

# USAC ACADEMIC GUIDE

## YONSEI UNIVERSITY SUMMER & JANUARY 2024-25

### QUICK FACTS

*Expanded details on the pages that follow*

#### ACADEMIC MODEL

**Structure:** Classes are either lecture-based or seminars; there is a strict attendance policy  
**System:** Greater reliance on independent study  
**Course Levels:** 1,000-4,000 undergraduate, some graduate available  
**Campuses:** Sinchon only

#### CREDIT LOADS

**Summer:** 3-9 Korean credits; 3-9 U.S. credits  
**January:** 3-6 Korean credits; 3-6 U.S. credits

#### COURSES & REGISTRATION

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many courses are available with few restrictions</li><li>• Some courses may have prerequisites</li><li>• Find courses &amp; syllabi on Yonsei's website: <a href="#">Summer (YISS)</a>   <a href="#">January (WAY)</a></li><li>• Summer internships are available: <a href="#">Research Int.</a>   <a href="#">Corporate Int.</a></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summer course registration (2 rounds): Mid-April and early June</li><li>• Winter course registration: mid-November and early December</li><li>• Summer &amp; Winter have add/drop period at the start of the program</li></ul> |
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#### IN THE CLASSROOM

- **Class Schedule:** Presented during course registration; finalized onsite
- **Textbooks:** Available for purchase onsite
- **Final exams:** Schedule given onsite

#### ACADEMIC/DISABILITY SUPPORT

- Study Support and counseling available
- Accommodations may vary from the ADA
- Request accommodations on the host univ. app

#### RELATED RESOURCES

Universities abroad use different terminology that you might find confusing. Note the differences below.

U.S. Terms	Host University Terms
Credit	Credit (3 Korean credits = Approx. 3 U.S. credits)*
Summer program	YISS- Yonsei International Summer School
January program	WAY- Winter at Yonsei

\* The conversion can differ – you should check with your home university to see how exactly credits will transfer back.



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## ACADEMIC MODEL

### ACADEMIC SYSTEM AND STRUCTURE

Larger classes are usually lecture-based, whereas smaller classes are run more like seminars. Class assessments are usually based upon a combination of quizzes, presentations, papers, and exams.

At Yonsei University, there is a strict attendance policy, especially in relation to language courses. A student must be present 2/3 of the time in any given course to receive a grade.

Summer and January courses are highly intensive, fast paced, and place an emphasis on independent study. See the charts below to get a better idea of what your course schedule will look like.

### Summer Structure

Summer classes are held every day from Monday – Thursday.

Summer Courses	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Total Hours
(6-week) Regular Courses	2 class hours daily (100 minutes)				46
(6-week) Korean Language Courses	3 class hours daily (100 minutes)				46
(4-week) Select Regular Courses	3 class hours daily (150 minutes)				45

The YISS Program does offer a few select 4-week courses. There is no difference in program fee if a student takes the 4-week course instead of the 6-week course. USAC students are not allowed to enroll in only 4-week courses for the summer; students must enroll in at least one 6-week course. Please note that Korean Language courses are not available in the 4-week format.

### January Structure

January classes are held every day from Monday – Friday.

January Courses	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total Hours
3 weeks	3 class hours daily (150 minutes)					45



# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND HOST UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SYSTEM

It is important to be prepared for some differences that you may notice in the South Korean education system, so pay close attention to the guidelines set by the professor and be respectful of any rules put in place. Students sometimes find that they have expectations of professors that may not be applicable in other cultures. However, there are lots of support resources for international students, and past students found them very helpful for adjusting to a new academic culture.

See [Study Support](#) section for details.

## COURSE LEVELS

### Upper vs Lower Division Courses

The first three letters show which department the course is offered from. Among the four numbers that follow, the first number shows the targeted year of the course. For example, ECO1234 would be a lower division economics course and ECO4567 would be an upper division course.

Module code	1000	2000	3000	4000
U.S. conversion*:	Lower division*		Upper division*	
	Undergraduate level			

\*Typically, as listed, but your home university will ultimately decide how to apply transferred credits.

### Graduate Level Course Availability

Graduate courses are not available during the YISS or WAY programs.

