



Virginia Tech RSAP Summer 2024

Seoul 서울 | Taipei 台北 | Hsinchu 新竹

Each year, Solstice partners with a select number of universities to create one-of-a-kind, fully customizable study experiences around the world. With careful guidance from Solstice's team of American and international educators, Virginia Tech RSAP students will gain invaluable insight into the ancient history and modern marvels of South Korea and Taiwan.

Solstice provides three core services: (1) assistance in developing your program itinerary; (2) comprehensive pre-departure support; and (3) facilitation of all logistical provisions (e.g., domestic and international airfare, buses, hotel accommodations, restaurant recommendations and bookings, activity planning, and Solstice program leaders).

Please note that while the spirit of the below schedule will remain unchanged, certain aspects — in consultation with VT faculty leaders — are subject to be updated. Company and university visits are typically scheduled one to five months prior to the program start date. As a result, our proposal may include a few placeholders for unspecified visits. Each will be specified in the months leading up to May 2024, and this process will be completed in close collaboration with Virginia Tech faculty leaders. Solstice maintains a strong track record of providing engaging and impactful visits to local firms, multinational corporations, local educational institutions, and more. As always, please contact us anytime if you have questions, requests, or suggestions during the program planning and implementation process.

Our team looks forward to welcoming Virginia Tech RSAP to South Korea and Taiwan in 2024!

May 12 - May 18: Seoul | Engineering Education in South Korea's Capital City

Day 1 | Sunday, May 12 (*Washington, DC to Seoul*)

All Day Fly from Washington, DC to Seoul, South Korea

Day 2 | Monday, May 13 (*Seoul*)

Afternoon Arrive in Seoul and transfer to our hostel for the week
While traveling into Seoul, engage in an orientation session to understand and conceptualize the journey ahead and share program goals and expectations amongst your fellow travelers.

7:00 PM Welcome to Seoul! Enjoy a festive welcome dinner at an authentic *Gogi Gui* Korean BBQ restaurant

Day 3 | Tuesday, May 14 (*Seoul*)

9:00 AM Tour a university in Seoul with local students as your guides
Explore campus, engage in a hands-on tour of its engineering labs, and meet with local peers.



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11:00 AM	Attend a guest faculty lecture on sustainable development solutions and green energy engineering in South Korea
12:30 PM	Group lunch with local university students
2:00 PM	Embark on a guided walking tour of downtown Seoul <i>Commence your journey at the Gyeongbokgung Palace, a major palace of the Joseon Dynasty which ruled Korea from 1392-1910. Next, relax at the Cheonggyecheon stream, then enjoy free time in Insadong, a former residential area for the Josean aristocracy transformed into an arts-and-crafts enclave.</i>
Evening	Free time to explore Seoul and for small group dinners on your own

Day 4 | Wednesday, May 15 (Seoul)

Morning	Company visit to the Hyundai Motor Company manufacturing facilities at Asan <i>Tour the production lines and participate in a roundtable discussion with engineers at Hyundai's 440 acre Asan Plant, where over 30,000 passenger vehicles are manufactured annually.</i>
12:30 PM	Group lunch nearby
2:30 PM	Company visit to TK Elevator Korea, a multinational manufacturer of elevators, escalators and moving walkways
Evening	Small group dinners on your own near Myeongdong Shopping Street

Day 5 | Thursday, May 16 (Seoul)

9:30 AM	Attend a company visit to Seoul Robotics <i>Learn about the company's innovations in autonomous driving solutions and 3D perception software through interactive demonstrations led by engineers.</i>
12:30 PM	Group lunch with Seoul Robotics team members nearby
2:00 PM	Engineering-themed company or academic visit
Evening	Small group dinners on your own at the Gwangjang Market

Day 6 | Friday, May 17 (Day Trip to the DMZ)

Morning/Afternoon	Tour the extraordinary Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) <i>Learn about the Korean War and how the so-called Demilitarized Zone came to exist along the 38th parallel. Gain a rare glimpse into North Korean territory from South Korea's Dora Observatory.</i>
Evening	Free time to explore Seoul and optional activities



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Day 7 | Saturday, May 18 (Seoul)

All Day

Free day to explore Seoul!

