

Rex Myeonguk Kim

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EDUCATION

Current High School - Korea International School Jeju

Class of 2027

AP Courses and Exams: AP Seminar, AP Psychology, AP COMP GOV, AP U.S. History, AP Lang & Comp, AP Macro & Micro Economics, AP Statistics, AP Research, AP U.S. GOV

Republic of Korea

August 31 - Present

In-School Activities

Student Editorial Journal Club, Vox Mundi ROK Headquarters

Founder & President & Editor-in-Chief

Jeju, Republic of Korea

2025.08 - Present

- Led the production of a monthly editorial journal for SPARK, a student-led non-profit organization
- Oversaw the entire publication cycle, from curating student submissions to final copy-editing and layout design
- Published monthly issues on the official website / social issues & international issues / addressing social justice

KIS Jeju Korean History Explanation Promotion Agency Digest Club

Editor & Officer

Jeju, Republic of Korea

2024.08 - Present

- Collaborated with the Korea History Explanation Promotion Agency to promote Korean history to global audiences
- Translated and edited historical narratives for social media platforms, transforming complex information into digestible posts
 - Won National Champion - YRE, Young Reports for the Environment Competition

Varsity, Boy's Volleyball

Setter & Senior Captain

Jeju, Republic of Korea

2022.08 - Present

- Served as the primary playmaker, facilitating communication between attackers and optimizing offensive plays under pressure
- Anchored the team's success in major international and domestic leagues:
 - Champion at 2024 Jeju Invitational Tournament
 - Champion at 2024 Korea International Schools Activities Conference
 - Champion at 2024 Association of International Schools in Asia
 - 2nd Place at 2025 Jeju Invitational Tournament
 - 3rd Place at 2025 Korea International Schools Activities Conference

Varsity, Boy's Soccer

Goalkeeper

Jeju, Republic of Korea

2023.02 - Present

- Anchored the defense as the starting goalkeeper, maintaining a high save rate and directing defensive formations during highly competitive matches
 - MVP at 2024 Korea International Schools Activities Conference

Dormitory Leadership Council

Student Representative

Jeju, Republic of Korea

2024.08 - Present

- Monitored dormitory order and safety, conducting regular checks and addressing behavioral infractions with maturity and fairness
- Served as a bridge between students and dorm faculty, providing feedback on residential rules to improve the overall quality of dorm life
- Maintained a consistent commitment to the Leadership Council, dedicating substantial time throughout the academic year to organize events like Halloween and Christmas

LiNK KIS Jeju, Liberty in North Korea Club

Editorial & Public Relations Specialist

Jeju, Republic of Korea

2024.08 - 2025.06

- Recognized by LiNK Headquarters for exceptional performance, leading to the selection of KIS Jeju as a host for a guest lecture by a North Korean defector
- Orchestrated the strategic plans and event coordination, resulting in increased student engagement and awareness
- Authored and edited articles advocating for North Korean human rights and refugee resettlement support
- Produced educational content that simplifies complex geopolitical issues, making them accessible to diverse audiences

Duke of Edinburgh

Gold Award

Seoul, Republic of Korea

2024.08 - Present

- Engaged in voluntary service by organizing and executing community service initiatives focused on ‘ ‘, demonstrating dedication to addressing local social needs
- Demonstrated sustained commitment, self-regulation, and leadership across Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards by balancing rigorous academic schedules with long-term personal development goals

Out-School Activities

Student Participating in Action, Reform, and Knowledge (S.P.A.R.K.), Student-Led Organization

President & Co-Founder

Republic of Korea

2025.08 - Present

- Co-founded and lead S.P.A.R.K., a student-led organization dedicated to “Action, Reform, and Knowledge” managing a diverse portfolio of social impact and cultural preservation projects
- Oversee the expansion of Vox Mundi, a school-based youth editorial journal, managing 10+ school branches and directing the publication of high-quality student discourse on global issues
- Local Projects in Progress
 - War Veterans Honor Project with Rajawali Foundation Institute for Asia at Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, documenting the legacies of veterans to bridge historical gaps

- o Jeju Dialect Heritage Promotion Initiative, focusing on the preservation of endangered linguistic assets through digital archiving and community awareness campaigns
- o Seoul-Gyeonggi Traditional Markets Translation, enhancing global accessibility for international visitors and supporting local small businesses

Youth National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Chairperson of the Political and Legislative Committee

2024.08 - Present

- Led 50+ members at the Political and Legislative Committee, facilitating democratic discourse on the 'Partial Amendment to Article 5-2 of the Framework Act on Youth'
- Orchestrated the legislative voting process for the legalization of youth political participation, successfully passing the petition with a majority vote
- Managed a dynamic debate environment involving 50+ members, ensuring fair deliberation and procedural integrity

