

TaLK (Teach and Learn in Korea; www.talk.go.kr) is a Korean government-sponsored internship/scholarship program which invites undergraduate students in English-speaking countries to Korea to teach English in elementary school after-school programs either for 6 months or 12 months. TaLK scholars work for 15 hours on average a week. Upon arrival, they participate in a month-long orientation before field assignment. Benefits include stipends (approx. \$1,500 a month), \$400 settlement allowance upon arrival, free housing, free health insurance and opportunities for cultural activities and field trips.

This is a well-structured international internship opportunity for college students, which provides work experience with reliable field supervision and financial payment. They have rigorous selection processes two times a year in November and May. In order to run the program in Korea, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Korea ("Ministry," hereafter), the home ministry of the program, has established an organization called TaLK under its umbrella and is having the NIIIE (National Institute of International Education), a governmental organization under the Ministry, to supervise the programs. While TaLK and NIIIE are responsible to run the program within Korea, the recruits are conducted directly through the Ministry's overseas offices.

The Center for Korean Studies at SBU negotiated with the Ministry's New York office to allocate 2-3 SBU students and the Ministry granted the Center a privilege to directly accept applications, and select and recommend students to the Ministry, on the condition that SBU will provide the qualified students with basic knowledge of Korean language and culture. To take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for our undergraduate students, the Center, in consultation with IAPS together, would like to create a credit-bearing overseas internship/research package. This package will allow students to earn credits towards graduation without leaving their school work completely or postponing their graduation schedule.

In doing so, the Center and IAPS propose that the internship/research package include the following: A six-credit professional internship as an English instructor (AAS488) and a six-credit independent study on a topic in Korean Studies (AAS 487) under the supervision of the instructor of record, Heejeong Sohn, a faculty member in Korean Studies.

(*) Need to seek further negotiation with the Ministry if we want to increase the number of recommendations in order for SBU to represent the entire SUNY campuses.

(*) Can students choose to take either course or both?

(*) What if they choose to stay for 12 months? Can they use all 24 credits toward the graduation?

Professional Internship [6 credits] -- P/NC

TaLK provides undergraduates with an opportunity to develop teaching strategies to be used in their English classes during the orientation period. Thus, this will be an effective and educational self-development opportunity for our undergraduates. They will learn how to organize and manage their classes, how to interact with others as a leader, and how to adapt themselves to a foreign environment. The internship course will be designated as AAS 488: Internship in Asian and Asian American Studies, and require the participants to fulfill the following: First, upon applying for TaLK, the students should submit a sample teaching curriculum, proving their interest in and preparedness. Secondly, at the conclusion of the internship, students will be required to submit ten sample curriculums that they developed and used in the field. Thirdly, they should also submit a 4-5 page final report on their internship experience shortly after their return to SBU campus. The school will ask TaLK to issue a letter certifying the participants' performance at the conclusion of the internship. The instructor of record will give them six internship credits after reviewing their reports and the letter from TaLK.

Independent Study [6 credits] -- Graded

The participants will also register for AAS 487; Research in Asian and Asian American Studies, having the advantage of being a student-teacher in Korea. This course guides students in their independent field research on subjects in Korean Studies, for example, Korean politics, economy, history, culture, education system and so on, using Blackboard. This is an academic activity separate from TaLK, it requires an intensive reading, research and writing on their subjects beyond their duties as a TaLK scholar. In particular, this course will require the students to submit a two-page self-statement describing their motivation and interest in their research subject upon their application to TaLK. Also they should produce a five-page research plan including the introduction to their subject, strategies on successful research, reading list, and fieldwork schedule before departure. In addition to these, the students will be asked to complete a mid-semester report on the progress of research, and lastly a final paper which should be a summation of their research. Fulfilling all these requirements, the participants are expected to consult with the instructor of record through Blackboard and emails.

Instructor of Record

Ms. Heejeong Sohn (ABD in Korean History, full-time lecturer in Korean Studies, Assistant Director for the Center for Korean Studies) will be appointed as the instructor of record for the program. Ms. Sohn has led the process of negotiating with the Ministry of Education and Science of Korea for the internship to secure the quota for SBU and has been teaching and advising students at Stony Brook for eight years.

Recruiting

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Korea granted SBU a privilege as a local center to lead and supervise the application process on our campus, making this program more accessible for our students. They have already approved the detailed recruiting guidelines and procedures as attached. IAP will be in charge of publicity, administrative process of application, and overseas protocols for participating students.

Screening and Advisory Committee

In order to effectively advise the academic integrity and the screening process, CKS and IAP suggest forming an Advisory Committee chaired by the Director of the Program in Korean Studies, along with two other members respectively from IAP and AAAS Department. Once the applications are solicited, they will be reviewed by the instructor of record based on a set of criteria for selection. Selected students will be invited to an interview with the instructor of record and the Advisory Committee members. A list of recommended students will be produced after the interviews. With the approval of the Committee, the final list of recommendation, along with all original application documents from students, will be sent to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Korea.

Site Visit

Stony Brook representative, either the instructor of record or a person recommended by the Committee, will make field visits to meet with the participants in Korea every semester. They will monitor the working conditions and the programs feasibility. The visits will be sponsored both by SBU and the Ministry of Education and Science of Korea. (* to be negotiated with MES)

Instructor Compensation ()*

This internship/research package (twelve credits per student) demands a significant role of the instructor of record as a liaison between the Ministry and SBU to maintain the relationship, secure the internship quota, and work together in the application process. The instructor will also advise students to develop their research topics for independent research before departure, guide their research on the field and assess their research outcome to give a grade, and occasionally visit Korea to monitor students in the field. This is not an obligation to be taken lightly, so it should be properly recognized and compensated.

EPIK (Teach English in a Public School, www.epik.go.kr) is also a Korean government-run program for postgraduates with B.S. and M.A. or beyond in English-speaking countries who would like to teach English in public schools in Korea. Compensations are higher than TaLK and the terms and conditions are slightly different from TaLK. So please check out its website for further details and apply directly to EPIK.

[Attachment]

TaLK Application Guidelines (approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Korea in October 2011)

Eligibility

- US citizens or permanent residents
- Finished at least two years of undergraduate study at Stony Brook

Requirements

- Have at least Elementary II or above Korean language proficiency (Take the challenge exam if not have taken the courses.)
- GPA 3.3 or above
- Those who took a couple of Korean studies courses preferred

Application DEADLINE: November (February 1 Departure), May (August 1 Departure)

- 1) Complete the online application (www.talk.go.kr → My Page) and submit copies of Forms A & B
- 2) Also submit the following documents:
 - A letter of intention
 - An academic transcript (unofficial one is fine)
 - A proof of language proficiency
 - Two signed and sealed, or directly mailed to IAP, recommendation letters
 - High school transcript

Campus Interviews

Those who pass the document reviews will be invited to campus interviews.

- 1) Interview Dates: TBA
- 2) Place: Center for Korean Studies, N5520 Melville Library
- 3) Documents to submit before interview:
 - A sample lesson plan
 - A copy of passport or green card
 - Apostilled national criminal record check