

## **Higher Education Systems In China, Japan, And South Korea : A Comparative Study**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Each country has a higher education system that is different and unique, depending on history, culture, values, and social structure, which can give uniqueness to the higher education system in each country and reflect needs, values, and social context. different. So it is important to understand these differences when studying or choosing higher education institutions in a particular country. This study aims to conduct a comparative study of the higher education systems of the three countries located in the East Asia region, namely China, Japan, and South Korea to provide valuable insights about the factors that contribute to success and challenges in the higher education system in each of these countries, based on aspects such as the type of higher education and the duration of the program, the ranking of top universities and study programs, the system of tertiary admission selection, and openness to international students and scholarship support. The method used in this research is qualitative research with an analytic descriptive approach, as well as a literature study data collection method by conducting a study of various literatures. The results of the research show that there are a number of differences and similarities in various aspects of the higher education system in the three countries, but even so these three countries are committed to improving the quality of higher education, expanding access for international students, and becoming an attractive destination for those who wish to pursue education. in East Asia. All three countries have good reputations, provide excellent study programs, and have strong support for international students.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Higher education as an institution includes various academic institutions such as universities, colleges, polytechnics and institutes, which provide various educational programs after the secondary level of education. Higher education institutions provide opportunities for individuals to develop higher knowledge, skills and competencies in various fields of study. They offer a variety of academic programs, including bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, which allow students to deepen their understanding in a particular field (Mayer et al, 2007; Smart, 2008). Apart from developing knowledge and skills, higher education is also a center for research and innovation. Higher education institutions facilitate research that contributes to scientific and societal advancement carried out by teaching staff and students, and leads to new discoveries, technological development, and problem solving in various fields. Additionally, higher education helps prepare individuals for careers and professionalism. Most higher education institutions offer programs that are relevant

to the world of work and allow students to develop practical skills, leadership skills and deep understanding in specific fields. This is intended to prepare them to enter the workforce and contribute professionally (Dempsey & Malpas, 2018; Ocampo et al, 2022).

Each country has a different and unique higher education system, depending on their history, culture, values, and social structure (Berzosa et al, 2017; Benito, & Romera, 2020). The higher education system can vary in several aspects, such as educational structure, educational focus, program duration, tuition fees, admission selection system, curriculum approach, accreditation and ranking, international openness, and many other aspects, which can give a higher education system uniqueness in each country and reflect different needs, values and social contexts. So it is important to understand these differences when studying or choosing a higher education institution in a particular country (Adam, 2020; Goksu & Goksu, 2015).

China, Japan and South Korea are three countries in East Asia that have different histories, cultures and higher education systems. Even though all three are in the same area, differences in history and cultural values have shaped the unique characteristics of higher education in each country. The differences in history, culture, and higher education systems between these three countries provide different approaches to preparing students for their academic and professional futures. Nonetheless, these three countries have a strong commitment to higher education to produce quality human resources and contribute to progress in various fields (Gu & Wang, 2018). A comparative study of the higher education systems in the three countries is very important to do in order to understand the differences and uniqueness of each system, as well as to show the level of competitiveness of each country in terms of the management and performance of the higher education system. Comparative studies of the higher education systems in China, Japan, and South Korea can provide valuable insight into the factors that contribute to success and challenges in the higher education systems in each of these countries, as well as serve as examples of best practice for other countries. like our own country, Indonesia. Some of the aspects examined in this comparative study between the higher education systems in China, Japan, and South Korea are the type of higher education and the duration of the program, the ranking of leading universities and study programs, the university entrance selection system, and openness to international students and scholarship support. . The aspects examined in this comparative study will provide a fairly comprehensive insight into the differences and similarities in the higher education system between the three countries of China, Japan and South Korea, and can provide a basis for cross-border learning and the development of better education policies in Indonesia. future.