2025 & 2026 United Nations Youth Environmental Conference

Seongnam, Republic of Korea

Delegate of Lithuania & Representative Speaker

2025.11

- Awarded the Republic of Korea Minister's Award [Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment] for outstanding policy proposal and leadership in environmental sustainability
- Selected as the sole representative speaker among 300+ delegates to deliver the Action Plan to high-level dignitaries, including former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and senior ROK government officials
- Authored the only Action Plan selected for inclusion in the Annual UN Environment Programme and the Ban Ki-moon Foundation, serving as a youth-led policy for global plastic circular economy standards
- Proposed a "Global Green Funding Mechanism" and a cross-continental "Recycling Tech Alliance" to bridge infrastructure gaps between Europe, Asia, and the Americas, as a Youth Policy Designer.

Journal of Korea Society of Waste Management (SCOPUS)

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Published Author

2026.06.10~Present

- Authored and published *Analysis of Resource Footprint for the Use of Reusable Cups in Island Area Using Life Cycle Assessment* in the Journal of Korea Society of Waste Management (SCOPUS-indexed), applying ISO 14040/14044 Life Cycle Assessment methodology to quantify the environmental impact of replacing 6.3 million annual single-use plastic cups with a reusable cup circulation system on Jeju's Udo Island.
- Conducted comparative LCA across production, transportation, washing, and end-of-life stages, demonstrating that reusable cups emit 2.5 times more greenhouse gases at production but achieve significant CO₂-eq reductions under high-frequency use scenarios, while identifying break-even use thresholds and conditions under which reusable systems may paradoxically increase environmental burden.
- Proposed evidence-based policy recommendations for island tourism regions by integrating spatial constraints, seasonal demand variability, and recovery rate optimization, building on the author's experience presenting a zero-plastic-pollution action plan at the United Nations Youth Environmental Conference as Lithuania's delegate.

Curieux Review - Independent Research Publication

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Published Author

2026.08.20

- Authored and published *A Comparative Study of Youth Political Agency and the Socio-Cultural Barriers to Legislative Power in Norway and South Korea* in Curieux Review, conducting a four-country comparative analysis of youth participation bodies across Norway, Colombia, Uganda, and South Korea to examine how institutional design and cultural context jointly determine youth legislative agency.
- Investigated how Confucian-derived age hierarchy and seniority-based social structures constrain South Korea's elaborate consultative youth infrastructure to an advisory function, arguing that the country's participatory sophistication masks a fundamental absence of binding legislative authority for youth bodies.
- Synthesized evidence from Colombia's statutorily binding youth council agreements and Uganda's reserved parliamentary seats to demonstrate that binding youth authority is achievable through deliberate institutional design even outside Western democracies, challenging simplistic civilizational narratives about youth empowerment.

ISRFA Research Forum Anthology

Republic of Korea

Author

2026

- Published research analyzing how Silla-era craftsmen replicated wooden architectural forms in granite at Dabotap Pagoda, interpreting the technique as an expression of Buddhist resilience; selected for the ISRFA Research Forum Anthology (2026).

2026 United Nations Youth Future Summit by YMCA

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Head Chair

2026.08.03~2026.08.05

- Presided as Head Chair over the international summit simulation, meticulously managing committee proceedings, enforcing parliamentary rules of procedure, and guiding dozens of delegates toward consensus on global future agendas.
- Facilitated high-level diplomatic debates and moderated complex caucuses regarding transnational policy and global governance, fostering a collaborative environment for critical analysis and strategic problem-solving.
- Evaluated and synthesized comprehensive draft resolutions and working papers submitted by delegates, ensuring rigorous policy standards and aligning student-led outcomes with realistic UN frameworks.

Daejeong Youth Center Youth Steering Committee

Jeju, Republic of Korea

Chairman

2026.02 - Present

- Chair the youth governing body of the Daejeong Youth Center, setting the committee's agenda, running meetings, and directing programs that represent local youth interests to center staff and municipal stakeholders.
- Conceived and led "Je-ju-ae San-da" ("Living with Love for Jeju"), a proposal to install Jejueo (a UNESCO-designated critically endangered language) calligraphy panels — paired with Standard Korean and English — across public restrooms in Daejeong-eup, applying nudge theory and broken windows theory to reframe neglected civic infrastructure as sites of cultural preservation.
- Served as the initiative's representative speaker in pitching the program for municipal funding and oversaw its citywide rollout at 12,500 KRW per stall.

