

USAC Housing Guide

Seoul – Korea @ Yonsei University

Summer, Fall, January, Spring, Yearlong 2024-25

USAC does not recommend any specific housing provider, nor is USAC affiliated with any housing at this location. This document is meant to educate you on your housing options so you can book your own housing directly with the host university or housing provider of your choosing. It is your responsibility to select and book your housing, understand your housing contract, correspond directly with the housing provider, and pay for all costs associated with your housing.

Housing is not included in your USAC program fees. It is each student's responsibility to reserve and pay for housing. Housing fees will be paid directly to the housing provider of your choice abroad.

Housing for this program is primarily arranged at Yonsei University dormitories, International House or SK Global, in single or double rooms. Both of these dormitories are located on the main university campus.

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HOUSING INFORMATION

HOUSING FEES & OPTIONS

Students can choose to arrange their housing through Yonsei University or locate their own. Many students in the past have chosen to book housing with Yonsei. Housing assignments made through Yonsei are made on a first come first-serve basis. Housing is limited and subject to availability. Your preferences cannot be guaranteed.

See the next page for a chart on expected housing costs.



YONSEI RESIDENCE HALL

STUDY ABROAD TERM	SK GLOBAL – SINGLE*	SK GLOBAL – DOUBLE*	INTERNATIONAL HOUSE – DOUBLE* (Female only)
Summer	1,634,000 KRW	1,075,000 KRW	638,000 KRW (4 week only)
Fall	3,000,000 KRW	2,000,000 KRW	1,680,800 KRW
Yearlong**	6,600,000 KRW	4,579,750 KRW	3,645,000 KRW

January Session I	846,000 KRW	579,000 KRW	Not available
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Spring	3,000,000 KRW	2,000,000 KRW	1,680,000 KRW
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*All prices are current as of March 20, 2024. Rates are subject to change, and will be updated on [this webpage](#). You can also view the [USAC Interactive Budget Sheets](#) to see housing ranges.

**Yearlong students will apply and pay for fall, winter, and spring separately.

These amounts are for rent only, and in some cases, you may need to purchase or rent other items (kitchen utensils, bed linens, etc.).

Utilities: Included, but you are responsible for paying for any excessive use.

Deposit: None, but you are responsible for paying for any damages or fees incurred. Your transcript may be held if these are unpaid.

HEALTH CHECK REQUIRED

Yonsei-managed housing requires you submit a tuberculosis (TB) test result report (chest x-ray, skin test, or blood test) in order to check into your housing. You can have the TB test done before departure in your home country or you can take the test at the time of check-in upon arriving at campus housing. If you have this done pre-departure, the test must be taken during the same year of check-in and within 2 months prior to the check-in date and proves you are negative for TB (don't take this too early!). Your vaccination record is **NOT** acceptable. If you do not submit the acceptable report, you cannot check in.

