

KHU Performs the Highest-ever in 2025 QS World University Rankings

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On March 12, Kyung Hee University (KHU) recorded its best-ever performance in the 2025 QS World University Rankings by Subject. The QS Rankings is widely recognized as a prestigious measure of academic excellence among universities worldwide. A record 32 subjects ranked within the global top 450, marking the largest number to date. This accomplishment raises expectations for KHU's continued academic growth and sustained rise in global reputation.

KHU Rises Globally Across Various Disciplines

KHU achieved the highest-

ever recognition in 32 subjects across fields such as arts, humanities, social sciences, engineering technology, life sciences, and medicine. This marks an increase from 27 last year, demonstrating KHU's growing academic competitiveness. Among these, Hospitality and Leisure Management ranked at 42 globally. Linguistics, Petroleum Engineering, and Dentistry newly entered in the global top 100.

10 new subjects entered the rankings, demonstrating the university's strategic focus on specific academic areas. Each of these fields rose by approximately 100 places compared to the previous year.

From Research Hubs to Global Rankings: KHU's Strategic Leap Forward

KHU has been focusing on academic diversity and balanced

advancement to strengthen its research capabilities across a wide range of disciplines. The Evaluation and Consulting team of the Office of Planning and Coordination at KHU stated, "KHU has expanded research support across all academic fields. It has also actively encouraged interdisciplinary and international joint research to enhance the quality of research outcomes." The team added, "In 2022, KHU established the Institute of Convergence Technology to provide opportunities for researchers from various disciplines to collaborate."

Strategic support focused on six major academic fields that have shown notable growth: space science, bio-health, quantum science, advanced materials, artificial intelligence, and studies on human civilization. In these fields, KHU has demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing global academic capacity through international collaboration, establishing global research centers and recruiting renowned scholars.

These efforts have laid the foundation for KHU's rise in global academic rankings. One major area of improvement is academic reputation, which accounts for over 40% of the QS Ranking score.

KHU has supported re-



KHU Administration Building

Photo: KHU (khu.ac.kr)

searchers to participate in international conferences and publish in high-impact journals. It has also actively promoted academic achievements through strong networks with academia and industry. Another area of strength is the University's international research network. Through partnerships with over 500 universities worldwide, KHU has established a broad global research infrastructure, enabling international collaboration and highly recognized research output.

To further boost its global research capabilities, KHU recently launched the Search and Recruit Committee under the direct supervision of President Kim Jin-sang. This committee

is focused on identifying leading scholars and discovering promising young researchers. To meet the demands of the fourth industrial revolution, KHU also seeks faculty members and experts in emerging technologies and convergence skills.

KHU's rise in the latest QS Rankings highlights its ongoing efforts to enhance global research across a wide range of disciplines. Looking ahead, KHU plans to recruit outstanding faculties, promote international collaboration, and support diverse academic fields. This rise in the QS Rankings is more than a milestone—it serves as a strategic stepping stone for KHU's emergence as a global academic leader.

Food Poisoning Unlikely—But Hygiene Still an Issue

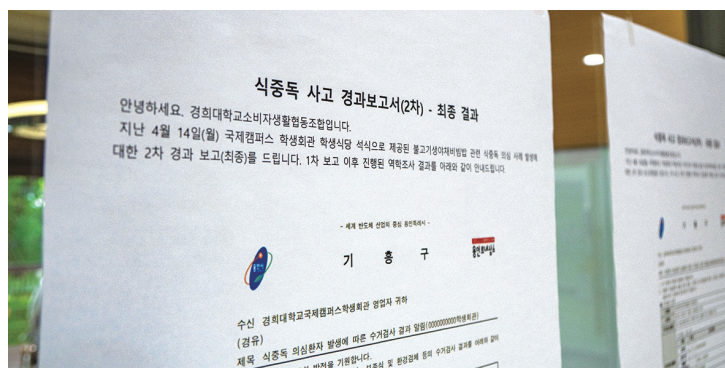
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The investigation into the recent suspected food poisoning incident at the Student Center cafeteria in Global Campus has revealed partial results. Findings from half of the reported cases suggest that Kyung Hee University (KHU) Cooperatives may be less directly responsible. However, given the current state of cafeteria operations, concerns about hygiene and safety remain.

Background of the Food Poisoning Incident

Concerns regarding the food poisoning incident first emerged on April 15. On that day, several students posted on Everytime—an anonymous university community application—reporting symptoms after eating dinner at the Student Center cafeteria on April 14. In response, the KHU Cooperatives voluntarily reported these cases



The Giheung-gu Office's announcement of the food poisoning investigation results

to the Giheung-gu Office to assess whether they were responsible. Then, the Sanitary Guidance Team and the Gyeongin Branch of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety took charge of epidemiological investigations, while the Giheung-gu Public Health Center is handling specimen collection and analysis.

Regarding potential causes, the KHU Cooperatives indicated that leftover food may have caused the symptoms. They stated, "We served leftover lunch items for free during dinner service. That day was rainy, and the temperature fluctuated more

than usual, which could be the source of the issues." As a result, they have since stopped serving leftover food.

"No Food Poisoning Bacteria Were Detected"

The epidemiological investigation results were released on May 16. The investigation tested samples—including preserved food, cooking utensils, drinking water, and cooking water—regarding the presence of food poisoning bacteria. In the official document, the Sanitary Guidance Team of the Giheung-gu

Office stated that all results were negative, concluding that "No food poisoning bacteria were detected."

In contrast, the specimen analysis results remain inconclusive. The KHU Cooperatives explained, "According to the latest update, nine students volunteered for testing, and two of them were tested positive. However, the public health center hesitates to draw a conclusion due to the small sample size. Since approximately 300 people had dinner that day, two positive test results may not be sufficient to confirm food poisoning." The General Affair Team (GAT) of KHU also expressed their confusion, stating, "The specimen analysis so far has shown ambiguous results. At this point, we cannot make any definitive conclusions. All we can do now is to wait for the final results."

Test Results Do Not Guarantee Safety

Although the results suggest that the KHU Cooperatives was less likely to be responsible for the suspected food poisoning, hygiene-related concerns remain due to the current cafeteria conditions. When the test results were released, the KHU Cooperatives explained that fa-

cility conditions might cause another hygiene issue. The Student Center building's rear section has several cracks, which may cause insect infestations. Chunwoo Environment Service Corporation, a company called CES-CO specializing in pest control, explained, "This may reduce the effectiveness of our pesticide treatments. Maintaining the building's structural integrity is the way to prevent insect issues."

The cooking area showed a similar issue. During an emergency inspection of the cafeteria, inspectors discovered several cracked floor tiles and raised concerns about potential safety and hygiene risks. Although the KHU Cooperatives requested support from the GAT for tile repairs, they were reluctant to provide assistance. This situation indicates that the KHU Cooperatives is solely managing hygiene concerns under these poor conditions.

Based on the announced results, the food poisoning incident appears less connected to cafeteria operations. However, the current cafeteria conditions suggest that test results alone do not guarantee student safety from hygiene concerns. Improved service consistency and hygiene depend on the KHU community's engagement with the cafeteria incidents.