



Torch Trinity Graduate University

Spring 2027 · PhD Programs

General

Admissions Guidelines

Updated: June 9, 2026

Admissions Office | +82-(0)2-570-7375 | admissions@ttgu.ac.kr
70 Baumoe-ro 31-gil, Seocho-gu, Seoul 06752, Korea

1. Incoming Student Quota and Degree Programs

► Incoming Student Quota for Doctoral Programs: 8 people

► Degree Programs

※ The English Program is conducted in English only

Degree Programs	Area / Specialization	Program Language		Duration
		English	Korean	
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	PhD in Theology Specializations: – Biblical Studies – Historical / Theological Studies – Intercultural Studies – Educational Studies	•	—	3 yrs (6 sem)
	PhD in Christian Counseling and Psychology	—	•	3 yrs (6 sem)

※ The theology area offers the flexibility of online learning from your home country. We welcome applicants who wish to study remotely without relocating to Korea.

2. Admission Types and Qualifications

※ Internationals whose mother and father are foreign nationals, and North Korean refugees, are selected separately through the International Admissions process, please see the International Admissions Guidelines.

Program	Qualification
English Program	1. A mature believer who has the assurance of salvation and was baptized (in case of infant baptism, confirmed) at least five years ago as of Feb 28, 2027 2. Must hold an MDiv degree or master's degree in related studies with a minimum GPA of 3.3/4.0 from an accredited university or the legal equivalent 3. Must have an official English test score with a minimum of TOEFL-iBT 71 or 4.0 /IELTS 5.5/TEPS 326 (together with Speaking and Writing test) obtained within the last two years 4. "Intercultural Studies" applicants must have a minimum of three years of intercultural ministry experience
Korean Program	1. A mature, baptized believer 2. Must hold a master's degree in counseling psychology or counseling-related studies from an accredited university 3. Must have an official English score of TOEFL-iBT/IELTS/TEPS obtained within the last two years

3. Procedures and Schedule

► Entrance Exams and Admission Types

Program	Area	1. Paper Screening	2. Personal Inventory Test	3. English Proficiency Test	4. Interview
English	Theology	•	•	•	•
Korean	Christian Counseling and Psychology	•	•	•	•

Exam	Description
1. Paper Screening	► Evaluation of submitted documents
2. Personal Inventory Test (MMPI-II)	► Online test ► Respond honestly to questions about various experiences ► Required to secure test time and a quiet place (about one hour) ► Applicants may take the test in either Korean or English, whichever is more convenient.
3. English Proficiency Test	► Must submit an official English of TOEFL-iBT/IELTS/TEPS (w/ S&W) obtained within two years of the application deadline as of Oct 16, 2026 - For Theology majors, applicants must meet a minimum score of TOEFL-iBT 71 or 4.0/IELTS 5.5/TEPS 326 with S&W [Exemptions] ► Korean applicants who obtained a GPA of 3.75/4.0 or higher in English-speaking countries or English-taught graduate schools will be exempt from submitting an English score. ► International applicants from countries where English is the official language will be exempt from submitting an English score if they obtained a bachelor's degree or higher in English. English-speaking countries are defined by the "Countries and Regions" list of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (www.mofa.go.kr).
4. Interview	► The interview is conducted individually ► Applicants must present a “one-minute speech” on their prospective area of research ► The interviews will be conducted in English and Korean for the English and Korean programs, respectively.

► Percentage Allocations



Program	Area	Paper Screening	MMPI-II	English	Interview	Total
English	Theology	190	P/NP	P/NP	130	320
Korean	Christian Counseling and Psychology	200	P/NP	P/NP	130	330

✕ The admission is based on the total score. However, applicants scoring below the minimum score in the interview will be disqualified.

► Schedule for Entrance Exam

Exams	PhD Admissions	Place / Note
Personal Inventory Test	Fri, Oct. 23	Online
Interview	Fri, Nov. 6	TTGU Campus
Admission Result	Fri, Nov. 20	www.ttgu.ac.kr/apply

- ✓ Interview and Personality Test schedules will be notified by email after application submission.
- ✓ Exams and interviews will be conducted on-site. Applicants residing abroad or unable to attend due to health or official reasons may be permitted to take the exam online.
- ✓ If applicants are disqualified after the paper-screening stage, they will be notified, and no interview will be conducted.

4. Application Information



Step	Process	Deadline	Method
1	Online Application	From Mon, Sept 1, 2026	▶ Access www.ttgu.ac.kr/apply ▶ Read the "Online Application Guidelines" carefully before completing the application.
2	Submission of Application & Required Documents	Oct 14 – Oct 16, 2026 [Note] Documents sent by post MUST arrive by 5 p.m. on Oct. 16	Submit the printed and signed application with all required documents (by post or in-person). Mailing Address: Academic Admissions Office, Torch Trinity Graduate University 70 Baumoe-ro 31-gil, Seocho-gu, Seoul 06752, Korea
3	Application Fee Payment		Fee for Doctoral Program: KRW 110,000 (includes KRW 20,000 for Personality Test) Transfer via bank transfer under the applicant's name. Bank Account: <u>Hana Bank 810-073760-01004</u> Account Holder: Torch Trinity Graduate University
IMPORTANT: Application is only complete once all three steps are finalized by the submission deadline.			

