

GIST student Youngtaek Lee selected as a 2026 Presidential Science Scholar

- Junior in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science... Receives full tuition coverage for two years and an academic stipend of 2.5 million won per semester

- Served as an undergraduate intern in Professor Sangjin Kim's laboratory... "I want to grow into an engineer who contributes to society by developing technology that helps patients with brain disorders communicate."



▲ Youngtaek Lee, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, GIST

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST; President Kichul Lim) announced that Youngtaek Lee (a junior in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) has been selected as a recipient of the "2026 Presidential Science Scholarship."

The Presidential Science Scholarship is a program operated by the Korea Student Aid Foundation to identify and foster outstanding students in the fields of science and technology. Recipients are selected through a comprehensive evaluation—covering academic performance, science-related activities, growth plans, and volunteer work—followed by an in-depth interview.

Lee passed the document screening in April and an in-depth interview held in Seoul on June 4, receiving final notification of his selection on June 15. Selected in the "Domestic University Junior" category, he will receive full tuition coverage and an academic stipend of 2.5 million KRW per semester for two years, spanning from the first semester of his junior year to the second semester of his senior year.

Lee is currently working as an undergraduate intern at the "System-level Memory, Processor, Logic Engineering (SYMPLE) Lab," led by Professor Sangjin Kim of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Looking ahead, he plans to focus on the field of Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCI)—technology that analyzes brain signals to enable information exchange between the brain and computers or external devices. His goal is to develop devices that help patients suffering from communication difficulties due to brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, to communicate with the world.

"I am delighted to be selected as a Presidential Science Scholarship recipient and am grateful to the professors, fellow students, and everyone who has supported me," Lee said. "I will continue to dedicate myself to my studies, build my capabilities as an engineer, and strive to help many people through my research."