

**Department of Geography Graduate Student Handbook**  
**Graduate School of Kyung Hee University**

Effective Date: March 1, 2026

Section 1. Purpose and Scope

- ① These guidelines outline the specific requirements and procedures for obtaining graduate degrees within the Department of Geography, College of Science, Kyung Hee University.
- ② All degree-seeking students must satisfy the requirements set forth in the University Statutes (대학원학칙), the Graduate School Enforcement Regulations (대학원학칙시행세칙), the Graduate School Internal Rules(대학원내규), and these departmental guidelines.
- ③ **This English version of the Handbook is provided for the convenience of international students. In the event of any conflict, discrepancy, or inconsistency between the Korean original text and this English translation, the Korean version shall prevail and take precedence in all administrative and legal interpretations.**

Section 2. Educational Objectives

- ① The Department of Geography aims to:
  - 1. Enhance understanding of regions through scientific analysis of spatial distribution patterns and the formation processes of physical and human phenomena on the Earth.
  - 2. Foster advanced research capabilities and elevate the academic excellence of graduate students.

Section 3. Career Paths and Professional Development

- ① The program prepares graduates for various career paths, including but not limited to:
  - 1. Academic and professional research positions in geography-related fields.
  - 2. Admission to doctoral or post-doctoral programs at domestic and international institutions.

Section 4. Curriculum Structure and Credits

- ① To complete or graduate from the program, students must earn the credits specified in Table 1.
- ② Courses offered by other departments (not listed in Appendix 1) may be recognized as major electives within the limits specified in [Table 1], subject to departmental approval.
- ③ Prerequisite credits are mandatory for eligible students but will not count toward the total credits required for completion or graduation.

[Table 1] Curriculum Structure

Major	Degree Program	Credits required for graduation				External Credit Limit
		Required Major	Major Electives	Common Courses	Total	

Geography	Master's	-	24	-	24	9
	Doctoral	-	36	-	36	12
	Combined (M.S./Ph.D.)	-	60	-	60	12

#### Section 5. Course Listing and Descriptions

- ① The list of courses provided by the department is provided in <Appendix 1: Course Schedule(교육과정편성표)>.
- ② Detailed descriptions of each course are provided in <Appendix 2: Course Descriptions(교과목해설서)>.

#### Section 6. Prerequisite Requirements

- ① Students falling under the following categories must complete prerequisite coursework as follows:
  1. Prerequisites are required for students who hold a degree in a different major, come from a non-equivalent field, or when the department deems it necessary for academic preparation.
  2. Required Credits: 9 credits for Master's; 12 credits for Doctoral and Combined programs.
- ② Credits earned in a previous degree program may be recognized as prerequisites upon application, verification by the academic advisor and Department Chair, and final approval by the relevant administrative head.

#### Section 7. External Credit Recognition

- ① With the Department Chair's approval, students may enroll in major courses offered by other departments.
  1. Eligibility: Graduate students in the Department of Geography.
  2. Credit Limits for External Coursework: Master's Program: Up to 9 credits; Doctoral and Combined (M.S./Ph.D.) Programs: Up to 12 credits.
  3. Approval and Recognition: External courses are recognized as major electives only for students who obtain prior approval from their academic advisor and the Department Chair and submit the formal application during the designated course registration period.
- ② Credits exceeding these limits may be recognized only after review and approval from a departmental meeting.

#### Section 8. Graduate School Common Courses

- ① Credits earned from Common Courses (Interdisciplinary/General Graduate Courses) in the Graduate School may be applied toward degree requirements, subject to approval by the academic advisor and the Department Chair.

#### Section 9. Degree Qualification Examinations

- ① Students must pass the Degree Qualification Examination to be eligible to submit a degree thesis or dissertation.
- ② The examination consists of:
  1. GRADS7012: Public Presentation (Oral Defense)
  2. GRADS7019: Comprehensive Examination (Written)

- ③ To successfully complete the program, students must pass both the public presentation and the written exams.

#### Section 10. Admission to Candidacy

- ① Admission to Candidacy (completion of coursework) is granted to students who have fulfilled the credit requirements in Section 4 and satisfied all higher university regulations.
- ② All assigned prerequisites must be completed prior to admission to candidacy; however, these credits are excluded from the total candidacy credit count.
- ③ External or common course credits are recognized toward candidacy only within the limits specified in their rules.

#### Section 11. Graduation and Degree Conferral

- ① Degrees are conferred upon students who satisfy all requirements in Section 10, pass the Degree Qualification Examinations, and meet all thesis defense and publication requirements.

#### [Supplementary Provisions (Addenda)]

##### [Addendum 1]

- ① Effective Date: March 1, 2014
- ② Transitional Measures: Continuing students follow the prior curriculum but may opt into the new one.

##### [Addendum 2]

- ① Effective Date: March 1, 2016
- ② Transitional Measures: Continuing students follow the prior curriculum but may opt into the new one.

##### [Addendum 3]

- ① Effective Date: March 1, 2020
- ② Transitional Measures: Continuing students follow the prior curriculum but may opt into the new one.

##### [Addendum 4]

- ① Effective Date: March 1, 2021
- ② Transitional Measures: Continuing students follow the prior curriculum but may opt into the new one.
- ③ Section 9 (Qualification Exams) applies to all students, including those admitted on or after March 1, 2020.

##### [Addendum 5]

- ① Effective Date: March 1, 2021
- ② Transitional Measures:
  - A. The 2022 Degree Qualification Exam requirements may apply to students admitted prior to the 2022 academic year.
  - B. The Degree Qualification Exam may serve as a substitute for the Public Presentation or the Thesis Submission Eligibility Exam.

C. For students opting for this substitution, any previously earned results or credits for the Public Presentation or Thesis Submission Eligibility Exam will not be recognized.

[Addendum 6]

- ① Effective Date: March 1, 2023
- ② Transitional Measures: Continuing students follow the prior curriculum but may opt into the new one, subject to departmental review and Chair approval.

[Addendum 7]

- ① Effective Date: March 1, 2024
- ② Transitional Measures: Continuing students follow the prior curriculum but may opt into the new one, subject to departmental review and Chair approval.

[Addendum 8]

- ① Effective Date: March 1, 2025
- ② Transitional Measures: Continuing students follow the prior curriculum but may opt into the new one, subject to departmental review and Chair approval.