Korean Studies is an interdisciplinary area of research and critical analysis on cultures, societies, philosophical thought and language of the Korean peninsula and its diaspora which complements a number of existing disciplines within social sciences and humanities. With the rapid economic development of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), and its position as the third biggest trading partner for Western Australia, Korean Studies is an increasingly important area of study that equips students with not only linguistic, but also cultural competence and intercultural understanding. Such understanding is required of a successful graduate in the contemporary world where Asia plays an increasingly important part, not only as an economic but also cultural power. A Korean Studies major equips students with an intercultural competence which includes, but is not simply reduced to, a linguistic competence as a measure for intercultural communication. The course structure includes both language studies and cultural study units which will both challenge students to think about internationalisation at a deeper and personal level, necessitating a readjustment of their own existing assumptions of normative forms of knowledge, but also to pursue topics that they find personally interesting, from popular culture to politics and history. Graduates with a major in Korean Studies from UWA will be competent Korean language users with a critical understanding of a culture other than their own. Korean Studies graduates with good language skills will be highly employable within the current economic climate, particularly when the Korean major is combined with a second major in another discipline. Korean Studies major is taught only on an ab initio basis and applicants with prior knowledge of, or a qualification in Korean can only be considered on case-by-case basis.

In line with Faculty OP Plan:
ED2.5 Because of its interdisciplinary nature and the possibility of combining Korean with a Science major, Korean Studies presents a strong case for engaging with a diverse student cohort that enhances the diversity and equity of the Faculty. In 2012, enrolments in Korean language units grew by 171% compared to the second semester pilot course run in 2011, and 75% of students taking Korean were enrolled on the BSc. This presents the Faculty with a strategic opportunity to attract students from other faculties.
ED2.5 Cultural competence in Korean Studies includes but also goes beyond simplistic notions of linguistic competence as a measure for cultural competence. A course offering that includes both language studies and units aimed at increasing students’ understanding of culture other than their own, challenges students to think about internationalisation at a deeper level which necessitates a readjustment of their own existing assumptions of acceptable forms of knowledge. Korean Studies aims to allow students to build a critical understanding of difference, and how difference in contemporary world means more than simply experiencing other cultures. Rather, it necessitates a much deeper change in thinking that allows UWA graduates to realise that there are other, as valid ways, of knowing and behaving, which allows for true internationalisation and cultural understanding to take place.
ED3.2 Korean Studies will seek to routinely engage with e-Learning and seeks to engage increasingly with both external and internal stakeholders to become leaders in global excellence in teaching and learning Korean. Korean Studies is also involved in international collaboration initiatives with a Korean University, where an elective course is offered at Ewha University (Seoul) in real time via video-link to students at UWA. This unit allows students to directly engage and interact with both staff and students based in Korea, enhancing the Faculty’s internationalisation agenda. Korean Studies will also aim to become the regional hub for teaching and learning excellence in Korean Studies through hosting an externally funded TLC conference in teaching and learning in global Korean Studies, thus contributing the Faculty’s existing links with Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as establishing UWA as a global leader in this field.
ED 4.2 Korean Studies staff are involved in leading global research excellence in the fields of their expertise, and accordingly place high importance on research-led teaching, and equipping students in research practices.
ED3.1 This Korean Studies major proposal is benchmarked against existing structure and focus in all leading Higher Education institutions providing Korean Studies, including (but not exclusive to) ANU, UCLA, University of London, The University of Sheffield, and University of Wellington with a view of maintaining and enhancing UWA’s reputation of research and teaching excellence (UWA Strategic Plan 2008, 6.6). By building a comprehensive Korean studies major, UWA has the potential to compete with leading universities in attracting quality graduates, and offers a particularly attractive option for students wishing to harness the interdisciplinary potential of combining Korean Studies with a second major.
ED4.3 The Korean Studies major will also potentially work toward improving the participation of students in the BA (Hons) Asian Studies course, with the possibility of students pursuing research topics specific to Korea.