## METHOD

The type of research used is qualitative research with an analytic descriptive approach, which is intended to provide an in-depth description and provide a comprehensive and detailed description of the phenomenon under study (Nasution, 2023). This in-depth description involves extracting rich data and complex understanding of the contexts, processes, and meanings behind the phenomena being compared (Holmes, 2018), which in this context are the higher education systems in China, Japan, and South Korea. The data collection method used in this study was literature study by conducting a review of various literatures in the form of books, journals, notes, and reports related to the higher education system in China, Japan and South Korea.

## DISCUSSION

## Higher Education System in China

China's higher education system has experienced rapid development in the last few decades. Types of higher education in China consist of Universities, Technical and Technological Colleges, Art and Design Colleges, Medical and Dental Schools, Vocational Colleges, Polytechnic Colleges, Agricultural and Veterinary Colleges, and many other types that offer various bachelor, master, and doctorates (Aziz, 2020; Xia et al, 2023). Universities in China are usually organized around specializations or areas of study. There are two types of higher education institutions in China, namely those run by the government and those that are independent. Government-run universities generally have more funding and are often seen as more prestigious institutions (Gu & Wang, 2018). Undergraduate program duration in China generally lasts 4 (four) years for most majors, except medicine and surgery programs which last up to six years of education. The duration of the master program is two years which also with some exceptions certain programs which can be extended up to three years. Whereas the duration of a doctoral program in China is three to four years, of which the first two or three years of doctoral studies in China are based on teaching, while the fourth year is usually dedicated to writing an academic dissertation (Syakhrani et al, 2022).

China has a number of top universities and has increased its ranking on lists of the best universities in the world. Based on the results of the Top 100 QS World University Rankings 2023, a number of universities in China that get the top list are Peking University which is in 12th place, followed by Tsinghua University which is in 14th place, then Zhejiang University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University which are respectively respectively in the order of 42 and 46, and the University of Science and Technology of China which was ranked 94th (<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2023>). Peking University formerly known as “Yan Yuan” is one of the leading universities in Beijing China and is considered one of the most prestigious universities in the country. The university was originally founded as Imperial University of Peking and went through several name changes before becoming Peking University in 1912 (<https://english.pku.edu.cn/>). Over the past decades, the university has grown into an internationally recognized center of education and research (Xie, 2017; Wang, 2015). Some of the leading and well-known study programs at Peking University are Social Sciences and Humanities, Computer Science and Information Technology, and the Medical program (Lin, 2012). Ranked 14th, Tsinghua University, which was established in 1911 as a result of the Boxer rebellion which China paid to the United States (Gao et al, 2010), is also the best university in Beijing China which has produced many prominent graduates in politics, academic, and industry (<https://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/en/>). Featured study programs from Tsinghua University include Engineering and Applied Science, Computer Science and Information Technology, and Business and Management (Zou et al, 2015). A little far below the order of Peking University and Tsinghua University, there are 2 (two) universities ranked 42nd (Zhejiang University) and 46th (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), which also have a strong reputation in various fields of study, where Zhejiang University and has almost the same advantages, namely in the fields of engineering such as civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical, materials engineering, as well as informatics engineering and computer science (<https://www.zju.edu.cn/english/>). Meanwhile, the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), although it ranks 94th in the Top 100 QS World University Rankings 2023, has a strong reputation in the field of science and technology

among many other countries in the world (<https://en.ustc.edu.cn/>). The University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) has several advantages that make it stand out among other institutions in China, especially in having study centers that focus on nanotechnology, renewable energy, materials science, and bioinformatics, and are supported by collaboration and international collaboration involved in global scale projects.

The results of the QS world university ranking of several universities in China show a very high reputation and competitiveness, so that competition to enter these universities is very tight (Suastika, 2021). Demand for admission to top Chinese universities, such as Peking University and Tsinghua University, far exceeds their acceptance capacity. This resulted in a highly competitive selection process. To become a student at top universities in China, prospective students need to meet stringent requirements, including high academic scores, language skills (usually English or Chinese), as students who are successfully admitted to these universities will gain access to state-of-the-art research facilities, quality teaching, and opportunities to engage in research and innovation in areas of interest.