Optional activities include exploring the majestic Changdeokgung Palace and Secret Garden, ascending the N Seoul Tower, or strolling through Starfield COEX Mall, Asia's largest underground shopping mall.

May 19 - May 25: Taipei | Innovation and Culture in Taiwan

Day 8 | Sunday, May 19 (Seoul to Taipei)

Morning

Fly non-stop from Seoul to Taipei (~2.5 hours)

1:00 PM

Enjoy group lunch and mid-program reflection at Din Tai Fung, a renowned Taiwanese *xiaolongbao* (soup dumplings) restaurant

3:00 PM

Embark on a city tour of central Taipei

Discover the Longshan Temple, a center of worship for Buddhism, Taoism and Taiwanese folk religions. Stroll along the historic Dihua Street, and explore more important cultural landmarks via public transportation and walking.

6:00 PM

Small group dinners and free time to explore the Ximending pedestrian area

Day 9 | Monday, May 20 (Taipei)

9:00 AM

Company visit to Tensor Tech, a Taipei-based startup specializing in satellite attitude control systems

12:00 PM

Small group lunches on your own at a local marketplace

2:00 PM

Hike up Xiangshan, also known as Elephant Mountain

4:00 PM

Ascend Taipei 101 for panoramic views of the city

Typhoon and earthquake resistant, this environmentally friendly skyscraper is equipped with one of the world's fastest elevator systems: visitors can travel from the 5th to 89th floor in a record-breaking 37 seconds.

6:00 PM

Small group dinners on your own at Raohe Night Market

Sample bubble tea, omelets, fried buns, and a variety of local dishes at this bustling night market, often considered the center of Taipei's beloved street snack lifestyle.

Day 10 | Tuesday, May 21 (Taipei)

9:00 AM

Visit a local school or university for a lab tour and cultural exchange activities

12:00 PM

Lunch on campus with local students

2:00 PM

Partake in a guided tour of the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

Learn about the history of the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) while exploring one of Taiwan's most important historical and political landmarks.

4:00 PM

Free time to explore Taipei



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Day 11 | Wednesday, May 22 (Day Trip to Hsinchu)

- 8:30 AM** Board the bullet train to Hsinchu (~45 minutes)
Once inhabited by the Taokas indigenous tribe, Hsinchu was a modest farming village throughout most of the 20th century. Taiwan's seventh largest city by population, the area now leads Taiwan's chip-manufacturing industry which supplies tech giants like Apple and Google.
- 10:00 AM** Company visit to firm in Hsinchu Science Park
Tour facilities and participate in a roundtable discussion with product designers and sales representatives in order to understand Taiwan's unprecedented role in the global supply chain.
- Midday** Group lunch nearby
- Afternoon** Attend a manufacturing visit in Hsinchu
- 5:00 PM** Return to Taipei; free time for small group dinners

Day 12 | Thursday, May 23 (Taipei)

- 10:00 AM** Company visit to a local tech firm based in Taipei
- 12:00 PM** Small group lunches
- 2:00 PM** Explore the tea gardens at the top of Maokong Mountain
Ride the gondola to the top of this idyllic mountain to learn about the cultivation of tea and its important role in Taiwanese social life, then sample the finished product.
- 5:00 PM** Free time for small group dinners and exploring

Day 13 | Friday, May 24 (Taipei)

- Morning/Afternoon** Free time to explore Taipei
Suggested activities include hiking a trail of Mt. Yangming, soaking in the thermal waters of the Beitou Hot Springs, exploring the coastal Jiufen Village, and more!
- 7:00 PM** Enjoy a festive farewell dinner and reflection with your peers and program leaders!

Day 14 | Saturday, May 25 (Taipei to Washington, DC)

- All Day** Fly back to the United States