Settle. Seoul

MONEY · INDIVIDUAL ARTICLE PDF

Banking & everyday payments.

Get your account, bank card, transport and shopping apps working together.

Settle Seoul 2027 · Reviewed October 2026 · Read online: www.settleseoul.com/articles/banking-and-everyday-payments

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

Contents

1. Banks with English-language support
2. Prepare before the branch visit
3. Use your bank card for buses and the subway
4. Get the app working
5. Connect your card to Coupang, Kakao T and KakaoPay
6. When something does not work
7. Sources & verification

> Links in this PDF open the official source or the online guide. Opening hours, prices, programmes and access rules change — confirm with the responsible operator before you travel.

THE ESSENTIALS

- Aim for one working account, one suitable debit card and reliable mobile banking.
- Make your name match exactly across bank, phone and apps.
- Add transport and app payments one service at a time.

> Official routes: Hana 1599-6111 · Shinhan 1577-8380 · Woori 1599-2288 · KB Kookmin 1599-4477 · Coupang, Kakao T and KakaoPay help centres.

YOUR SETUP

Banks with English-language support

A foreign-language support line does not mean every branch has an English-speaking employee. Call ahead and ask which nearby branch can help. These are domestic numbers; check official sites for hours.

Hana Bank · 1599-6111

- Foreign-language customer support.
- Ask about account opening, English banking, suitable debit cards and overseas transfers.

Shinhan Bank · 1577-8380

- SOL Global app includes English.
- Ask about SOL Global setup, foreign-resident accounts and eligible transport cards.

Woori Bank · 1599-2288

- Dedicated foreigner call centre; English is option 1.
- Ask about branch help, account documents and English digital banking.

KB Kookmin Bank · 1599-4477

- Foreign-language support and three-way telephone interpretation for branch visits.
- Ask about Global Star accounts and mobile banking.

> **How to choose**
> Compare support at your nearest branch, the app you will actually use, card eligibility and transfer fees. Ask your employer or university whether it works with a local branch.

OPENING YOUR ACCOUNT

Prepare before the branch visit

Treat this as a preparation checklist, not a universal document list. Requirements depend on the bank, account and your circumstances.

1. **Account access** — Your account number and how to receive salary.
2. **Limits** — Daily transfer and withdrawal limits, and the evidence needed to raise them.
3. **Card** — Active and usable for domestic online payments.
4. **Mobile banking** — You can log in and complete authentication.
5. **Transport** — Whether the card includes it and how fares are collected.
6. **Fees** — ATM, transfer, card and overseas-remittance charges.

Bring

- Passport and residence card, if issued.
- Korean address, any requested proof of address and your Korean mobile number.
- Evidence of why you need the account, such as employment or enrolment documents.
- Any tax-residency information requested.

No residence card yet?

- Ask about passport-based opening and its restrictions.
- Passport-only opening may not unlock every digital service.
- App-based opening often has different requirements from branch opening.

Opening online

- Shinhan SOL Global offers remote opening for eligible residents with Korean residence ID and a phone in your own name.
- KB's app opening requires an account at another bank — so it rarely suits a first account.

Ask for it all at once

- “I would like an everyday bank account, a debit card, mobile banking and — if I'm eligible — a postpaid transport function.”
- Enter your passwords and PINs yourself; never disclose them to a helper.

TRANSPORT

Use your bank card for buses and the subway

The transport feature is added to an eligible card, not to the bank account. Ask for 후불교통 기능 [hubul gyotong gineung] — a postpaid transport function.

1. **Ask which cards qualify** — Check which debit cards support postpaid transport for your circumstances.
2. **Apply** — Request the transport-enabled version and complete eligibility checks; an existing card may need replacing.
3. **Confirm** — Activation, collection date and any transport limit.
4. **Use it** — Tap at supported readers — and keep a backup transport option until it works.

Separate prepaid T-money card

- You load a balance before travelling.

Bank card, prepaid transport

- Uses a separate prepaid balance; money in the account is not necessarily enough.

Bank card, postpaid transport

- Fares accumulate and are collected from the linked account on the issuer's schedule.
- Approval is not automatic: issuers screen applicants and may refuse or restrict it.