Seogwipo Youth Participatory Budget Committee

Jeju, Republic of Korea

Chairman

2024.03.28 - Present

- Chair the citywide youth participatory budgeting committee, representing the collective interests of 13 youth centers across Seogwipo in municipal budget deliberations.
- Coordinate representatives from all 13 centers to draft, debate, and prioritize youth-proposed budget items, then advocate directly to city officials for their inclusion in the local government's final budget.
- Secured 1st place and a 2.5M KRW municipal budget allocation for "Je-ju-ae San-da," the committee's top-funded proposal that cycle, translating a Daejeong Youth Center initiative into approved citywide public spending.

University of Chicago Summer Session

Chicago, United States of America

Pre-College Student, Final Grade - A

2026.06.15~2026.07.02

- Engaged in intensive seminar discussions on political economy, fascism, and critical theory, analyzing works by Alfred Sohn-Rethel, Robert Paxton, and other political thinkers.
- Developed advanced argumentative writing skills through analytical essays and discussion-based coursework, emphasizing causal explanations of political phenomena and economic systems.
- Participated in collegiate-level academic discourse, critically evaluating competing theories of fascism, capitalism, and democratic institutions through close reading and seminar debate, and a deep commitment to democratic principles

Harvard Secondary School Program

Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

Student

2026.06.22~2026.08.06

- Engaged in university-level study of international relations theories, including realism and liberalism, examining how states cooperate and compete in the international system.
- Analyzed contemporary issues such as security dilemmas, bargaining, power politics, and international institutions through lectures, discussions, and case studies.
- Applied theoretical frameworks to current global events, including democratic resilience, electoral integrity, and regional security issues in East Asia.
- Participated in discussion-based coursework, evaluating competing perspectives on conflict, cooperation, and the role of states in international politics.

John Locke Essay Competition

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Author

2026.06.20

- Authored The Value of American Thirst, an essay submitted to the John Locke Essay Competition that examined how Prohibition contributed to the rise of organized crime in the United States.
- The paper analyzed the unintended consequences of government intervention, arguing that the 18th Amendment strengthened criminal syndicates, increased corruption, and failed to reduce alcohol consumption.
- The essay combined political philosophy, economics, and historical analysis.

Seogwipo Outstanding Youth Award (Mayor's Award)

Jeju, Republic of Korea

Participant

2026.06.13

- Received the Mayor's Award in recognition of leadership, civic engagement, and contributions to youth participation and community service initiatives within Seogwipo.

2026 South Korean Local Elections Democratic Advocacy Initiative

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Field Volunteer & Civil Participant

2026.06.07

- Voluntarily assisted in managing civilian field operations and maintaining public safety during the massive public demonstrations in Jamsil, which erupted following the historic ballot paper shortage crisis during the June 2026 local elections.
- Acted as a grassroots community liaison, supporting peaceful assembly protocols and facilitating communication among hundreds of concerned citizens advocating for electoral transparency, administrative accountability, and the protection of constitutional voting rights.
- Conducted on-site monitoring of the unfolding civic crisis, translating complex real-world breakdowns in democratic infrastructure into practical field coordination and logistical assistance for local residents.

2nd SOLEIL Model United Nations

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Delegate of France, United Nations Human Rights Council

2025.08.03

- Represented France in the UN Human Rights Council, debating international cooperation strategies to guarantee North Korean citizens' access to outside information.
- Authored and defended a resolution framework on cross-border information access, negotiating across blocs to build support for the proposal.
- Awarded the President's Award by the National Unification Advisory Council in recognition of the resolution's contribution to unification-related youth diplomacy discourse.

4th International Youth Idea Competition on Korea's UNESCO Heritage Promotion

Jeju, Republic of Korea

Grand Prize Winner & Researcher

2025.05 - 2025.08

- Awarded the President's Award from the Association of Korea Cultural Heritage Utilization Organization for a strategic rebranding proposal of the Suwon Hwaseong UNESCO site
- Collected qualitative data from foreign visitors to identify barriers in accessibility and storytelling, leading to the development of a modern, visitor-centric brand identity for the historical district
- Revised a creative promotional roadmap that integrates historical preservation with contemporary cultural trends, aiming to revitalize local tourism and enhance global recognition of Korea's cultural assets

Seoul YMCA Youth International Policy Forum

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Participant

2026.04.11

- Honored with the prestigious YMCA President Award for demonstrating exceptional academic insight and strategic problem-solving capabilities on critical international policy agendas.
- Analyzed the geopolitical implications of state soft power and the preservation/repatriation of cultural heritage assets, translating advanced academic lectures by a Korea University International Relations professor into comprehensive policy proposals.

