



**국민대학교**  
KOOKMIN UNIVERSITY

## KOOKMIN UNIVERSITY

**LOCATION:**

Seoul, South Korea

**TOTAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT:**

2,300 students per year

**SUCCESS METRICS:**

- » Fulfills government initiative for software education
- » Prepares students with hands-on software training
- » Improves basic software course with tangible results
- » Students receive a Microsoft Office Specialist Excel Expert credential to prove their skills and enhance employability

## Kookmin University Implements Microsoft Office Specialist Certification to Help Develop Software Specialists

## Success Story

[www.certiport.com/mos](http://www.certiport.com/mos)

Since MOS was adopted, Kookmin University was selected for an additional two years as a software-focused university due to outstanding performance.

## New Prerequisite Fulfills Korean Government Initiative to Foster University-level Software Education

**CHALLENGE**

Last year the Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning announced a plan to foster university-level software education as part of its drive to produce more software specialists. The initiative aimed to build closer ties between universities and companies to get Korea's software education on par with global standards.

to a lack of professional manpower," Minister Choi Yang-hee said.

The Ministry named 14 schools as software-oriented universities, with plans to invest up to 2 billion won (\$1.75 million) in them annually. Kookmin University in Seoul was selected as one of the software-focused universities to be funded by the initiative for two years.

Kookmin University decided to have students take a software class as a

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**Seung-Il Ahn**

Kookmin University Administrator

prerequisite course, which is in line with the government policy to strengthen software education. However, the class selected for software education, Computer Programming 1, was a basic course, and it was difficult to make assessments due to the lack of an evaluation tool. As a result, faculty at Kookmin University worked together to find a program that could be a suitable solution for students while satisfying the government’s push for better software education.

**SOLUTION**

YBM, Certiport’s Solution Provider in Korea, approached Kookmin University and suggested the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification for the course. MOS certification assesses candidates’ hands-on skills using Microsoft Office software.

To determine if it would be possible to implement MOS certification into part of Computer Programming 1, YBM allowed Kookmin University decision-makers to take free offline training and certification exams. YBM also promised student support in the form of practice test sessions before they took the final MOS exams.

After Kookmin faculty and administrators met with YBM several times, they decided to implement MOS certification and online training tools in the liberal arts software prerequisite for freshman students.

“Our agreement with YBM was signed to foster literacy in Microsoft Office and enhance the competitiveness of our students,” said Dr. Yu Ji Soo, president, Kookmin University.

Faculty members were pleased, including Professor Lee Minsuk in the Department of Computer Engineering, who said, “We knew MOS certification would help our students develop skills that would benefit them in job preparation. We liked the MOS program because it teaches more than just technical skills, it also teaches general skills that all students should learn before they graduate.”

Kookmin University decided to pay the test fee so students could take the MOS certification at no charge to them. They implemented MOS Excel certification right away in part of the Computer Programming 1 course and required all students to take the exam.

**RESULTS**

Since MOS was adopted, Kookmin University was selected for an additional two years as a software-focused university due to outstanding performance. In the first year of implementation, more than 2,300 MOS exams were administered at Kookmin University, and 1,600 candidates earned MOS Excel Expert certification. MOS certification has been a success and will be continually administered as part of Computer Programming 1.

“One of the main reasons Kookmin University adopted MOS certification is to help the students get ready for the workforce,” said Seung-Il Ahn, a Kookmin University Administrator. “MOS is a very useful and suitable tool to help students gain hands-on experience. The class leading to MOS certification gives students a clear goal so they can focus on the course more than ever before.”

Kookmin University plans to expand the MOS program to allow more students to take certification exams at its Certiport Authorized Testing Center, and to encourage students to earn next-level MOS Master Certification in their second semester.

**ABOUT CERTIPOINT**

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**Microsoft**  
Office Specialist