Always ahead of its time

Since partnering with Samsung in 1996, SUNKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY (SKKU) has developed into a leading global institute. Today, it looks to international industry and academia to convert its esteemed tradition into future success.

A venerable past

There’s an endurance to be found in the annals of SKKU that is nothing short of inspiring. Since it opened its doors in 1398, it has survived numerous regime changes, two major fires, and narrowly evaded closure when it was sidelined under Japanese rule.

The university’s first president, Chang-suk Kim, argued for Korea’s independence in 1919, rallying Confucian scholars to petition the International Peace Conference in Paris. After World War II and the end of Japan’s occupation of Korea, Kim started the process of reviving SKKU as a landmark of Korean education.

“As the nation’s highest educational institution, Sungkyunkwan went through vicissitudes with the country it served over the centuries,” says Kyu Sang Chung, the university’s current president. “SKKU succeeds Sungkyunkwan’s main ideology, and nurtures cultured individuals, experts, and creative global leaders.”

SKKU at a glance

SKKU has taken a whole-of-university approach to building multidisciplinary centres of excellence, enabling the university to advance as a world-class research institution.

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