The Gaokao or National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) is a new student admissions exam and is a standardized exam conducted throughout China (Zivin et al, 2020). The Gaokao is an exam that lasts 9 hours and is usually held for two consecutive days in China. This exam is a national exam that senior high school students take in their final year as part of the selection process for entering college. Gaokao covers subjects such as Chinese (Mandarin), Mathematics, Foreign Languages (usually English), Science or Humanities, as well as other subjects related to certain majors (Cheng et al, 2016). The results of these exams are the only requirement for acceptance by several leading universities in China, so that the Gaokao, which is at the same level as the American and British versions of the SAT level exam, is known as one of the most challenging and extreme exams in the world (Muthanna & Sang, 2016), because it doesn't even just as the SAT allows students to take this exam multiple times, most in China only get the chance to take the Gaokao once. Apart from being very long and tiring in duration and very strict supervision, the results of the Gaokao exam will have a significant impact on the academic and professional future of prospective students in China, so that there have been several cases of students in China committing suicide for failing the Gaokao exam.

China's higher education system has become more open to international students in recent decades, and international applicants are usually not required to take the Gaokao exam to apply to Chinese universities, but some universities or study programs may have varying specific requirements for international students, one of which is the result of the Chinese (Mandarin) language proficiency test. As China aims to internationalize its higher education system, many Bachelor's degree programs are also offered in English, so mastery of English is also a requirement to study in China and have completed at least 12 years of formal education (Ma & Zhao, 2018). The Chinese Government's efforts to support the internationalization of its higher education system have also been pursued by offering various scholarships for international students (Lin, 2012). One of the most well-known and popular scholarships is the Chinese Government Scholarship which is programmed to support educational and cultural development programs, and is provided for international students in undergraduate and postgraduate programs (Council, 2020). There are 2 types of Chinese Government Scholarships, the first is for the Bilateral Program which is provided for international students from countries that have diplomatic relations with China, and the second is the Silk Road Program which is provided for international students from countries located along the Silk Road Economic route.

Belt and The 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road. The scholarship covers tuition fees, living expenses, accommodation and monthly stipend (Larbi et al, 2020). All these steps show the seriousness of the government and universities in China in accepting international students and creating an inclusive educational environment. International students in China have access to a wide range of study programs, modern facilities and the opportunity to be involved in a dynamic academic environment.

### Higher Education System in Japan

The higher education system in Japan has also experienced very significant development. With the type of higher education consisting of University (Daigaku), Special College (Senmon Gakko), University of Education (Kyoui Daigaku), Business School (Keiei Senmon Gakko), Technical School (Kosen), Japanese Language School (Nihongo Gakko), School Arts (Geijutsu Gakko), Medical Schools (Igakubu), Graduate Programs (Daigakuin), and many other types of higher education in Japan offer different courses of study, depending on the disciplines chosen by students. Students can choose to pursue undergraduate or postgraduate degrees at any higher education institution, depending on their interests and career goals (Ota, 2018). The duration of bachelor, master, and doctoral programs at educational institutions in Japan varies depending on the type of study program and higher education institution chosen and the student's study progress. Some study programs in Japan, such as medical programs, can take longer to complete, but in general, the duration for undergraduate programs in Japan is usually 4 years, which includes lectures, seminars, and independent research. Students must complete a specified number of credits to qualify for a bachelor's degree. Meanwhile, master programs in Japan usually last for two years, which also include lectures, seminars, and independent research but are more focused and intensive than undergraduate programs. As in Indonesia, students must complete a thesis to qualify for a master's degree. As for the doctoral program, it usually lasts for three to five years. This program includes lectures, seminars, and independent research that is more in-depth and focused than a master's program, and students must complete an original dissertation and contribute to existing knowledge to be eligible for a doctoral degree (Goodman, 2010).

