The Ultimate Seoul National University Application Checklist & Guide for International Students

This guide is designed to supplement your research and help you navigate the application process for Seoul National University. Use this checklist to stay organized and ensure you have covered all necessary steps for a successful application.

Section 1: Pre-Application Phase (6-12 Months Before Deadline)

This is the crucial planning stage. What you do here sets the foundation for your entire application.

[ ] Academic & Program Research

- Browse the official SNU website to identify the colleges and specific programs (undergraduate or graduate) that align with your academic and career goals.
- Confirm the language of instruction for your desired programs. Are they taught in Korean, English, or a combination?
- Carefully note the application periods and deadlines. SNU has separate admissions for the Spring and Fall semesters. Deadlines are strict.
- Research the specific curriculum, faculty, and research opportunities within your target department.

[ ] Language Proficiency Preparation

- **For Korean-Taught Programs:**
  - Register for an upcoming TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) exam.
  - Check the minimum TOPIK level required by your desired college (typically Level 3 or 4 for admission).
  - Begin a dedicated study plan to achieve your target score.
- **For English-Taught Programs:**
  - Register for an upcoming TOEFL or IELTS exam.
  - Check the minimum score required by your desired college (e.g., TOEFL iBT 80, IELTS 6.0, or higher).
  - Practice regularly to ensure you meet or exceed the requirement.

[ ] Document & Financial Planning

- Identify teachers, professors, or mentors to ask for letters of recommendation.

- Begin the process of obtaining official school records. Find out your school's procedure for issuing apostilled or consular-confirmed documents, as this can take significant time.
- Review the financial requirements. You will need to submit a bank statement showing a minimum balance (e.g., $20,000 USD, but check the latest guide for the exact amount). Plan accordingly with your sponsor or family.

Section 2: Application Phase (2-4 Months Before Deadline)

This is the document-gathering and submission stage. Be meticulous and detail-oriented.

[ ] Required Documents Checklist
(Note: Always refer to the official admissions guide for the most current and complete list)
- **[ ] Online Application Form:** Completed and submitted via the official SNU admissions website.
- **[ ] Application Fee:** Paid online, with the receipt saved.
- **[ ] Personal Statement & Study Plan:** Written according to the prompts provided in the application. This is your chance to tell your story and demonstrate your passion.
- **[ ] Letter(s) of Recommendation:** Submitted directly by your recommenders through the online portal or mailed in a sealed envelope, as per the guidelines.
- **[ ] Official Transcripts:** An official record of all your high school (for undergraduate) or university (for graduate) grades. Must be apostilled or receive consular confirmation.
- **[ ] Certificate of Graduation/Diploma:** Your official diploma. Must be apostilled or receive consular confirmation.
- **[ ] Official Language Proficiency Score Report:** Your TOPIK, TOEFL, or IELTS scorecard.
- **[ ] Applicant's Passport Copy:** A clear, color copy of the identification page.
- **[ ] Copies of Both Parents' Passports or ID Cards.**
- **[ ] Proof of Parentage:** An official document showing the parent-child relationship, such as a birth certificate or family registry.
- **[ ] Proof of Financial Support:** A recent, official bank statement meeting the minimum balance requirement.
- **[ ] Portfolio (If Applicable):** Required for applicants to programs in Fine Arts, Music, Design, etc.
- **[ ] Supplemental Materials (Optional but Recommended):** List of honors, awards, standardized test scores (SAT, AP, IB, GRE), or any other documents that strengthen your application.

Section 3: Post-Application & Pre-Arrival Phase

You've submitted your application. Here's what to do next.

[ ] Post-Application Follow-Up

- Regularly monitor your application status through the SNU admissions portal.
- Check your email frequently for any communications from the admissions office, including requests for additional documents or interview invitations.
- If an interview is required, prepare by researching your department and practicing your responses.

[ ] Upon Receiving Acceptance

- Congratulations! Read your letter of admission carefully and accept your offer by the deadline.
- Receive the official Certificate of Admission, which is required for your visa application.
- Pay the first semester's tuition fee to secure your spot.
- Immediately begin the D-2 Student Visa application process at the South Korean embassy or consulate in your country.
- Apply for on-campus housing (dormitory) as soon as the application window opens, as spots are competitive.
- Book your flight to Incheon, South Korea.
- Plan your first week in Korea: You will need to apply for your Alien Registration Card (ARC) shortly after arrival.

Section 4: Key Resources & Links

- **SNU Office of International Admissions (OIA):** https://oia.snu.ac.kr/
- **SNU Admissions Website (For Application Forms):** https://en.snu.ac.kr/admission
- **Study in Korea (Official Government Portal):** https://www.studyinkorea.go.kr/
- **HiKorea (Visa & Immigration):** https://www.hikorea.go.kr/
- **TOPIK Official Website:** https://www.topik.go.kr/

Section 5: Pro Tips for a Standout Application

- **Tell a Story:** In your personal statement, don't just list what you did. Explain *why* you did it, what you learned, and how it connects to your desire to study at SNU.
- **Start Document Authentication Early:** The Apostille or Consular Confirmation process

is often the most time-consuming part of the application. Do not leave it until the last minute.

- **Choose Recommenders Wisely:** Ask teachers who know you well and can speak to your academic strengths and character. Provide them with your resume, study plan, and clear instructions well in advance.
- **Proofread Everything:** A single typo can show a lack of care. Have a friend, teacher, or family member review your personal statement and application form before you submit. Consistency in your name spelling across all documents is critical.