HOUSING AMENITIES

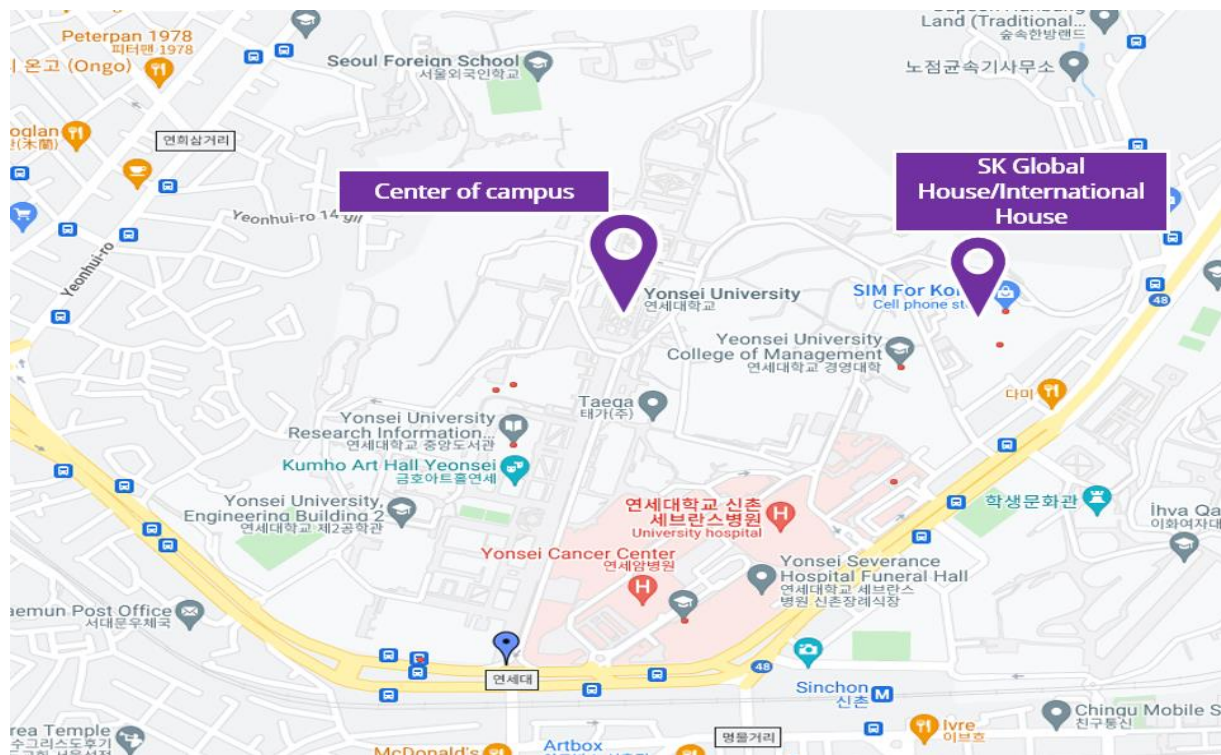
	INTERNATIONAL HOUSE <i>Female only</i>	SK GLOBAL <i>Co-ed by floor</i>
Capacity	232 Students	581 Students
Rooms	Double room	Single and double room
Bathroom	Shared Bathroom and shower on each floor	Private Bathroom
Roommates	Roommate request possible – not 100% guaranteed; otherwise selected at random. Students live with other international students, not local Korean students.	
Furniture	Single size bed, closet, desk, desk lamp, chair, bookcase, and window shade <i>(Small refrigerator only available in SK single room and International House double room)</i>	
Linens provided	Duvet, bed sheet, pillow, pillow cover	
Laundry	Coin operated laundry room, complimentary iron, and dry clean shop	
Kitchen	Shared kitchenette on each floor	Shared kitchen on B3 floor
Meals	Not included; Meal plan not available There are several cafes and restaurants located on campus and nearby	
Internet	Wi-Fi available on entire campus, LAN connection (LAN cable not included) in room**	

Music Room	Has access to SK Global music room	Piano with soundproof walls
Air Conditioning	Only available during the designated period set by Yonsei University (generally mid-May to mid-September)	
Heating	Korean style heating system called 'On-dol' (generally only available from mid-November to early-April)	
Common Areas & Amenities	Study room, lounge, seminar room, computer lab	Study room, lounge, music room, multi-functional room, computer lab, small fitness center
Gym	No, but students can use the fitness center in SK Global	Yes
Distance to Class	Varies greatly depending on the class location; anywhere from 10–45-minute walk	
Commercial Area	Restaurants, convenience store, travel agency, cafes, burger shop, lunch box, mobile phone shop, flower shop, and more	
Accessibility to City	Varies greatly; 10–15-minute walk to public transport	
Housing Photos	International House / SK Global	

**LAN cable recommended because it is much faster for any online course(s)

Location

This map shows the location of the Yonsei dorms and the center of Yonsei's campus. Use this map to gain a general idea of where classes, popular sites, parks, public transit, and other USAC students will be.



APPLYING FOR HOUSING

1 STEP 1: COMPLETE YOUR YONSEI HOST U APPLICATION

After you have submitted your Yonsei Host University Application and have been accepted, you will receive an email from Yonsei with information on applying for Yonsei housing. Housing is an entirely separate application process. You will need your **Yonsei admission number** found in your Yonsei acceptance email for the housing application. For **summer & January**, this will be your **Student ID Number** (found on your Admission email).

2 STEP 2: APPLY FOR HOUSING ONLINE WHEN APPLICATION GOES LIVE

The housing application schedule and timeline can be found [HERE](#). **Applications open at 10:00 a.m. Korean Standard Time (KST)**. You should set a calendar reminder or alarm, so you remember to apply right when the housing application opens. In the past housing has filled up *within a few minutes* of opening.

- **Summer students:** reference the "YISS (6wks)" student row, even if you are only participating in the 4-week program
- **Semester / Yearlong students:** reference the "Exchange/Visiting" student row(s)
- **January students:** reference the "WAY I" student row for January.

	SUMMER 2024	FALL/YL 2024-25	JANUARY 2024-25	SPRING 2025
Housing Application Period Open	April 3 – May 28 (3 application cycles)	June 5 – June 12	October 30 – November 6	TBD

Tips for Applying

- Make sure you've got a strong and reliable internet connection before applying. In the past, students have reported connectivity issues as a major problem with securing housing.
- Try logging into the [Yonsei housing portal](#) several days in advance to ensure you don't have any issues with logging in. If you have trouble logging in, email skghouse@yonsei.ac.kr for assistance in troubleshooting this issue before the housing application opens.
- When setting a calendar reminder or alarm, use a time zone converter ([like this one](#)) to determine what time 10:00 a.m. KST will be for you based on your current time zone.