Based on the results of the Top 100 QS World University Rankings 2023, a number of universities in Japan that get the top rank are The University of Tokyo which is in 23rd place, and followed by Kyoto University in 36th place, then Tokyo Institute of Technology or Tokyo Tech in the order 55, Osaka University at 68, and finally Tohoku University at 79 (<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2023>). The University of Tokyo, known as "Todai", which was founded in 1877, is the oldest national university in Japan, so it has a long history of being the center of education, research, and innovation in Japan, and consistently ranks high in world university rankings, often is ranked top in Japan, and is recognized as one of the top universities in Asia (<https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/>). The University of Tokyo has excellent study programs with excellent reputations in the fields of science, engineering, medicine, law and humanities. Some well-known graduates from the University of Tokyo include Yukawa Hideki, a physicist and Nobel laureate, and Akira Yoshino, a Nobel laureate in chemistry. Kyoto University was founded in 1897 and is also a national university located in the city of Kyoto (<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en>) which is known as a historical city that has quite a rich cultural heritage. Kyoto University is renowned in the humanities, as well as science, medicine, and social sciences. Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech)

was founded in 1881 as the Higher Imperial School of Engineering (Kobu Daigakko) and later became a national technical university in 1929 (<https://www.titech.ac.jp/english>). Due to its excellence in engineering and science, the university offers a wide range of study programs in fields such as civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, chemical engineering, computer science, physics, chemistry, biology and others. Tokyo Tech also has research centers focusing on various disciplines and is actively involved in collaborative research projects with industry and other research institutions. Osaka University was founded in 1931 as a national university (<https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en>). However, this institution has an older history, with its origins being traced back to 1869 with the founding of the Osaka Medical School. The university has a strong academic heritage and has become a leading center of education and research in Japan. Osaka University offers a wide range of study programs in various fields, including natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, medicine, engineering, and others. The university has separate faculties for each subject and has a strong reputation in the natural sciences, engineering and social sciences. Osaka University also has partnerships with industry and other research institutions to accelerate the commercialization of research and technology. Tohoku University is one of the leading universities in Japan which is located in the city of Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture. Tohoku University was founded in 1907 as an imperial university in Japan (<http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/>). This university has a rich history and has become a renowned center of education and research in Japan. Tohoku University offers a variety of study programs in natural sciences, engineering, social sciences, humanities, medicine, and others. The university is renowned for its excellence in the natural sciences and engineering, including physics, chemistry, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and related fields. Tohoku University also has a distinguished faculty of medicine and social sciences. the university has many research centers specializing in various fields, including energy technology, advanced materials, nanotechnology, materials science, medical science, and many more. Tohoku University is committed to producing high-quality research that can have a positive impact on society and the world.

The Examination for Japanese University (EJU) is a standardized test that is used as a factor in the selection of new student admissions to universities and higher education institutions in Japan. This test was developed by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) and is conducted annually, usually in June and November (<https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/index.html>). The Examination for Japanese University (EJU) consists of two parts, namely the academic ability test and the Japanese language test. The academic ability test covers three subjects, namely mathematics, physics, and chemistry, and is designed to measure prospective students' academic abilities in science and engineering. Meanwhile, the Japanese language test covers the ability to read, listen, and write in Japanese, and is designed to assess prospective students' Japanese language skills. Universities may consider Examination for Japanese University (EJU) scores along with high school transcripts, school recommendations, interviews, and other factors in evaluating the eligibility of prospective students (Lassegard, 2016). The Examination for Japanese University (EJU) can also be used by prospective international students to measure their proficiency in Japanese and identify areas for improvement before applying to universities or higher education institutions in Japan. Apart from the Examination for Japanese University (EJU), there are several types of college entrance exams in Japan, such as the Center Test (Sentaa Shiken) which is a standard test conducted by the National Center for University Entrance Examinations (NCUEE) in Japan, the Individual University Entrance Exam (takuryoku shiken) which are made differently

