

SNU GRAND QUEST

서울대학교
그랜드퀘스트 프로그램이
시작됩니다.



질문을 제시하는 대학으로
From Problem Solver to
Agenda Setter

질문을 제시하는 대학으로
From Problem Solver to Agenda Setter



**GRAND
QUEST**

서울대학교 그랜드퀘스트 이니셔티브
SNU Grand Quest Initiative, Seoul National University

Message from the President



Dear Members of the Seoul National University Community,

Seoul National University has grown by responding to the challenges and calls of the nation and society. At every critical juncture—industrialization, democratization, and informatization—the University’s knowledge and talent have stood at the forefront of change.

Today, we find ourselves at yet another pivotal moment. We have reached a stage where the challenges confronting Korean society and humanity at large can no longer be adequately addressed through conventional approaches alone. Accordingly, the role of the university must also be redefined.

Beyond our excellence in finding answers, we seek to build upon that foundation and take responsibility for framing the questions. Seoul National University aspires to be a university that commands both.

The SNU Grand Quest Program represents Seoul National University’s response to this accountability. It is a challenge that aims to open the future through questions, and to contribute to society and humanity through new fields of scholarship.

We invite you to bring forward your boldest and most courageous questions. We hope that these questions will shape the future of Seoul National University, and ultimately, establish the foundation for the future of the Republic of Korea and of humanity as a whole.

RYU Honglim
President of Seoul National University

SNU GRAND QUEST



Zeitgeist:
Why Questions
Matter Now

**Beyond the last footprint,
we envision the path of leadership**

For decades, Korea has achieved remarkable growth by excelling at solving the questions posed by the world.

Today, however, we have reached the **apex of that catch-up**. Solving problems better and faster alone can no longer deliver the same progress as before. We now stand before the final threshold on the path towards **genuine leadership**.

The qualification for leadership lies not in the pace of action, but in the capacity to **define new problems—to set new questions**.

When a path already exists, it can be followed. When no footprints of predecessors remain, progress demands **an attitude to opening new paths by asking questions** that have not yet been posed.

This is **the essence of the great transformation** we now confront.





A Great Transformation at SNU

Seoul National University has long stood as an exceptional problem solver in the world of scholarship. It has now attained the stature of a world-class institution. Beyond our past successes, we are stepping into a new era of pioneering leadership.

A role that asks which questions must be posed, articulates them as a public responsibility, and steps forward to take on challenges of pursuing answers, - for the future of humanity and our nation future.

The time has come for Seoul National University to transform itself—from an outstanding problem solver into a bold and pioneering question setter.

It is a responsibility that Seoul National University is prepared to bear.

SNU GRAND QUEST

We open a new sphere for bold questions.

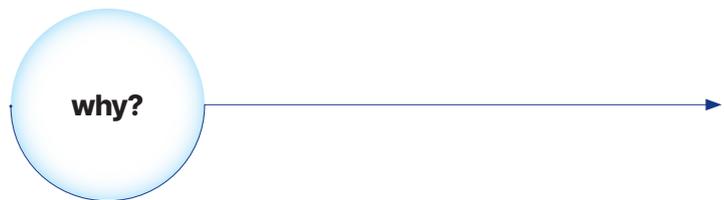
What Is the Grand Quest?



**Where solutions are not yet in sight,
a great challenge begins
—one that reshapes the landscape of scholarship.**

A Grand Quest

is a question that dares to ask “why?”—challenging the prevailing conventions of academia and the entrenched assumptions of textbooks.



It is a question without precedent, with no model to benchmark against.