3 STEP 3: PAY FOR HOUSING

Housing results will be emailed to students directly from the Yonsei housing office a few days after the application period closes. If successful, [payments](#) are not expected until 1-2 weeks after results. Securing your housing requires making your payment **in full** to Yonsei via a money wire transfer. Many financial institutions can wire money internationally. You should talk to your bank or look into services such as [TransferWise](#) for options for sending money to Korea.

Your bank (and sometimes the receiving bank) will charge fees to send funds by wire transfer. These fees can range from \$50 USD to \$100 USD but check with your bank for exact amounts and budget accordingly. USAC cannot help arrange your wire transfer payment. Cash, checks, and credit cards **are not accepted forms of payment** for your

housing. If you are unfamiliar with the wire transfer process, start your research now and reach out to your bank for assistance.

Failure to make your complete payment to Yonsei by the payment deadline will result in forfeiture of your housing. After the payment deadline, it is possible that Yonsei may open another round of housing applications if they have any extra rooms available, but students should not expect this to be an option.

Scholarship & Financial Aid Students

If you are depending on scholarships or financial aid to fund your housing expenses abroad, you may still be able to secure your housing with Yonsei by making a down payment of 1,000,000 KRW **in addition to** submitting your scholarship/financial aid award letter **and** signing a pledge to pay by a specified date. Students can reach out to Yonsei about setting up this financing plan **after** they have successfully applied for housing; approval is at the sole discretion of Yonsei.

NON-PROGRAM ARRANGED HOUSING

Neither USAC nor Yonsei University will be able to assist you in locating and paying for other housing options. Anything relating to payment, maintenance, documentation, landlord relations, etc. will be your responsibility. Be aware you may have to arrive early or use an agency that could charge a fee of approximately one month's rent. You may also be required to sign and pay for a yearlong lease, complete a considerable amount of paperwork, and pay extra costs, such as utility deposits, turn-on fees, local taxes, and insurance.

A good place to start in searching for off-campus housing are these pages from Yonsei University:

- [Summer](#)
- [Semester](#)

From here, you will need to do a lot of independent research on all your housing options. Some questions to ask yourself while searching for housing are:

- How far am I willing to commute to campus? What if my courses go online?
- Am I willing to share a room/bathroom with someone else, or should I get a private room and bath?
- Where is the nearest rail/subway line? Where is the nearest convenience or grocery store?
- What's included in the fee? What amenities are available?
- Are there verified reviews available?

While on-campus housing is extremely competitive, there is no shortage of housing available in Seoul, and students do not have much trouble finding available housing, rather finding the *right one*. Below are some housing options from various websites, blogs, and social media sites. USAC is not affiliated with and does not endorse any of the following sites. Do your research before deciding.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goshitel | <input type="checkbox"/> DMC Ville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goshipages | <input type="checkbox"/> StayforU |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blog post from Chung-ang University | <input type="checkbox"/> Ziptoss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homestay Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicerent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blog post from Seoulinspired | <input type="checkbox"/> Student.com – HIK1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enkor | <input type="checkbox"/> Student.com – HIK2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yonsei temporary housing suggestions | <input type="checkbox"/> Student.com – HIK3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yonsei GOSC | <input type="checkbox"/> Student.com – HIK4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Study in Korea – Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Student.com – HIK5 |

LIVING IN KOREA

Phone

You will want to talk with your current phone provider to discuss your options for when you go abroad (pausing your phone plan, extending coverage, etc.). Most students find it easier (and cheaper) to get a Korean SIM card with a data plan and stay in touch with friends and family back home using data-driven apps like Facebook, Zoom, WhatsApp, LINE, etc. You will also want to make sure your phone is unlocked before going abroad (if you're not sure, ask your current phone provider) so that you can use a foreign SIM card with your current phone. Alternately, you can bring any smartphone with you to use with your Korean SIM card (if you have an old-but-working phone laying around), or you can purchase a new phone onsite.

Smoking

Smoking in public places (bars, cafes, subways, schools, restaurants, etc.) is illegal in Korea. Smoking is not permitted in Yonsei arranged housing. Smoking is allowed only with the permission of the apartment owner for privately arranged housing.

Homestay Gifts

While a gift is not required, it can be a nice way to break the ice and show the family that you appreciate them inviting you into their home.

Past students suggest bringing something small that represents you or where you are from. For example, one student brought jam and hazelnuts from their hometown and a magnet from their home university. Others have brought coloring books for the kids and a deck of cards (the student was from Las Vegas). It's a fun conversation starter if you can share something that relates to your hobbies, family, hometown, or university.

See USAC Blog: [4 Homestay Gift Ideas](#)

Motorbikes/Bicycles

USAC does not recommend riding a bike in your host country due to differences in traffic rules and safety. Seoul in particular requires a high level of awareness of bike rules and safety.