by each university or higher education institution in Japan but usually consist of written tests and interviews, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) Exam, Specialized Subject Aptitude Test (tokubetsu shuzoku noryoku shiken) which is used to check the ability of prospective students in certain fields of study, such as medicine or law, as well as the National Nurses Exam (kokka kango shiken) which is used to check the ability of prospective students who want to become nurses and consists of a written test and a clinical skills test, and many other types of exams have different selection policies, and they may use a combination of the above types of exams or other selection methods.

Japan has significant openness towards international students in its higher education system (Ota, 2018). Japan is a popular destination for international students wishing to continue their studies. Many universities in Japan offer courses in English for international students. This allows foreign students to study and attend lectures in Japan without having to have high Japanese language skills. Universities in Japan actively accept international students and have a separate admissions process for them. There are specific requirements and admissions pathways that make it easy for international students to apply and gain access to higher education in Japan. The Japanese government and universities in Japan provide various types of scholarships for international students. These scholarships can cover tuition fees, living expenses, and other expenses, making it easier for international students who wish to study in Japan to have access. Several types of scholarships in Japan that international students can take part in are the Monbukagakusho Scholarship (MEXT Scholarship), the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Scholarship, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Scholarship. The MEXT Scholarship (<https://www.id.emb-japan.go.jp/sch.html>) is offered by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) and covers tuition fees, living expenses, and return flight ticket. These scholarships are available for undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs at universities and higher education institutions in Japan. Meanwhile, the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) scholarship offers various types of scholarships for international students who wish to study in Japan, such as scholarships for study programs, research scholarships, and scholarships that cover living expenses (<https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/index.html>). JASSO scholarships are usually offered to international students who have been accepted at universities or higher education institutions in Japan. Scholarships The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) offers scholarships for international students who wish to study in Japan. This scholarship covers tuition fees, living expenses, and round-trip airfare. This scholarship is intended for international students who wish to obtain an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in international development or a related field ([https://www.jica.go.jp/english/countries/asia/innovative\\_asia.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/countries/asia/innovative_asia.html)). Other supports for international students have been provided optimally by universities and the Japanese government, such as Japanese language course services, academic support services, health services, cultural support services, community, and even careers (Rachman, 2023). With this maximum support, international students can more easily adapt to life in Japan and get a positive educational experience.

### Higher Education System in South Korea

The higher education system in South Korea is known for its high quality and competitive education. Types of higher education in South Korea consist of Universitas

(*Daehakgyo*), Program Pascasarjana (*Daehakwon*), Perguruan Tinggi Khusus (*Jeonmundae-hakgyo*), Universitas Swasta (*Sarip Daehak*), Universitas Pendidikan (*Sabeom Daehak*), Perguruan Tinggi Seni (*Yesul Daehak*), Institut Teknologi (*Gisul Daehak*), Perguruan Tinggi Pertanian (*Nongnim Daehak*), and others., and many other types of higher education in South Korea which are offers a variety of study programs through Bachelor, Masters, and Doctoral programs (Jung, 2020; Suastika, 2021). The duration of bachelor, master, and doctoral programs in South Korea depends on the type of program and educational institution offered. Typically, bachelor programs in South Korea last for four years, master programs last for two years, and doctoral programs last for three years. But some undergraduate programs in fields such as dentistry or veterinary medicine may last as long as five or six years. Masters programs in fields such as architecture or design can take up to three years. Meanwhile, doctoral programs in fields such as medicine or law can take more than three years. Several higher education institutions in South Korea also offer shorter higher education programs, such as diploma programs or certificate programs. These programs usually last for 1-2 years and focus on a specific skill or area (Lee, 2016; Jung, 2020).

