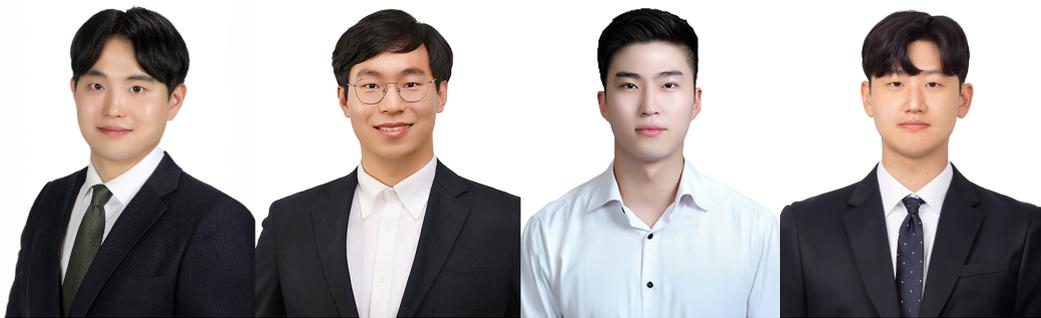# Four GIST Department of AI Convergence PhD graduates have been appointed professors at major universities

- Appointments of Assistant Professors to Chung-Ang University, DGIST, Chosun University, and Kwangwoon University… Recognition of AI research achievements in human behavior prediction, public safety, and other areas

- The advancement of AI researchers into universities is expected to expand the domestic AI research and education ecosystem

▲ *(From left) GIST doctoral graduates Jin-Hwi Park, In-Hwan Bae, Won Kim, and Young-Jae Park*

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that four graduates from its Department of AI Convergence have recently been appointed professors at major Korean universities.

The newly appointed graduates, Dr. Jin-Hwi Park, Dr. In-Hwan Bae, Dr. Won Kim, and Dr. Young-jae Park, will begin their research and teaching careers as assistant professors at Chung-Ang University's Advanced Young College of Business Administration, the Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST) Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Chosun University's Department of AI Software, and Kwangwoon University's Department of Information Convergence.

Professor Jin-Hwi Park received his doctorate in February 2025 through the GIST Integrated Master's and Doctoral Program in AI Convergence and was appointed an assistant professor at Chung-Ang University's Graduate School of Advanced Imaging Science and Technology on March 1 of the same year.

During his studies, Professor Jin-Hwi Park focused on computer vision and robotics, focusing on image processing and computer vision technologies, including 3D information restoration. He has conducted diverse applied research in areas such as sensor fusion, environmental perception, and trajectory prediction.

He shared his thoughts on his appointment, saying, "My experience at GIST was the driving force that fostered the strength to persevere and solve problems, and the attitude to persevere even when results aren't immediate. Since an unwavering spirit is crucial in the research process, I hope that my juniors will also persevere toward their own goals."

Professor In-Hwan Bae received his master's degree in Electrical, Electronic, and Computer Engineering from GIST and his doctorate in AI Convergence Engineering in February 2025. He was appointed an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical, Electronic, and Computer Engineering at the Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST) in March of this year.

During his studies, he conducted research focused on understanding and predicting human behavior, focusing on computer vision and machine learning. He published a total of 14 papers in international journals in the field of computer vision, including the IEEE TPAMI journal and the leading international conference, CVPR.

In particular, he conducted research based on a "large language model," which improves upon existing artificial intelligence (AI) technology that analyzes human movement using mathematical models to understand human behavioral habits and more accurately predict future behavior. This research has attracted significant attention from both academia and industry, as it has the potential to contribute to ensuring pedestrian safety and developing artificial general intelligence (AGI) technology capable of understanding and solving diverse problems like humans.

Professor Bae stated, "GIST provided an environment where I could deeply immerse myself in the rapidly evolving AI research landscape. I hope my juniors will actively utilize the various research support programs."

At DGIST, he plans to continue his next-generation AI research, which integrates human vision, cognition, and behavior.

Professor Kim Won was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of AI Software (Computer Engineering) at Chosun University on March 1, 2026.

After receiving his Master's degree in Engineering from the GIST Institute of Integrated Technology in February 2020, he entered the doctoral program in the Department of AI Convergence, conducting research in the field of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI).

His research focuses on connecting technology and social applications, including designing human-vehicle interaction (HMI) for autonomous vehicles and developing interactive content to enhance the participation of children with developmental disabilities.

During his studies, Professor Kim published five papers in international journals and actively participated in academic conferences at home and abroad. He also participated in international collaborative research with researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

He stated, "My research experience at GIST was a process in itself, deeply exploring problems and implementing ideas into real-world systems." He continued, "I hope that my juniors will actively utilize various opportunities to gradually build their expertise and continue meaningful research activities."

Professor Young-Jae Park completed the integrated master's and doctoral program in AI Convergence at GIST in February 2026 and was appointed an Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Convergence at Kwangwoon University.

He conducts research in the fields of computer vision and AI for Social Good (AI for Social Good), publishing his research findings at leading international conferences such as CVPR, NeurIPS, AAAI, and ICLR, as well as the international journal IEEE TPAMI.

In particular, he developed an AI model that predicts crime and accident risks in urban environments, demonstrating its potential for use in public safety.

For these research achievements, he received the Minister of Science and ICT Award (February 2026) and the President's Award from the Institute of Information and Communications Technology Planning and Evaluation (IITP). He was also selected as an "Outstanding Reviewer" at the international conference "CVPR 2025," recognizing his contributions to the review of papers at large-scale academic conferences.

Professor Young-Jae Park stated, "Based on 'Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI),' which provides human-understandable explanations of AI's decision-making processes, we plan to expand our research beyond safety and disaster management to

address diverse social issues such as welfare, the environment, transportation, and health."

This professor appointment adds significance to the expansion of the domestic AI research and education ecosystem and the virtuous cycle of talent development, as researchers who have developed in the GIST AI Convergence Department have moved on to domestic universities to continue their research and education.

Meanwhile, the GIST AI Convergence Department, which began operations in 2020, builds on the existing AI Graduate School and the Department of Convergence Technology Interdisciplinary Studies. It has fostered convergent talent in the AI field through cutting-edge educational programs and industry-research collaborations. To date, it has produced a total of 133 researchers, including 109 master's and 24 doctoral degrees.