Laundry

Dryers are not common in Korea and many homes are not equipped with the necessary hook-ups needed for standard dryers. For daily living, it is custom to air-dry your clothes on a drying rack or clothesline. Please consider this when packing, as heavy or thick materials will take longer to dry.

ADDITIONAL HOUSING INFORMATION

BUDGETING

Housing in Seoul can be more expensive than what you are used to, and the total cost of living can vary greatly for each student. Remember to include all fees, like deposits, meals, and transportation to and from school when budgeting for housing. Refer to your program's Interactive Budget Sheet on Gateway for general information on cost of living. You can also use cost-of-living comparison calculators like [Numbeo](#) to get a better idea of how to budget appropriately.

YEARLONG & MULTI-TERM STUDENTS

For students staying longer than one term (i.e., Yearlong students) you cannot reserve your room for the entire year when you initially apply for housing. You must re-apply for housing on the housing application opening dates for each term you will be there. Yearlong students will apply for winter, and then again for spring, in accordance with the housing application schedule.

EARLY ARRIVAL/ LATE DEPARTURE

Refer to the specified move-in and move-out dates on your program calendar on the USAC website. Early arrivals are strongly discouraged for several reasons, including:

- You might not receive your visa in time for an early departure.
- Your program housing may not be ready for move-in.
- The on-site staff will not be available for assistance.
- Some students report feeling lonely or homesick when they arrive before their peers do and before the official welcome activities begin.
- While the host university staff abroad work hard to have housing fully functioning, to offer arrival support, and to organize welcome activities, trips, and orientation once the program officially begins, they are unable to do the same for those who arrive early.
- The USAC-arranged health insurance will only begin on the official departure day for the program, so you may need to arrange additional health insurance coverage if you decide to arrive early.

You are responsible for arranging your own lodging if you arrive before or stay after the program dates.

KEYS

Received when you check in to your housing. You are responsible for the cost of replacing lost or damaged keys, and for replacing the locks if necessary.

HOTEL SUGGESTIONS

Below are suggestions if family or friends visit, or you arrive/depart outside the program housing dates.

USAC does not endorse the following accommodations. We simply want to inform you of average options and services that are available near the program site.

HOTEL	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE
Ever8 Serviced Residence	7, Sinchonnyeok-ro, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 03780, South Korea	+011-82-2-6946-0808 ~0810	Email: rsvn@ever8.co.kr Website
Holiday Inn Express Seoul Hongdae	Aekyung Tower, 188 Yanghwa-ro, Mapo-gu Seoul 04052, South Korea	+011-82-2-7683-000	Email: reservation@hiex-seoulhongdae.com Website

POLICIES

PRIVACY

USAC may release personal information pertaining to your housing arrangement, including health and safety issues and preferences, to whomever appropriate (e.g., resident director, staff abroad, homestay family, apartment landlord, etc.).

HOUSING CONCERNS

If you have an issue or concern with your program housing after you arrive, you should reach out to your host university staff. Do not delay in addressing any issues or concerns that arise as this can increase the difficulty of finding a solution.

MAINTENANCE

Rooms should be kept clean and tidy, and all damaged or broken items reported to the on-site staff immediately.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

When studying abroad, you are not only exposed to the cultural values of your host country, but also those of your fellow students. The code of conduct you agreed to when applying for your USAC program also applies to your behavior in housing and interactions with locals and fellow students. You are expected to behave in a manner that is safe, inclusive, and respectful of the rights and well-being of others, encouraging others to behave in a similar manner, regardless of race/ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, faith, socio-economic status, etc. USAC strives to allocate housing as inclusively as possible where permitted by local laws/rules/regulations.

SOCIAL LIFE

Drinking and parties in housing, as well as arriving home drunk, are prohibited, and considered rude and inappropriate behavior. The housing office has the right to evict students for noise or behavior problems.

YONSEI HOUSING CHANGES & CANCELLATIONS

USAC and the host university do our best to anticipate all housing costs. However, fees are subject to change due to external factors, like availability, local cost changes, local COVID-19 regulations, and other factors. Students will be notified immediately of any price changes.

The housing cancellation policies are set by Yonsei University. The cancellation policy for housing can be found [here](#) for International House and [here](#) for SK Global.

Yonsei University reserves the right to change this policy at any time. You should read your housing contract thoroughly, once it arrives, to make sure you completely understand your responsibilities with regard to housing cancellations and payments.

OVERNIGHT GUESTS

No overnight guests are allowed in program housing. There are many hotels, B+B's, and other options located in the city. If any guests stay overnight without permission, housing management has the right to evict you.

PETS

Pets are not allowed in any of the Yonsei arranged housing. Students who bring pets are responsible for their own housing.