Based on the results of the Top 100 QS World University Rankings 2023, a number of universities in South Korea that get the top rank are Seoul National University (SNU) which is in 29th place, and followed by KAIS - Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology at 42nd. Next, respectively Pohang University of Science And Technology (POSTECH), Yonsei University, and Korea University, are in 71st, 72nd, and 73rd place, and finally in 99th place is occupied by Sungkyunkwan University (<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2023>). Seoul National University (SNU) was founded in 1946 and was the first university established in South Korea after the country's restoration of independence, so it has a long history of providing quality education and contributing to academic and social development (<https://en.snu.ac.kr/>). The study programs offered by Seoul National University (SNU) cover a wide range of fields, including engineering, social sciences, natural sciences, computer science, medicine, business, arts and East Asian regional studies. Seoul National University (SNU) is also known for its focus on research and innovation, with ownership of many research centers and institutes, including the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, the Institute for East Asian Regional Studies, and the Center for Energy Studies. KAIS - Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology is also one of the leading research universities in South Korea which was established in 1971 (<https://www.kaist.ac.kr/en/html/kaist/01.html>). KAIST is located in Daejeon, South Korea, and offers a wide range of undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programs in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, computer science, mathematics, physics, biotechnology, and technology management. KAIST also offers interdisciplinary study programs in fields such as energy, environment, and information technology. KAIST has various research centers and institutes, including the Information Technology Institute, the Energy Institute, and the Biotechnology Research Center. Pohang University of Science And Technology (POSTECH) was founded in 1986 in Pohang, South Korea (<https://international.postech.ac.kr/>). The university aims to be a center of excellence in research and education in science and technology. The study programs offered by POSTECH cover various fields, including mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, chemical engineering, physics, mathematics, biotechnology, and technology management. POSTECH also offers interdisciplinary study programs in fields such as energy, environment, and information technology. Yonsei University is a leading private university in South



Korea founded in 1885 by American Protestant missionaries ([https://www.yonsei.ac.kr/en\\_sc/index.jsp](https://www.yonsei.ac.kr/en_sc/index.jsp)). The courses offered by Yonsei University cover a wide range of fields, including business, law, medicine, natural sciences, engineering, arts, and humanities. Yonsei University also offers interdisciplinary study programs, including international studies programs that emphasize the development of foreign language and cultural skills. Yonsei University is also known for its focus on research and innovation, and has various research centers and institutes, including the Institute of Public Policy, Institute of International Studies, and Center for East Asian Studies. Korea University Korea University is a leading private university in South Korea which was founded in 1905 (<https://www.korea.edu/index.jsp>). Korea University offers a wide range of study programs in various fields, including social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, business, law, medicine, engineering, and others. The university has a faculty and professional school that is committed to providing a high-quality education and preparing students for careers in a variety of industries. Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) has a long and prestigious history. This university was founded in 1398 and is one of the oldest universities in South Korea (<https://www.skku.edu/eng/index.do>). Since its inception, SKKU has been an important center of traditional education in Korean history. SKKU is also known for its focus on research and innovation. The university has various research centers and institutes, including the Institute of Information Technology, the Institute of Korean Studies and the Cancer Research Center. SKKU also has partnerships with industry and companies to develop innovative solutions to social and industrial problems.

The college entrance selection system in South Korea involves several rigorous evaluation processes. The College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT), also known as the Suneung, is a national standardized exam held annually in South Korea. The Suneung or CSAT exam in South Korea lasts for 8 (eight) hours in one day on the second Sunday of November every year. This exam consists of six subjects, namely Korean, Mathematics, English, Korean History, a second foreign language (for example, classical Chinese), and elective subjects (Shin, 2018). The Suneung exam or CSAT has an important role in determining admissions to tertiary institutions in South Korea. The results of this exam are one of the main factors considered by universities in the selection process for new students. Students in South Korea prepare very intensively for this exam, and the level of competition in achieving good results is very high. In addition to the Suneung Exam or CSAT, many universities in South Korea also conduct additional academic assessments for admission. This assessment involves assessing school report cards, academic achievement, and extracurricular activities. Some universities may also consider additional portfolios, interviews or tests as part of the selection process (Choi & Chun, 2022).