## CAMPUSES

Yonsei University has three campuses: the Sinchon main campus, the Songdo international campus, and the Mirae campus. You can read more about the different campuses [here](#) and view a map of the campuses [here](#).

The YISS and WAY programs are both located on the Sinchon campus, which is also referred to as the main campus.



# CREDIT LOADS

Courses are typically 3 Korean credits each.

Definitions of full-time status may vary between USAC, the host university, the agency monitoring your visa, your home university, and any agency providing you with a scholarship or grant. Therefore, it is extremely important that you take the time to review all the agreements you have made with USAC and beyond (visa, financial aid, scholarships, etc.).



Below are USAC's required full-time credit requirements.

	 SUMMER	 JANUARY
Min	3 credits	3 credits
Max	9 credits	6 credits

Courses taken online or concurrently through your home university do not count in meeting the USAC full-time credit requirement. You should check with your home university, financial aid office, etc. to see what additional minimum credit requirements you might have. **Maintaining full-time status is your responsibility.** If you're concerned about whether you're taking a full course load, contact your USAC Program Advisor.

## Note to Graduating Students

If you plan to graduate the semester you study abroad, there is a very high likelihood that your transcript from the host university will not arrive in time. You should plan to delay graduation one semester if your last semester in college is abroad with USAC and your home university has very strict deadlines for submitting the final transcript. When available, check the **Transcript and Grade Reporting Guide** on Gateway for more information about official transcripts and when they're expected to arrive in our office.

# COURSES AND REGISTRATION

## COURSES

Most, if not all, courses offered in the YISS and WAY programs are taught in English. You can find a list of courses (and their syllabi) offered for both programs below:

- [Yonsei Summer Courses\\*](#)
- [Yonsei January Courses\\*](#)

Courses for the summer are typically updated on the website in January (~6 months prior), while the January courses are typically updated in September (~4 months prior).

\*If you have trouble opening the link, try a different web browser.

## Prerequisites

The host university may have prerequisites like any other university. Staff at the program site will have a copy of your official transcripts and will work with academic departments to determine whether or not you fulfill the prerequisites. The syllabi will also help you and your advisor decide if you have the necessary academic background to take a particular course.

## Obtaining Course Descriptions/Syllabi for Home University Pre-Approval

If the courses are not available for your intended term, we advise you to review the course offerings that are currently published for the host university for the previous year. However, you should expect that there would be variations from year to year as at any university. For this reason, you should be flexible with your courses and always have alternatives in mind.

## INTERNSHIPS—SUMMER ONLY

Students are eligible to participate in Yonsei University's Korea Summer Internship Program (approximately 20 hours per week; 2 credits; pass/fail only). Students enrolled in the internship program must also be enrolled in at least one other course for a total of 5 or 8 credits.

The Corporate Internship Program offers you direct exposure to global corporate settings in the heart of Seoul, taking advantage of Yonsei University's vast alumni networks, and strong ties with business and educational partners. The Research Internship Program offers selected students the opportunity to participate in research projects or work as an intern in research centers or organizations at Yonsei University.

You will follow the procedures for registering for an internship through Yonsei. Information is located [here](#). Students who are approved for an internship must arrive at the program site early and should plan accordingly. Please refer to the [USAC calendar](#) for dates.

## COURSE REGISTRATION

Once you are approved by USAC, you will complete an online host university application process to Yonsei University. Then, once you are accepted to Yonsei University, you will be emailed an acceptance packet from them. The acceptance letter will include the date that courses for your term will be available to review. It will include information about how and when to register for courses using the online course registration system (Yonsei Portal system). You should create calendar reminders (taking the time difference into account) so you don't forget to register for classes and register late. You can use a time converter like [this](#) to account for the time change.

Course registration operates on a first-come, first-served basis. All students register for courses at the same time through the Yonsei Portal system and therefore getting a spot in some courses may be competitive. Yonsei University does not guarantee registration for any specific courses. You are advised to plan ahead with your academic advisor at your home university to make sure that requirements are met and that credits can transfer. Do not wait until the last minute to start registering for courses, as you may encounter technical problems that cannot be resolved immediately.

Once the official online registration period opens, you should continue to check the website frequently since additional seats in classes may be opened unexpectedly. You may not be able to register for all the classes you wish to take during the online registration period. If that happens, there may be the opportunity to register manually upon arrival at Yonsei. You will receive guidelines on how to do this during the mandatory on-site orientation.

