4 VALUE-ADDED

ASEM-DUO has following 3 value-added aspects:

Structure-based Exchanges

Without exchange MOU, pairing is virtually not possible, thus many NEW MOUs between Asian and European tertiary institutions have been signed.

Enables Sustainable Exchanges

Only staffs in International Exchange Office can find pairing students from the other region, and they encourage continued exchanges in the following years. (more than **95%** of exchanges continued)

Attracts Students from the Other Region

This scheme has been proven effective for smaller or mid-sized economies to attract foreign students from the other region in a BALANCED manner.

5 COMPARISON OF CURRENT ASEM-DUO PROGRAMMES

Within the framework of the core principles, contributing partners' terms of exchange, duration, and fellowship amount may vary based on their policies. Detailed information on the current ASEM-DUO Programmes is in the table below.

	Korea	Singapore	Thailand	Sweden	Belgium/ FWB	CIMEA/ Italy
Starting year	2001	2002	2006	2010	2014	2025
Related Division	MOE	MFA	MHESI	UHR	ARES	CIMEA
Beneficiary	Undergraduate / Graduate students				Professors	Professors, Researchers, PhD
Exchange Duration	1 semester				3 weeks - 2 months	10 working days – 30 days
Fellowship Amount (Euro)	**4,000** Each	**4,000** Each	Thai **4,800** European **3,200**	**3,500** Each	**7,000** for pair	Min. **2,500** - Max. **8,500** Each

6 HOW TO JOIN ASEM-DUO?

The ASEM-DUO is very flexible and easy to implement

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Government declares that DUO-(Country Name) would start from 2027	Secretariat supports Government with well-established setup procedures	Both announce Open Calls to relevant ASEM Partner Countries

Flexibility

- Any partner countries, any field of exchange
- No limitation to the amount or duration of contribution (small scale funding possible)
- Can be linked to existing national scholarship schemes

7 ELIGIBLE ASEM PARTNERS: 51 IN TOTAL

21 Asian Partner Countries

Australia	Bangladesh	Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	China	India
Indonesia	Japan	Kazakhstan	Korea	Laos	Malaysia
Mongolia	Myanmar	New Zealand	Pakistan	Philippines	Russia
Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam			

30 European Partner Countries

Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic
Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece
Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg
Malta	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Romania
Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	U.K.

The Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme

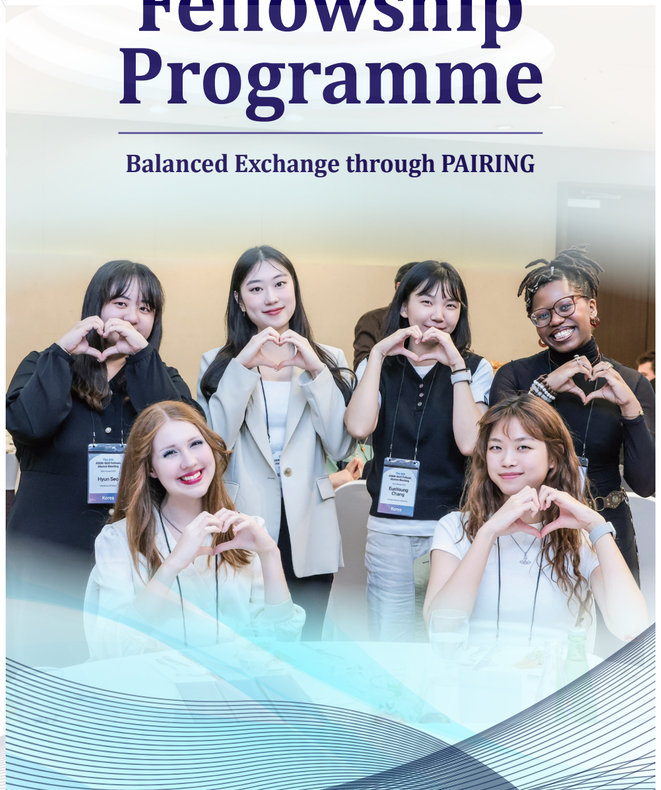
KPO Box 603, Seoul, Korea, 03187
www.asemduo.org
admin2@asemduo.org
+82-2-720-6712

*This information is published as of **November 2026** and is subject to change.

ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme

ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme

Balanced Exchange through PAIRING



1 INTRODUCTION

ASIA ⟷ TWO-WAY RECIPROCAL PAIRING ⟷ EUROPE

- The ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme is one of the flagship initiatives in the ASEM Education Process contributing to **balanced mobility between Asia and Europe.**
- The ASEM-DUO, funded by the ASEM partners, is a **fellowship-granting programme** for university students and professors in ASEM partner countries who will engage in **two-way educational exchanges between Asian and European institutions** for further study, research or joint lecture.
- ASEM-DUO **ONLY** supports **balanced exchanges** through a **reciprocal Asia-Europe pairing framework.**

2 PURPOSE

The ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme aims to:

- **Promote balanced exchanges** of students and professors between Asia and Europe
- Contribute to **setting up regular-basis exchange programmes** between Asian and European tertiary institutions
- Establish **deeper understanding** between two regions

3 CORE PRINCIPLES

The ASEM-DUO is essentially an umbrella programme, while remaining highly flexible and easy to implement. Contributing partners can dictate terms of exchange other than 3 core principles. However, if necessary, the duration and fellowship amount may vary based on the decision of the contributing partner country.

Pairing	Duration Unit	Fellowship Unit
One from Asia One from Europe	**Students** One Semester (4 months)	**Students** 1,000~2,000 Euros/ pair for a month
One-to-One Exchange	**Professors** One Month	**Professors** 1,500~3,000 Euros/ pair for a month

8 MILESTONE & ACHIEVEMENTS

Extension of ASEM-DUO

- **2000.10** Proposed the ASEM-DUO Fellowship by Korea, France and Singapore, ASEM3, Seoul, Korea
- **2004.10** The 2nd phase(2006~2010) extended, ASEM5, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **2010.10** The 3rd phase(2011~2015) extended, ASEM8, Brussels, Belgium
- **2014.10** The 4th phase(2016~2020) extended, ASEM10, Milan, Italy
- **2018.10** The 5th phase(2021~2025) extended, ASEM12, Brussels, Belgium
- **2024.01** The 6th phase(2026~2030) extended, ASEMME9, Valletta, Malta

Beyond Fellowship: Fostering a Global Community

- Alumni Meetings: 7 successfully held
- Triennial Essay Contests: 2 successfully held

Evaluation of ASEM-DUO

> *ASEM-DUO, therefore, clearly contributes to the **overarching ASEM objective of people-to-people connectivity** which was confirmed at the highest political level by all ASEM members. There is **unanimous support for the continuation of the Programme as ASEM-DUO** is considered as one of the uncontested success stories of ASEM.*
>
> – Remarks from German Stock-taking (2019)

Statistical Overview of ASEM-DUO

Asia		Europe
2,483 Awardees		2,480 Awardees
313 Institutions		675 Institutions
18 / 21 Countries		26 / 30 Countries

*Number of Imbalance between the two regions was caused by personal circumstances

Number of Awardees of Each Programme

Over the past 25 years, **nearly 5,000 students and professors** between Asia and Europe have been supported within ASEM-DUO exchanges.

The program's prestige and popularity continue to grow steadily, standing as a key inter-regional exchange initiative for talents from both regions within the ASEM framework.

Year	DUO-Korea	DUO-France	DUO-Singapore	DUO-Denmark	DUO-Thailand	DUO-Sweden	DUO-BelgiumF	DUO-BelgiumW	DUO-India	DUO-Korea/Germany	DUO-CIMEA/Italy	Total
2001	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
2002	68	92	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	196
2003	94	102	54	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	298
2004	102	82	36	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	262
2005	112	50	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	198
2006	120	96	36	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	298
2007	140	58	36	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	306
2008	88	-	36	-	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	188
2009	76	-	24	-	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
2010	90	-	18	-	24	24	-	-	-	-	-	156
2011	96	-	18	-	6	26	-	-	-	-	-	146
2012	98	-	18	-	12	28	33	-	-	-	-	189
2013	112	-	18	-	6	28	34	-	-	-	-	198
2014	112	-	18	-	6	28	35	2	-	-	-	201
2015	116	-	18	-	10	28	35	-	-	-	-	207
2016	99	-	22	-	8	24	36	-	-	-	-	189
2017	100	-	22	-	16	34	37	6	-	-	-	215
2018	103	-	24	-	2	26	37	18	-	-	-	210
2019	100	-	24	-	2	27	36	20	-	-	-	209
2020	69	-	-	-	4	3	11	20	78	-	-	185
2021	98	-	-	-	2	38	-	20	-	12	-	170
2022	104	-	24	-	-	33	-	20	-	12	-	193
2023	90	-	24	-	-	28	-	14	-	-	-	156
2024	87	-	24	-	-	27	-	14	-	-	-	152
2025	73	-	24	-	-	25	-	14	-	-	10	146
2026	43	-	24	-	-	28	-	14	-	-	-	109
TOTAL	2420	480	614	90	336	455	294	162	78	24	10	4963



9 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALUMNI

Awarded essays in the 2nd ASEM-DUO Essay Contest. The full texts are available on our website (www.asemduo.org).