Compared to its neighboring country, North Korea, South Korea is a country that is relatively open to international students and also provides various scholarship supports (Чоль & Кю, 2020). Most universities in South Korea have special admissions programs for international students. They provide special quotas for international students and pay attention to special requirements that are relevant to the backgrounds and needs of international students. The South Korean government provides various kinds of scholarships for international students, such as the Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP) scholarship (<https://gksscholarship.com/>) and the Korean Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS) scholarship (<https://eng.kfas.or.kr/>). The scholarship covers tuition fees, living expenses, and monthly allowances (Bader, 2016). For international students who are not fluent in Korean, universities in South Korea provide Korean language learning programs. This

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 program helps international students to acquire the language skills necessary to study and interact in an academic environment.

### Comparison Results between Countries

In summary, the results of a comparison of the higher education system between the three countries of China, Japan and South Korea, as previously described, are based on aspects of the type of education, program duration, university ranking, field or major study program, college entrance selection system, and aspects of openness to international students and scholarship support, can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Comparison of Higher Education Systems in China, Japan and South Korea

<b>No</b>	<b>Comparison Aspect</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>Jepang</b>	<b>Korea Selatan</b>
1	Types of Higher Education	<i>University, Technical and Technological Colleges, Art and Design Colleges, Medical and Dental Schools, Vocational Colleges, Polytechnic Colleges, Agricultural and Veterinary Colleges, and others.</i>	University (Daigaku), Special College (Senmon Gakko), University of Education (Kyoui Daigaku), School of Business (Keiei Senmon Gakko), School of Engineering (Kosen), School of Japanese Language (Nihongo Gakko), School of Arts (Geijutsu Gakko), School Medicine (Igakubu), Graduate Program (Daigakuin), and others.	University (Daehakgyo), Graduate Program (Daehakwon), Specialized College (Jeonmundae-hakgyo), Private University (Sarip Daehak), University of Education (Sabeom Daehak), College of Arts (Yesul Daehak), Institute of Technology (Gisul Daehak), College of Agriculture (Nognim Daehak), and others.
2	Duration of Undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral Programs	In general, the duration of study for Bachelor Programs in China is 4 years, Masters is 2 years, Doctoral is 3 to 4 years.	In general, the duration of study for Bachelor Programs in China is 4 years, Masters is 2 years, Doctoral is 3 to 5 years.	In general, the duration of study for Bachelor Programs in China is 4 years, Masters is 2 years, Doctoral is 3 to 6 years.
3	Top 100 QS World University Rankings 2023	There are 5 universities, ranked in order: Peking University(12), Tsinghua University (14), Zhejiang University (42), Shanghai Jiao	There are 6 universities, ranked sequentially: Seoul National University (29), KAIS - Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (42), Pohang University of Science And Technology (71),	There are 5 universities, ranked sequentially: the University of Tokyo (23), Kyoto University (36), Tokyo Institute of Technology or Tokyo Tech (55), Osaka University (68), and Tohoku University (79)