5. Notice for Applicants

- ① The English name and date of birth must match those on the passport.
- ② Applicants must provide a valid email address.
- ③ Any incomplete application will not be processed. Application or admissions will be automatically canceled if the applicant's submitted documents are found to be forged, falsified, or altered.
- ④ If an applicant decides to withdraw the application before the deadline, the application fee will be refunded after the deduction of the remittance fee. However, after the deadline, the submitted application documents and application fee will not be returned.
- ⑤ If an applicant with a disability requires any assistance or support during the admissions process, he or she must inform the office in advance with a copy of his or her disability registration card.
- ⑥ Applicants **must bring both their identification card and the verification slip on the day of the interview.**
- ⑦ If an applicant misses any of the exams, he or she will be automatically disqualified.
- ⑧ If an applicant is deemed to be inadequate to become a pastor/Christian minister after the interview, the applicant may be disqualified.

6. Required Documents

No.	Requirement	English Program	Korean Program
		Theology	Christian Counseling and Psychology
1.	Application	●	●
2.	Personal Statement	●	●
3.	Undergraduate & Graduate: Graduation Certificates	●	●
4.	Undergraduate & Graduate: Official Transcripts	●	●
5.	One Pastoral Reference Letter	●	●
6.	Two Academic Reference Letters	●	●
7.	Certificate of Baptism	●	●
8.	Family Relation Certificate / Birth Certificate	●	●
9.	Certificate of Marital Status	●	●
10.	Official English Score	●	●
11.	PhD Research Plan	●	●
12.	Thesis or Research Paper	●	★
13.	Certificate of Ministry	★	—
14.	Clinical Experience Certificate	—	●
15.	PhD Scholarship Application	★	★
16.	Documents for International Applicants	★	★

● *Mandatory* ★ *only for the required*

✓ **Applicants to the English program must submit all documents in English.**

✓ **Documents issued in foreign languages other than Korean/English (e.g., Chinese) must be translated into Korean or English, notarized, and submitted.**

► Document Details

- Printed Copy of the Online Application:** After submitting the online application at www.ttgu.ac.kr/apply, print out one copy to submit to the Admissions Office along with other required documents.
- Personal Statement [school form]**
- Graduate Certificates (Undergraduate & Graduate Degrees):** Must be issued within 3 months of the application deadline; no issuance date restriction applies for overseas degrees.
 - For graduates from Korean universities, the degree registration number must be provided.
 - Chinese degree holders must submit a 'Verification Report of China Higher Education Qualification

Certificate'.

- Graduates of overseas universities must submit the degree certificate referred to in <Appendix 1: Accreditation Certification Approval of Overseas University>.
- 4. **Official Transcripts (Undergraduate & Graduate Degrees) : Must be issued within 3 months of the application deadline; *no issuance date restriction applies for overseas degrees.***
 - For transferred applicants, please submit transcripts from all previous colleges/universities attended.
- 5. **One Pastoral Reference Letter [school form]:** By the senior pastor or the applicant's spiritual mentor.
- 6. **Two Academic Reference Letters [school form]:** By former professors who know the applicant's academic aspects well.

- Referees should complete the reference letter form and directly e-mail it to admissions@ttgu.ac.kr or mail it in a sealed and signed envelope.
- **[IMPORTANT] Applicant's family or relatives are ineligible to write a reference letter.**
- If the referee cannot write a letter in English, it should be translated by a translator and sent together with the original letter via email or mailed in a sealed and signed envelope.
- References must be delivered by the application deadline.

- 7. **Certificate of Baptism** (a relevant certificate or TTGU format)
- 8. **Family Relation Certificate (detailed format, last 7 digits can be hidden, issued within 1 month of the application deadline)**
- 9. **Certificate of Marital Status (detailed format, issued within 1 month of the application deadline)**
The Certificate of Marital Status must be issued with all details included (**even for never-married individuals**). Failure to include all details will result in disqualification.
- 10. **<English program applicants > required documents**
 - ① One of the TOEFL-iBT 71 or 4.0/IELTS 5.5/TEPS 326(w/ S&W) or higher obtained within two years as of the application deadline * Please refer to the [Exemptions]
 - ② Thesis or research paper written in English from the master's program
 - ③ Certificate of Ministry (minimum of three years) for "Intercultural Studies" applicant
- 11. **<Korean program applicants> required documents**
 - ① Clinical experience certificate: Must include the number of cases (not headcount) of individual counseling and psychological testing performed and the official signature of a clinical supervisor at the training site
 - ② One of the TOEFL-iBT/IELTS/TEPS obtained within two years of the application deadline
* Please refer to the [Exemptions]
 - ③ Thesis written in master's program (if applicable)
- 12. **PhD Scholarship Application:** Please refer to Section 9 for further instructions.
- 13. **PhD Research Plan** Should not exceed 2,000 words (excluding the bibliography). Please ensure that your tentative plan answers the following questions clearly:
 - ① Do you have a clear thesis statement, or have you identified your primary research questions?
 - ② Have you stated why this research is important or what it will accomplish?
 - ③ Have you demonstrated your knowledge of the field by engaging with other scholarly works?
 - ④ Have you explained how you will approach the project (providing at least a brief explanation of the method)?
- 14. Does your research plan include the following elements: Tentative Title, Abstract (maximum 300 words), Tentative Chapter Outline, Introduction, Body, and Conclusion?

