

## 05 \_ Second-Generation South Koreans & Military Service Duty



### > Who are second-generation South Koreans?

Second-generation South Koreans are people who were born overseas (including people who emigrated overseas before they turned 6), and lived overseas continuously until the age of 17 (according to Article 2 of Primary and Secondary Education Law, people who studied in a school(s) in South Korea for a total of three years and under are considered to have lived overseas continuously), and their parents and themselves acquired foreign nationality, citizenship, or permanent residence from foreign government, or acquired indefinite residence permit (including long-term residence permit of five or more years) in a country without permanent residence system, and got confirmation as second-generation South Korean.

※ If you have stayed in Korea for a total of 90 days or more in a period of one year between the age of 7 and 17, you are not regarded as Second-Generation South Korean.

### > Where to Get Confirmation

- Registration of documents : Diplomatic establishments that have jurisdiction in your place of stay
- Confirmation : Regional MMA office or branch office in charge of your military status

### > Required Documents

- Copy of residence permit (e.g., permanent residence, citizenship) of you and your parents
- Copy of Resident Passport of you and your parents
- Certificate of Family Relations

### > Obligation Imposed

- You are obligated to serve in military if you have reported permanent return
- Staying in Korea for a total of more than three years after turning 18
  - ↳ In this case, you are not regarded as Second-Generation South Korean. Even if your status as Second-Generation South Korean had been confirmed earlier, you lose that status and military obligations will be imposed for long-term stay or for-profit activities in Korea(applicable to those born after January 1, 1994).

**Q1**

My parents have recently returned to and have been living in Korea. In this case, do I qualify as a “second-generation Korean”?

**A1**

Our policies only apply if your parents are living overseas. If your parent lives in Korea, you are not considered a Second-generation South Korean.

**Q2**

What is the difference between “second-generation Korean” and “overseas emigrant”?

**A2**

“Second-generation South Koreans” as defined by the Military Service Law are people who were born overseas (including people who emigrated overseas before they turned 6), lived overseas continuously, and whose parents and themselves acquired from a foreign government permanent residence(or citizenship), etc. and have residence passports. “Overseas emigrants” refer to those who have had their military service postponed until the age of 37 for reasons such as acquiring permanent residence permit.

If you are staying in Korea for a total of more than three years after turning 18, you are not regarded as a Second-generation South Korean. Even if your status as a Second-generation South Korean had been earlier, you lose that status and military obligations will be imposed for long term stay or for profit activities in Korea (applicable to those born after January 1, 1994)

**Q3**

When “second-generation South Koreans” are obligated to serve?

**A3**

According to the Overseas Emigration Law, “second-generation South Koreans” are obligated to serve when they have reported permanent return. Therefore, if you emigrated overseas before you were six years old but you renounced your permanent residence and reported permanent return to South Korea, your military service duty will be reinstated.