No	Comparison Aspect	China	Jepang	Korea Selatan
		Tong University (46), and University of Science and Technology of China (94).	Yonsei University (72), Korea University (73), and Sungkyunkwan University (99).	
4	Academic focus (Primary Study Program)	China has a strong focus on science and technology, engineering, mathematics, computer science, artificial intelligence, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and biomedical sciences.	Japan is known for its excellence in technology, especially in the fields of electronics, robotics, automotive and information technology. medicine, pharmacy, social sciences, arts, and humanities.	South Korea has a strong focus on information and communication technology, computer science, electronics engineering, telecommunications, and artificial intelligence.
5	College Entrance Selection System	The Gaokao is China's most famous college entrance examination. This exam is taken by high school students and is a major determining factor for admission to tertiary institutions in China. Gaokao lasts for two days with various subjects being tested.	The Examination for Japanese University (EJU) is a standardized exam held by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) for international students who wish to continue their studies at Japanese universities. The exam covers a variety of subjects such as Japanese, mathematics, science and cultural studies.	The College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) or Suneung is the most important college entrance exam in South Korea. This exam is taken by high school students and is a major determining factor for admission to tertiary institutions in South Korea. This exam covers subjects such as Korean, mathematics, foreign languages, Korean history, science, and electives.
6	International Students	China has adopted various policies and initiatives to increase acceptance of international students. One of them is the "Study in China" policy	The government of Japan has implemented various policies to increase acceptance of international students. For example, the "Global 30 Project" which aims to support	One example of a policy that has been implemented by the South Korean government to increase international student acceptance is the "Brain Korea (BK) 21" program. This program was

No	Comparison Aspect	China	Jepang	Korea Selatan
		which aims to increase the number of international students in China. In addition, programs such as the "Belt and Road Initiative" also encourage educational cooperation with other countries	universities in Japan to become more international and attract international students.	established in 1999 and aims to improve the quality of higher education in South Korea and attract international students and researchers.
7	Scholarship	The most well-known and popular scholarship is the Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS) provided by the Chinese Government through the Chinese Ministry of Education.	The most famous and popular scholarships are the Japanese Government Scholarships provided by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).	The most well-known and popular scholarship is the Global Korean Scholarship (GKS), formerly known as the Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP), which is provided by the South Korean Government through the National Institute for International Education (NIIE) under the South Korean Ministry of Education.

Based on the results of this comparison, the differences and similarities in the higher education systems in the three countries (China, Japan and South Korea) are: The three countries have similar types of higher education, such as universities, institutes, colleges, and a number of types of higher education institutions specific to certain fields, such as art, design, medicine, and others.

Undergraduate programs are generally four years in all three countries, while masters programs are usually two years, and doctoral programs are usually three to five years. However, there are variations in the duration of the program depending on the specific field of study and institution.

Universities in China, Japan, and Korea have high reputations and rankings internationally. In terms of the number of universities included in the Top 100 SQ World University Rankings 2023, Japan has a larger number of universities, namely 6 universities, compared to China and South Korea, which only have 5 universities.

Each country has an excellent field or study program that is well-known and recognized internationally. In China, Peking University is well known for its excellence in social sciences and humanities, while Tsinghua University is renowned for engineering and science. In Japan, the University of Tokyo is known for its various fields of study, including science, engineering, and social sciences. In South Korea,

Seoul National University and KAIST are renowned in engineering, science, and business.

China uses the Gaokao exam as a very strict college entrance selection system. Japan uses the Examination for Japanese University (EJU) as one of the entrance exams, while South Korea uses the College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) or suneung. All of these exams have different levels of difficulty and duration. But the most famous of the three is Gaokao

These three countries have a commitment to increase openness to international students. China offers Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS), Japan offers Monbukagakusho Scholarships (MEXT), and South Korea offers Korean Scholarship (GKS) as the most famous scholarship. This scholarship covers tuition fees, living expenses, accommodation and a monthly stipend for outstanding international students.

## CONCLUSION

The results of a comparison of the higher education systems of the three countries, namely China, Japan and South Korea, conclude the following points : There are differences and similarities in various aspects of the higher education system in the three countries, including the type of education, program duration, university reputation, leading fields of study, admission selection system, and support for international students.

Despite their differences, these three countries share a commitment to improving the quality of higher education, expanding access for international students, and being attractive destinations for those wishing to pursue education in East Asia.

Overall, although there are differences in some aspects of the higher education systems in China, Japan, and South Korea, these three countries have a good reputation, provide excellent study programs, and have strong support for international students.

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