Changes in My Career Path with the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Opportunity

The ASEM-DUO Fellowship bridged that gap in a way nothing else could have. It did not merely fund a semester abroad; it funded the beginning of a new version of myself. It gave me the opportunity to encounter a wider world, to see how different cultures inhabit space differently, and to discover that my deepest professional calling lay at the intersection of engineering, design, and human experience.

Ms. Yeyoung Jung (Korea, DUO-Korea 2019)

From Seoul to Google: How a Semester in Korea Accelerated My Career

Without ASEM-DUO, I would still have finished my business degree. I might have ended up in consulting or a corporate strategy role, following the path most of my Viadrina peers followed. Seoul redirected that. Not dramatically, not overnight, but durably. Every significant career step I have taken since traces back, in some way, to the thinking I started doing in that city in 2010.

Mr. Lukas Hansch (Germany, DUO-Korea 2010)

Seeing the World in Higher Resolution: Looking Back on My ASEM-DUO Experience in Austria

Looking back, ASEM-DUO helped me see not only engineering, but also the world, in higher resolution. That is why my experience in Austria still feels meaningful to me today, even after many years. It did not give me a fixed destination, but it gave me a broader way of understanding technology, society, education, and myself. I hope that this programme will continue to give future students the same kind of opportunity: not only to study abroad, but also to discover perspectives that may guide them much later in life.

Ms. Moonhee Choi (Korea, DUO-Korea 2009)

From Sweden to Korea: Turning Admiration into Welfare Policy

DUO-Sweden was far more than an exchange scholarship. It was the opportunity that helped me see a wider world, discover how I wanted to contribute to society, and take the first step toward the career I have today. Twelve years ago in Stockholm, I was a student who admired a strong welfare state. Today, I am working to turn that admiration into policies suited to Korea's own reality. I am deeply grateful to DUO-Sweden for giving me the courage to choose a new path.

Ms. Soomin Baeg (Korea, DUO-Sweden 2014)

One decision that changed everything

At the end of each chapter of my time in Korea, I had the same feeling: I was not done yet. That feeling kept motivating me to find the next challenge. If I had not applied for the ASEM-DUO Fellowship, I would not have gone to Hanyang University. I would not have discovered HISS, my internship, or been offered a job, or learned Korean, or earned an MBA. I would not have built a career with roots stretching from the Netherlands to Seoul. I would have had a different life. I am certain it would have been a good one. But it would not have been this one.

Mr. Rick Berkhout (the Netherlands, DUO-Korea 2011)

A Bridge Between Worlds: Career-changing experience from ASEM-DUO

I sometimes reread that motivation letter from 2016 by the 21-year-old who wanted to spend her life building bridges between Korean and Spanish-speaking cultures. The bridge I dreamed about then is the one I walk across every day now, carrying stories from one world to another. And it started, in a very real sense, with ASEM-DUO believing that a student from Barcelona with big plans and a love of Korean was worth the investment. I hope I've made that investment worthwhile.

Ms. Yasmine Bonjoch Luna (Spain, DUO-Korea 2016)

From Shy Student to Surgeon: How Six Months in South Korea Changed My Life

Looking back now, what amazes me most is how a decision that initially seemed academic ended up shaping the next twenty years of my life. The ASEM-DUO gave me the opportunity to discover a version of myself that I didn't know existed. I was a shy engineering student who genuinely believed I wasn't confident enough to become a doctor. Today, I spend my days talking with patients and their families, helping people through some of the most difficult moments of their lives and training to become an orthopaedic surgeon. That journey began in Daegu.

Ms. Jennifer Gar-Ling Simcock (U.K., DUO-Korea 2003)

Every diamond starts rough

The exchange had taught me anything, it was how to start from nothing in an unfamiliar place. In my industry, a rough diamond looks like nothing special. Only after it is cut, one facet at a time, does it reveal the fire that was inside it all along. Looking back, I think my exchange year was the first cut. Just as I did eleven years ago, I know I will keep walking forward, gathering beautiful memories and unexpected, lifelong friendships along the way. The ASEM-DUO experience did not simply shape my career. It became the source of who I am.

Ms. Hyomin Seo (Korea, DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2015)