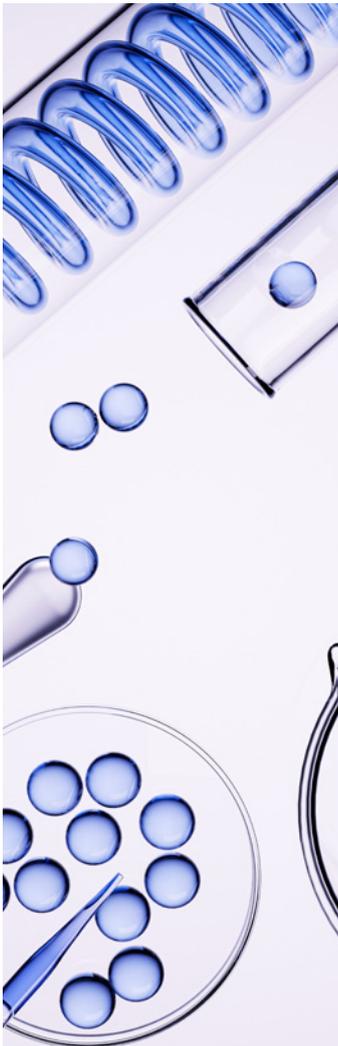
It is a question whose solutions are obscure, offering no guarantee of short-term success.

Yet, once a path is forged,
it is a question that pioneers new fields of scholarship and presents transformative possibilities for the future of Korea and humanity.

The SNU Grand Quest Program

is an initiative through which Seoul National University proactively poses these questions, embraces the risk of failure, and undertakes the challenge of forging new paths where none have existed before.

The Philosophy of the Program



Posing questions is the essence of the SNU Grand Quest Program.

Greater importance is placed on **questions without visible answers** than on tasks for which solutions can be readily anticipated.

The Grand Quest program does not pursue success as a final outcome.



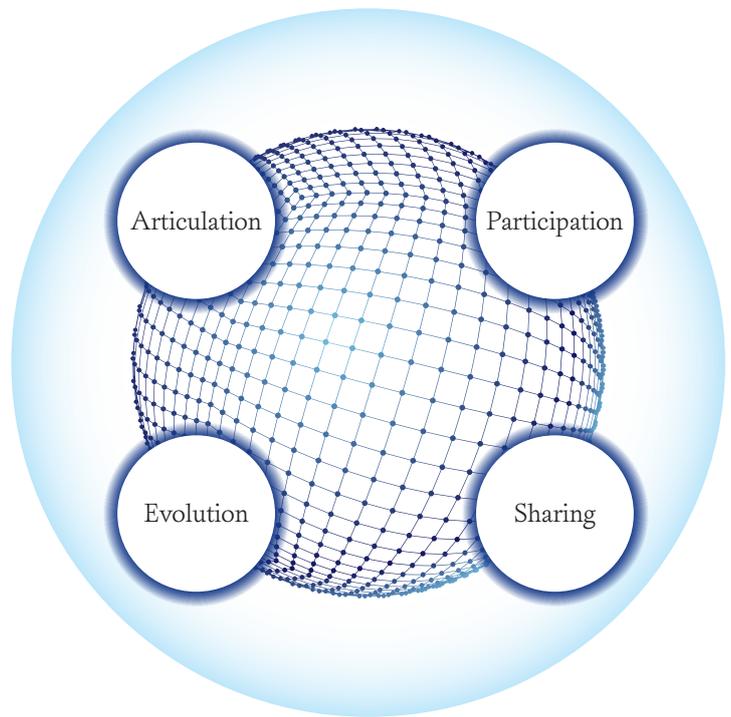
A rejected hypothesis, an exploration that misses its mark, experimental results that defy expectations: these are not failures but valuable assets to be shared.

Rather than mere trial and error, the program embraces trial and learning.

The very process of posing questions and sustaining bold attempts constitutes achievement in itself.

By widely sharing these experiences, this program seeks to accumulate the foundations upon which future generations can stand to open new fields of scholarship.

