



**MONASH** University

---

**Submission to the  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade concerning  
a Republic of Korea-Australia FTA**

---

**January 2009**

## **1. Overview**

Monash has a steady relationship with Korean higher education institutions, through the University and its subsidiary Monash College, which offers diploma programs as entry pathways to Monash University in addition to a range of short courses and bridging programs.

Monash University recognises that Korea is the largest source of students enrolled in the ELICOS programs, and a growing source of students and collaborative research opportunities. In 2008, 6,376 Korean students were enrolled in higher education in Australia. 301 of these Korean students enrolled to study at Monash University. The majority of these students enrolled in the faculties of Art & Design, Arts, Information Technology, and Business and Economics. An additional 470 students enrolled in short courses through the Monash College.

Monash currently has 17 active research and education agreements with Korean educational institutions. These arrangements allow for study abroad and exchange between Monash and partner institutions, for study tours and other academic collaboration. Monash would like to deepen its relationships with its Korean partner institutions through greater opportunities for staff and student exchanges and research collaboration.

The Monash Korean Studies program is one of seven Korean programs in Australia (and the only program in Victoria). It offers courses through to honours level, with research supervision offered in Korean linguistics and applied Korean linguistics. The program was an early leader in developing and utilising online learning.

Monash broadly supports a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Korea. Monash also agrees with the education-related issues already identified by the Government in its Australia-Republic of Korea Joint Non-Government FTA Study. In addition to the issues identified, Monash would like to see the following considerations reflected in any final agreement.

## **2. Flexible Business Practices**

Monash has several research links with Korea. Monash's Faculty of Business and Economics collaborates with KAIST and Seoul National University across a range of projects and staff and student exchanges. The ARC Centre of Excellence for Design in Light Metals at Monash University regularly conducts joint research with the Korea Institute of Materials Science. In addition, the Faculty of Arts is heavily engaged in developing web-based Korean teaching materials.

Discussions around the FTA should include mechanisms and incentives to foster university-industry research collaboration between Australian institutions and Korea. The Australian Government's Linkage International – Internationally Coordinated Initiatives, for instance, could provide an opportunity to develop deeper links with Korea that cover areas of mutual interest, such as the impact of technology such as the internet on society, medicine, sciences, sustainability and technology.

The issue of repatriating income earned at campuses set up in Korea, as noted in the Australia-Republic of Korea Joint Non-Government FTA Study, should also be addressed as an incentive for Australian institutions to deepen relations by establishing facilities and campuses in the country.

More broadly, Monash would like to see more flexible business practices that create an environment of mutual benefit to both Australian and Korean business. In such an environment, Monash could interact more easily with higher education institutions, research institutes and other private and public businesses, and expand its programs and activities with Korea.