Formulated and delivered a high-level research presentation and a rigorous academic essay offering innovative, actionable solutions to global cultural diplomacy challenges and transnational heritage conflicts.	
UNESCO Internationally Designed Areas Vision Forum <i>International School Representative & Speaker</i>	Jeju, Republic of Korea 2025.06.04
Delivered keynote on ecological ethics via Fromm & Heidegger. Urged a shift from consumption to ‘being’; inspired peers to launch eco-action	
“Cheong-Man-Si” National Assembly Youth Forum on ‘Teenager Addict’ <i>Representative Speaker & Youth Policy Advocate</i>	Seoul, Republic of Korea 2025.08.07
- Selected as a Representative Speaker for the “Cheong-Man-Si” National Assembly Youth Forum, engaging in high-level policy debates with National Assembly members, including Congressman Jo Kyoung-tae - Proposed a paradigm shift in preventing addiction by leveraging insights from international curricula, advocating for a “student-agency-centric” model that prioritizes mental resilience over rote memorization	
Korea-Japan Diplomatic Normalization 60th Anniversary Student Forum <i>Young Speaker</i>	Jeju, Republic of Korea 2025.09.19
- Selected as a Youth Representative to deliver a strategic presentation on the feasibility of a Korea-Japan Free Trade Agreement at the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Normalization Forum - Evaluated the socio-economic barriers of the agreement, including domestic resistance in the agricultural and SME sectors, and proposed a roadmap for “Collective Prosperity” between the two nations	
Future Leaders Open Camp <i>Youth Leader</i>	Seoul, Republic of Korea 2025.07.30 - 07.31
- Participated in the Future Leaders Open Camp hosted by the Republic of Korea National Election Commission, learning electoral systems, the NEC’s role in democracy, and voting processes to understand institutional transparency and voter engagement - Drafted policy manifestos addressing social issues; - Engaged in mock election campaigns	
Youth National Patriots and Veterans Affairs CAMP <i>Youth Ambassador</i>	Cheolwon, Republic of Korea 2025.06.20~2026.06.21
- Explored the historical and strategic evolution of the ROK-US military alliance, gaining a profound understanding of international security cooperation and its impact on regional stability - Commemorated the legacy of US Korean War veterans, participating in memorial ceremonies and educational programs to honor their sacrifices and contributions to the defense of democracy	
edX Online Course <i>Scholar</i>	Online 2024.05 - 2024.09
- Completed Harvard University’s “Justice” course [HarvardX], engaging with foundational moral and political philosophies including utilitarianism, libertarianism, and Aristotelian ethics - Explored core concepts in “Global Politics” course, focusing on the dynamics of power, sovereignty, and international cooperation within a multipolar global landscape	
Joongang Student Reporter <i>Reporter</i>	California, U.S.A. 2025.08 - Present
- Selected as a Student Reporter for the JoongAng Daily, contributing to one of the most influential media outlets for the Korean-American community - Authored and published in-depth articles on diverse topics including global geopolitics, community welfare, and educational reform, reaching a broad readership in both California and South Korea	
Shakespeare Association of Korea’s Internship Program <i>Intern</i>	Republic of Korea 2024.08 - 2025.06
- Selected for a competitive internship program with the Shakespeare Association of Korea, focusing on advanced English rhetoric and classical literary analysis - Analyzed classical dramatic texts to understand the evolution of the English Language, applying these insights to produce high-level argumentative and reflective essays	
APEC Global Photo Essay Contest <i>Participant</i>	Gyeongju, Republic of Korea 2024.08 - Present
- Analyzed the architectural paradox of Dabotap, examining how Silla craftsmen mimicked delicate wooden structures using granite to symbolize the resilience of Buddhism - Engaged in field research and expert interviews with Silla heritage scholars to deconstruct the hidden layers of historical monuments, demonstrating a commitment to profound academic inquiry over superficial observation	
JoongAng Ilbo Shakespeare Editorial & Research Internship <i>Research & Editorial Intern</i>	Seoul, Republic of Korea 2026.01 - Present
- Conducted in-depth textual analysis and rhetorical evaluation of Shakespearean literature, examining the complex intersections of political power, governance, and human nature under the auspices of a leading national media conglomerate. - Synthesized critical insights regarding classical political structures and leadership dynamics depicted in historical texts, translating literary themes into analytical briefs on contemporary societal behavior and power dynamics. - Collaborated with peers to dissect advanced prose and theatrical rhetoric, refining sharp critical thinking, argumentative writing skills, and a nuanced understanding of classical humanities as a foundation for political science.	
The 8th Classroom Legislature Competition <i>Human Rights Award</i>	Seoul, Republic of Korea 2025.11.14

- Conceptualized and drafted a mock legislative bill aimed at protecting human rights and advancing social justice, demonstrating a strong capacity for legal reasoning and democratic citizenship
- Recognized with the prestigious Human Rights Award for demonstrating exceptional legal acumen and structural analysis of public policy,

ADDITIONAL SKILLS & INTERESTS

Technical Skills: Perfect Pitch, Debate

Languages: English, Korean, Spanish

Interests: Politics, Political Philosophy, History, SDGs