The Korean Studies major contributes to the following University’s Operational Objectives in education and beyond:
Encouraging Diversity in Student Cohort: Korean Studies will also take an active role in taking part in widening participation initiatives through offering ‘taster-sessions’ to secondary school students in the Korean language. A/Prof Elfving-Hwang has also conducted some preliminary talks with the School of Indigenous Studies to introduce Korean as one of its outreach programme topics in order to contribute to the University’s core mission
of benefiting Western Australian communities, and the strategic priority of improving community engagement (UWA Strategic Plan 2008, 6.7). Additionally, it will be the only Korean Studies major in WA. Given the growing popularity of Korean Studies in South East Asia in particular, the potential to develop distance learning courses to be offered in Singapore and Hong Kong is more than promising. This in turn has huge potential to enhance the internationalisation agenda of the University.

Korean Studies will engage in highly innovative teaching and learning practices, and will seek to contribute to the strategic priorities of ‘improving the quality of the student learning experience’ through engaging with learning technologies and through encouraging teaching and learning methods (such as enquiry-based learning, research-based learning, authentic learning, creative engagement with media technology) that promote learner autonomy, digital fluency and life-long learning in students. These teaching methods will be integrated in both language and cultural studies units. (UWA Strategic Plan 2008, 5.2)

Cultural literacy and competence: through equipping students with both linguistic and cultural competence by combining language units with ‘studies’ units that develop critical awareness and recognition of alternative forms of knowing, which foster respect for ‘Indigenous knowledge, values and culture’ (UWA Strategic Plan 2008, 5.3). The programme will also be in line with the wider Australian Government’s strategic plan outlined in the “Australia in the Asian Century” White Paper 2012 (http://asiancentury.dpmc.gov.au/white-paper), particularly in relation to building “Asia-relevant” capabilities—both broad-based and specialised” (White Paper, Ch. 6, 2012).

Korean Studies is a highly interdisciplinary field of enquiry, which encourages knowledge and skills in the fields of humanities and social sciences. Through encouraging highly critical engagement with and application of key theoretical frameworks, the programme will equip successful graduates with ‘internationally-recognised levels of excellence’ in social sciences (UWA Strategic Plan 2008, 5.1).

Another tangible benefit for the University relates to other research connections with Korean Universities. Engaging with South Korean education in the fields of science is becoming an increasingly important objective for leading research Universities in the world. South Korea invests a significant percentage of its annual GDP into R&D in science technologies, and collaborations with South Korean research institutes and Higher Education institution offer an attractive way to gain mutual benefit from this focus. Conversely, the Korean government recognises the importance of intercultural competency and cultural exchange, being the only post-industrial, developed nation to have its own ministerial-level appointment dedicated to nation branding and promotion of Korea culture. Recognising and appreciating Korea’s attempts to utilise ‘soft power’ through supporting and sponsoring courses such as Korean Studies at leading overseas HE institutions paves the way to other forms of collaboration in the fields of research collaborations (UWA Strategic Plan 2008, 6.6).

### Type
- Single major
- Will be offered as a degree-specific major
- Will be offered as a second major
- Co-requisite majors (for second major), if any:
- Honours will be proposed for major
- Graduate Entry Diploma proposed

### Expected Enrolment
- 20-25 (Based on a multiplier derived from the throughput from Japanese 1 enrolments to the Japanese major, using Korean 1 enrolments, revised conservatively in view of stronger B Sci background of Korean students.)

### Structure

#### Structure:
- 2 + 3 + 3

#### Overlap with other majors
- This major includes units offered in other majors within the same degree course/knowledge paradigm
- Asian Studies major, Gender Studies major (proposed). Korean Studies will have clear synergies with the existing Asian Studies programme, and enhance the breadth of course offering in this particular discipline. A core unit KORE3812 Contemporary Korean Society is offered as an elective for the Asian Studies major. Moreover, because of its partial focus in using gender as a critical perspective on analysing cultural narratives and social structures in contemporary Korea, synergies also exist with Gender Studies, as well as the potential to offer this unit as a level 3 elective for students registered for the Gender Studies major.