It's important to have alternate courses you can take and receive credit at your home university in case course(s) you want are unavailable.

Ultimately, it is your responsibility to seek sufficient academic advice, to know and meet your degree requirements, and to enroll in and complete the appropriate courses for your individual progress toward your degree.



## Courses and Subject Areas Not Guaranteed

Students are not guaranteed their preferred courses or subject areas. Both the YISS & WAY programs require a minimum number of 10 students to enroll in a course, otherwise it may be cancelled. In the event that your class is cancelled due to the 10-student minimum policy, immediately consult the YISS or WAY office regarding alternate course registration.

If you are not able to be flexible with the courses, you may want to consider a different USAC program.

## Add/Drop Courses

Course changes are only available through the Portal System (<http://portal.yonsei.ac.kr>) during the add/drop period. The YISS & WAY programs have an add/drop period at the beginning of the term. Adding or dropping courses during either program is strongly discouraged due to the short duration of the programs.

Please note that the office will not issue course enrollment confirmations. If you make any changes to your course selection, notify your academic advisor at your home university as this could affect your financial aid or your degree plan.

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Students must refer to their account information to confirm and finalize their course registration. You can check your final course enrollment and schedule on Yonsei's Portal system by logging in and clicking Academic Information System > Academic Management System > English (to switch language) > Course > Course Enrollment > Enrollment Status.

## TEXTBOOKS

Your course materials, including textbooks, will be available for purchase at the program site once you've finalized your registration.

## FINAL EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS

Courses require a mid-term examination, a final examination, and often a term paper. Students are not allowed to leave Yonsei until they have finished their last scheduled class/exam.

# ACADEMIC / DISABILITY SUPPORT



## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While abroad with USAC, you will be enrolled at a host university and will be able to access any of the existing disability support for the local students. Keep in mind that the Americans with Disabilities Act does not apply in other countries, though most countries have a similar regulation. You can find more information regarding disability accommodations in your Student Gateway in a document called **Wellness Guide**.

Different educational systems and teaching styles may prevent some of the accommodations you are used to receiving at your home university. We encourage you to be flexible and have a serious conversation with your disability office to make sure you have a plan to stay on track in a new classroom environment.

## ACCOMMODATIONS REQUEST WITH THE HOST UNIVERSITY

You will have a host university application process, be sure to provide any accommodations that you may need on this application in order to initiate the local process for requesting accommodations. You should also mention it on your **Medical Information Form** in Gateway so we can discuss how best to proceed. If you get stuck, email [health@usac.edu](mailto:health@usac.edu) to get in touch with the USAC Health and Safety Assistant.

## COUNSELING SERVICES

### Psychological Counseling Center

For counseling services, you can apply [here](#) or by directly visiting the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Baekgyang Hall or by calling +82-2-2123-6688. Besides personal or group counseling and psychological examinations, the Counseling Center also holds activities such as symposiums. Services are free and confidential.

### International Counseling & Coaching Service (ICCS)

The [ICCS](#) is a multicultural counseling and coaching service center for international students and is located off campus. The service provides psychotherapy regarding depression, anxiety, family/relationship issues, and cultural adaptation issues. There is also a Sexual Harassment Prevention Center. Counseling is provided in various languages, including English, Chinese, Japanese, and Spanish. For more information about accessing these services, email [globaldiasporamn@gmail.com](mailto:globaldiasporamn@gmail.com).

## RELATED RESOURCES

The following documents can be found on your USAC Gateway Account

Transcript & Grade Reporting Guide	You will receive an official transcript from your host university with international credit. Refer to this guide to determine how your grades will transfer back and how to receive your transcript.
Host University Transcript Request Form	If this form is on your USAC Gateway account, be sure to complete and return it to your Enrollment Specialist so your official transcript can be processed at the end of your program.
Wellness Guide	Helpful information about how to manage your health, wellness, and any disabilities while abroad.



<b>Medical Information Form</b>	Complete this form to inform USAC about needed accommodations and work with the Health & Safety Team to determine which are possible while abroad.
<b>Helpful People at USAC</b>	See your Gateway account "Contacts" tab to find useful individuals and general email accounts to address any additional needs you may have.

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