Important distinctions

- Purchases and fares may leave your account at different times — keep funds for the collection date.
- A Visa or Mastercard logo alone does not confirm transit compatibility.
- It does not make your phone a transport card or enrol you in discount schemes.

> **Say this at the counter**
> 후불교통 기능이 있는 체크카드를 발급받고 싶어요. [hubul gyotong gineung-i inneun chekeukadeureul balgeupbatgo sipeoyo] — “I'd like a debit card with a postpaid transport function.”

MOBILE BANKING

Get the app working

Opening an account, enrolling in digital banking and registering a shopping-app payment are separate tasks.

Ask the bank to help you

- Install the genuine app from the official site or verified store listing.
- Complete mobile/internet banking enrolment.
- Set up its certificate, OTP or other authentication.
- Confirm your transfer limit and enable notifications.
- Find card-management support if the card issuer uses a separate app.

Identity details first

- Coupang and similar services need valid residence ID and a Korean phone in your own name.
- Names must match across bank, app and phone — spacing, letter case and order.
- If verification fails, check the registered details instead of trying new spellings.

APPS

Connect your card to Coupang, Kakao T and KakaoPay

There is no single registration that enables every Korean app. Add a payment method inside each service — a card, or a linked bank account where supported. You do not normally need both.

Coupang

- My Coupang / 마이쿠팡 → Payment methods / 결제수단 → Accounts · Cards / 계좌 · 카드 → Register / 결제수단 등록.
- Verify identity, choose card or account, authorise, set the payment PIN.
- CouPay Money is a prepaid balance, not a saved card — read any top-up authorisation.

KakaoPay

- Kakao T, KakaoPay and KakaoBank are separate services.
- KakaoTalk → More / 더보기 → pay → Settings → Money management / 머니 관리 → Linked accounts / 연결 계좌 → Link account.
- Follow ownership and withdrawal-authorisation prompts; availability depends on eligibility.

Kakao T (taxis)

- Kakao T → My info / 내 정보 → Manage payment methods / 결제수단 관리 → register a card.
- Check the selected payment method before each request; with automatic payment, check the receipt before paying the driver.
- If no card registers, General Call with direct payment may be available.

> **Menus change**
> These routes follow each company's published help pages in October 2026. Wording may change — use the official help centre if a menu has moved.

TROUBLESHOOTING

When something does not work

Ask the relevant provider to identify the cause. Avoid repeated PIN guesses or duplicate app accounts as a workaround.

Identity verification fails

- Name formatting, phone ownership, mobile-provider selection and residence details.

Card works in shops, not an app

- Activation, online-payment authentication and whether the app supports that card.

Card fails on transport

- Whether the issued card actually has an active transport function.

Transfer blocked

- Balance, transfer limit, authentication and account restrictions.

Automatic taxi payment fails

- Saved-card details, available funds and the journey's selected method.

Everyday money habits

- Know ATM and transfer fees and how to waive them.
- Update address, phone and residence details with the bank.
- Keep a small cash reserve and a backup payment method.
- Never share passwords, codes or security-card details with unexpected callers.

Settle Seoul takeaway
One working everyday account, one suitable debit card, reliable mobile banking and matched identity details. Then add transport and app payments one at a time. Sending money abroad? Read “Sending money home — and receiving it in Korea”.

SOURCES

Sources & verification · Banking & everyday payments

Reviewed October 2026. Check the official links before relying on dates, fees or rules.

- Hana Bank (English)
  https://www.kebhana.com/
- Shinhan Bank / SOL Global
  https://www.shinhan.com/
- Woori Bank
  https://www.wooribank.com/
- KB Kookmin Bank
  https://www.kbstar.com/
- Shinhan Card: transport functions
  https://www.shinhancard.com/
- Coupang newsroom: payment and foreign-resident FAQs
  https://news.coupang.com/
- Kakao T taxi support
  https://service.kakaomobility.com/
- KakaoPay customer support
  https://support.kakaopay.com/

Settle Seoul article PDF. Editorial guidance, not legal, immigration or medical advice — confirm requirements with the responsible office (1345 Immigration Contact Center, HiKorea). Photographs credited by name are by the photographer named. Corrections: support@settleseoul.com · Read online · www.settleseoul.com/downloads