- This major includes units offered in other majors across different degree courses/knowledge paradigms

#### Preliminary consultations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/School</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>Colleagues in Asian Studies have been consulted in order to plan how Korean Studies units will enhance the overall course offering of the school. The Chair of Asian Studies, Assoc/Prof Stephen Dobbs, supports creation of a Korean Studies major, and the associated level 3 Korean Studies unit (“Contemporary Korean Society”) which will enhance the overall course offering of the Asian Studies programme. Professor Alison Bartlett was consulted on the possibility of the level 3 non-language Korean Studies unit being offered as an elective for BA Gender Studies, potentially benefitting both degree courses. Finally, Prof Michael Pinches was consulted on including Korea-specific content on the level 2 Asian Popular Culture unit (ASIA2004).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty/School</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Dr Kati Tonkin was consulted on the structure of the course to benefit from the synergies that existing between teaching area studies in terms of teaching and learning.</td>
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The Korea Foundation has provided initial funding for the employment of Korean Studies staff, and the funding was awarded with the understanding that the University of Western Australia committed itself to developing a viable Korean Studies programme with a BA major.

Korean Studies Association of Australasia (KSAA) has been very much in support of the creation of this new BA programme, particularly WA does not have a course in Korean Studies. In particular, the strategic location of UWA is considered highly beneficial to promotion of Korean Studies in the region. The announcement for the establishment of Korean programmes was discussed at the KSAA Conference in Sydney in November 2011, and members (including the President, Prof Hyaweeol Choi, ANU) of the Association were highly supportive of this development.

The Executive Director of KRI Prof Chung-sok Suh has been closely involved and supportive of securing the financial backing from Korea Foundation to fund the initial establishment phase of Korean Studies at UWA.

Discussions with Ms Mi Mo (Korea Upstream Projects Manager) regarding the establishment of Korean Studies. Dr Elfving-Hwang has also held preliminary discussions on work placement opportunities with a number of companies based in WA and the East Coast on the possibility of arranging work experience opportunities for Korean Studies students.

Consultations were also held with the ROK Consulate in Sydney on possibilities of collaborating on organising student-led projects (such as organising film festivals or other cultural events) that would allow students to gain work experience on relevant field of work.

Dr Roald Maliangkay (Director of Korean Studies Programme) and Dr Ruth Barraclough (Korean Studies) were both consulted in December 2012 regarding the structure and content of the proposed major. The basic structure is well regarded and Dr Maliangkay and Dr Barraclough commented that the studies structure and the way in which it is proposed to be integrated within the broader Asian Studies course offering is in line with other leading providers of Korean Studies in Australia. There was, however, a recommendation to include some cultural studies content at level 2 in order to enhance students’ cultural literacy and understanding of the language, possibly through using authentic Korean language materials with lecturer-led content to explain the social, historical, ideological, or cultural context that informs each text or media.

Dr Jaehoon Yeon, who has designed and directed Korean programmes at the SOAS Korean Studies Institute for over ten years, was consulted about the proposed structure. In his words: "Sounds good and reasonable to me. We also offer ‘Culture and Society of Korea’ course to our first year students before we send them to Korea for a year abroad language training in their 2nd year. It is also the case in Japanese studies degree at SOAS. I think understanding culture and society is essential and important for enhancing language ability as well. Overall your degree programme seems to be still language intensive and vigorous. An addition of one more unit of culture and society course wouldn’t do any harm and actually strengthen the programme structure."

Assoc/Prof Stephen Epstein (previously Head of Asian Studies) provided positive feedback on the overall structure. Dr Epstein commented that a second year Korean culture or society course would be necessary for the course to be considered as a Korean (rather than Asian) Studies major. This has been taken into account in designing a level two unit.

### Committee endorsements and approvals

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<th>Stage</th>
<th>Review committee</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee R07/13</td>
<td>6/02/2013</td>
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<td>Concept Plan</td>
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*There are no other Universities offering a similar course in Western Australia*