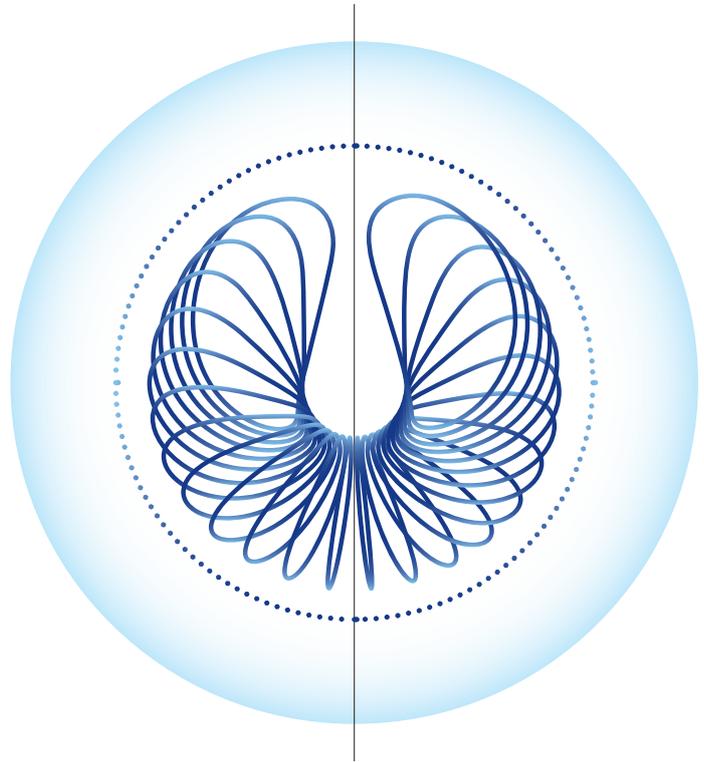
What Sets the Grand Quest Program Apart



| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Articulation From Follower to Leader: Top-Down Agenda Setting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving beyond the resolution of predefined problems, Seoul National University takes the initiative in articulating questions for the future of humanity. - In the name of the University, it assumes responsibility for the caliber of these questions and defines new directions for scholarly inquiry. |
| <p>Participation A Shared Journey: Mobilizing the Intelligence of the Entire Community</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation is not confined to specific research teams. All researchers across Seoul National University engage as questioners. - An open Agora is created—a space where disciplinary boundaries are transcended and bold questions are posed and shared collectively. |
| <p>Evolution Valuing Challenge over Outcomes: Research Support that Enables Evolution</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definitive judgements of failure are deliberately avoided, and long-term support is provided. - Rather than prioritizing immediate outcomes, the Project encourages accumulation and allows research pathways to evolve through flexible redirection. |
| <p>Sharing Accumulation for Future Generations: Sharing and Dissemination of Trial and Learning</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instead of limiting dissemination to one-off results, the Project shares the entire process through which questions evolve through challenge. - By transforming experiences of trial and learning into shared assets, it provides nourishment that enables future generations to cultivate even more ambitious questions. |

From the Question Agora
to the Sharing of Trial and Learning

The Program Roadmap



We prioritize direction over speed, and accumulation over immediate outcomes.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The Grand Quest Agora</p> | <p>An open forum is established where all researchers at Seoul National University can take part in the shared journey of identifying Grand Quests. A new culture emerges—one in which questions are posed, shared, and encouraged across the University.</p> |
| <p>Proactive Question Formulation</p> | <p>Through collective deliberation, the University’s shared intelligence proactively articulates challenging questions. These questions are shaped by a vision that seeks to dismantle entrenched academic assumptions and by a sense of public responsibility towards humanity.</p> |
| <p>Exploring Bold Pathways to Solutions</p> | <p>Researchers pursue unprecedented solutions through diverse approaches. The Project provides long-term support, refrains from definitive judgments of failure, and permits the flexible redirection of research pathways.</p> |
| <p>Sharing Experiences of Trial and Learning</p> | <p>The entire process—successes, failures, and all forms of trial and learning—is openly shared. By offering exemplars of challenge, the Project enables future generations to pose even more ambitious questions.</p> |

Invitation

What is the challenging question, you have long held in your heart?

We invite you now to bring forward
the most fundamental questions you may have set aside—
deferred as premature or constrained by the realities of
the moment.

We invite you to pose your bold questions
in the Grand Quest Agora.

We invite you to support the exploratory journey of
seeking answers to the Grand Quests.

We invite you to join us in sharing the process of
questioning and challenging trial and learning
with future generations.

Seoul National University will stand behind your questions
and your bold journeys of trial and learning.



**GRAND
QUEST**

서울대학교 그랜드퀘스트 이니셔티브
SNU Grand Quest Initiative, Seoul National University



GRAND
QUEST

서울대학교 그랜드퀘스트 이니셔티브
SNU Grand Quest Initiative, Seoul National University