your current affiliation (employer) using the official recommendation form [download]. Applicants under the Korea-LAC Tech Corps Program only need to submit ONE letter.
7	One Employment Certificate Letter	Must be from your current public sector employer.

8	One copy of Passport	-
9	One Agreement Form for Academic Verification	Provide the details of the staff in charge of academic records from undergraduate institution [download]. Must be printed and signed before sending the physical copy. Digital signatures are accepted.

Note:

1. Please complete and submit your online application via the [application portal](#) first and then submit your offline application to the University via post.
2. For detailed information on how to complete the application, please refer to the [Application Guideline](#).
3. For a successful application, applicants must submit all documents in the checklist via both online and offline (original hard copy). Applications that do not complete both online and offline applications will not be considered by the University.
4. Online and offline application submission window is open from October 12 to November 20, 2026 (KST). Both the online application and offline (original hard copy) document submission must be completed by November 20, 2026 (KST). If needed, physical documents which require Apostille may be submitted to the University by December 20, 2026 (KST).
5. All documents must be presented in English. If the document is not in English, it must be translated and notarized.
6. Please note that offline documents sent to the University will not be returned.
7. All questions regarding application documents can be directed directly to the Ajou University via gsis_admission@ajou.ac.kr
8. All questions regarding the scholarship program can be directed to techcorps@iadb.org
9. **Due to the time needed to prepare the required documents, it is highly recommended to start the preparation of documents as soon as possible.**

Offline Submission via Post

- Please send the physical documents package via post (EMS/DHL/Fedex or other) to the following address:

Receiver: GSIS, Ajou University
Address: Yulgok Hall #155, 206 Worldcup-ro, Yeongtong-gu, Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do, 16499, Republic of Korea
- When submitting the offline document, please email the university the tracking number of your document shipping.

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

Eligible public servants who wish to apply for the scholarship program must **ALSO** submit the following documents to the IDB within the application deadlines. These documents can be presented in either Spanish or English.

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 arrangement
 - 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 for a minimum period of 24 months.

3.2 Application Key Dates

TABLE 5. Application Key Dates

Item	Dates (Korea Standard Time, KST)
Online and Offline Application to Ajou University	• October 12 – November 20, 2026 <i>*Both the online application and offline (original hard copy) document submission must be completed by November 20, 2026 (KST). If needed, documents which require Apostille may be submitted to the University by December 20, 2026 (KST).</i>
Official employment verification letter and applicant's commitment letter to IDB	• October 12 – November 20, 2026
Online Interview	• December 7-11, 2026 • December 21-25, 2026
Announcement of Pre-admission	<i>*Applicants who were unable to submit Apostille (or consular-confirmed) documents or have been requested by the University to submit additional and/or corrected documents must submit them to the University by December 20, 2026 (KST).</i>
Final Admission Package Sent from University (via email)	• January 11-January 15, 2027
Beginning of the academic semester	• March 2, 2027

4. Where to apply and contact for inquiries

- 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://www.iadb.org/en/who-we-are/topics/science-and-technology/initiatives/korea-lac-tech-corps-program>
- *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>