15. <International applicants only>

① A copy of passport or alien registration card

② A financial statement (school form) and bank statement (for student-visa applicants only)

Please submit proof of a balance of at least 20,000,000 KRW issued within the last three months.

- ◆ For applicants sponsored by a church, school, or scholarship foundation, please submit proof of the sponsor's representative balance of at least 20,000,000 KRW within the last three months.

③ TOPIK Score (for Korean program applicants): TOPIK level 5 and above is required acquired within the last two years of the application deadline.

- ◆ If overseas Koreans obtained a bachelor's degree in Korean from a university in Korea, applicants will be exempt from the TOPIK score substituting with a graduate certificate, official transcript, and a certificate of domestic residence report.

7. New Student Registration

Procedure	Schedule	Note
Deposit Payment	Wed, Nov. 25 – Fri, Nov. 27, 2026	Individual Virtual Account
Tuition Payment	Mon, Jan. 4 – Thu, Jan. 7, 2027	Individual Virtual Account
New Student Orientation	Tue, Jan. 26, 2027	TTGU Campus (Mandatory)
First Day of Spring 2027	Tue, Mar. 2, 2027	—

- ✓ Deposit payment applies only to successful candidates residing in Korea.
- ✓ Foreign students residing overseas must pay the full tuition fees for the first semester by Saturday, December 5th, and obtain the 'Certificate of Admission' to proceed with the application for the student visa (D-2).
- ✓ New students are not allowed to stop out in the first semester, except for illness, military duty, or maternity.
- ✓ Prospective graduates must submit their final graduate certificate and official transcript before matriculation.

8. Tuition Information

Degree Program	Entrance Fee (KRW)	Tuition / Semester (KRW)	Total (KRW)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	1,050,000	5,137,000	6,187,000

✕ The above amount is for the 2026 academic year and can be changed for the 2027 academic year. The tuition fee listed above is per semester, and the entrance fee is only charged for the first semester.

- ▶ In the doctoral program of Christian Counseling and Psychology, an additional counseling practicum fee is charged during practicum semesters.

9. PhD Scholarship

- ▶ Applicants who intend to apply for a PhD scholarship must submit the "PhD Scholarship Application."
- ▶ Scholarship recipients will receive up to 50% of tuition and must apply for the scholarship each semester.

Appendix 1: Accreditation Certification Approval of Overseas University

If an applicant has obtained a degree from an overseas university, an Apostille certificate or consular confirmation must be issued and submitted to prove that the graduate certificate is an official document of the country where the degree was obtained. For documents not written in Korean or English, a notarized translation in Korean or English must be attached. If you are applying through an agency in Korea, it may take up to two months. We recommend that you apply well in advance of the admission deadline to avoid delays.

IMPORTANT: If you are unable to submit **Final Academic Credentials (Apostille or Consular Authentication)** by the application deadline, a 'Proof of Application' (Receipt) may be temporarily substituted. Acceptance and admission will be revoked if original copies are not submitted by the day before the semester begins.

1. Graduates from a university in Apostille Convention Country (www.hcch.net/en/home)

- ▶ Submit the graduate certificate (or transcript) with an Apostille.
- ▶ Apostille issuance procedure:

Issuance of graduate certificate (or transcript) in the relevant country → (Notarized by the
notarized office in case of private documents) → Visit Apostille issuing organization → Apply for
Apostille issuance → Review by Apostille issuing agency → Issuance of Apostille

- ▶ See www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.authorities&cid=41

2. Graduates from a university in other countries

- ▶ Submit the graduate certificate confirmed by the Consular of the Korean Embassy in the country where the certificate is issued or the foreign embassy in Korea.

3. Graduates from a university in China

- ▶ Submit a **Verification Report of China Higher Education Qualification Certificate**, www.chsi.com.cn/en
- ▶ If you want to get the documents in Korea, contact the Confucius Institute in Seoul.

Website: <https://renew.kongzi.co.kr> Chinese academic credentials certification

Phone: 82-2-554-2688, Email: cis88@cis.or.kr

Appendix 2: Application Fee Payment Guide

IMPORTANT: Please transfer the **application fee ONLY AFTER confirming that your application submission** is complete. Incomplete or missing documents may lead to delayed refunds, and any transaction fees will be deducted.

1. SWIFT Code for International Transfer

Field	Details
Bank Name (Branch Name)	Hana Bank Bank (YANGJAEDONG Branch)
Branch Address	7-15, Gangnam-daero 27-gil, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Account Number	810-073760-01004
Account Holder	Torch Trinity Graduate University
SWIFT Code	KOEXKRSE

2. PayPal Payment

If you intend to pay your application fee via PayPal, please contact us at admissions@ttgu.ac.kr with your name, the program you are applying for, and your email address for further guidance.