

Guidelines for Korean Nationality Status Check

***This section pertains only to individuals of Korean heritage who have turned 22-years-old after May 4th, 2010**

I. DETERMINING WHETHER YOU HAVE KOREAN CITIZENSHIP

Regardless of your birthplace and current citizenship, you hold Korean citizenship if your father was a Korean citizen or Permanent Resident of Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the U.K. or the U.S. at the time of your birth. Please **verify** your Korean citizenship status with the Korean Embassy/Consulate in the country of your residence.

- A. If the Korean Embassy/Consulate determines that you **DO hold Korean citizenship**, you must enter Korea on a Korean passport. Please seek consultation from the Korean Embassy/Consulate about obtaining a Korean passport. If you wish to enter on a passport of your current residence, you must first file a nationality renunciation report. Please see “**Retaining/Renouncing Your Korean citizenship**” section below for an overview of the eligibility criteria.
- B. If the Korean Embassy/Consulate determines that you **DO NOT hold Korean citizenship**, you must consult the Korean Embassy/Consulate about obtaining an appropriate visa: E2-2 (Public Institution Foreign Language Instructor) or F-4 (Overseas Korean).

II. RETAINING/RENOUNCING YOUR KOREAN CITIZENSHIP

If it is determined that you hold Korean citizenship, you have the option to retain or renounce your Korean citizenship. By retaining it, you can arrange to enter on a Korean passport; and by renouncing it, you can arrange to enter on an E2-2 or F-4 visa. If you cannot renounce your Korean citizenship, you must obtain a Korean passport. Please refer to general guidelines below and consult with the Korean Embassy/Consulate for further directions as necessary.

Females: Before turning the age of 22, you have the option to keep or renounce your Korean citizenship. If you renounce your Korean citizenship, you must enter Korea on a passport of your current residence and obtain an appropriate visa. Please refer to “**Section I.B.**” above.

Males: By March 31st of the year you turn 18, you have the option to keep or renounce your Korean citizenship. **After the aforementioned date, you are NOT eligible to file for Korean Nationality Renunciation unless you have fulfilled Korean military duty or have been waived from serving in the military.** You are **subject to Korean military service at any time upon arrival** to Korea if you have neither fulfilled Korean military service nor received a waiver for it.

[NOTE] If you **cannot** renounce your Korean citizenship, you **must** obtain a Korean passport. Please consult with the Korean Embassy/Consulate for further directions.

[DISCLAIMER] The Seoul EPIK Office provides information as instructed by the Korean Ministry of Justice and appropriate government bodies. Since the EPIK Office is not authorized to issue visas, the EPIK Office does not hold any legal responsibility for the information presented above. All inquiries regarding "Korean Nationality Status" should be directed to the nearest Korean Embassy/Consulate.