

2019 Global Korea Scholarship for Graduate Degrees: FAQ

ELIGIBILITY

Q1	I am currently enrolled at a university in Korea pursuing Master's degree. Am I eligible to apply for the Master's degree program under GKS?
A1	Yes, you are eligible to apply for our scholarship program as long as you have not attained the degree. Those who have taken classes at universities in Korea or have participated in exchange student programs in Korea may apply for GKS. However, if you are selected as our GKS scholar, you must drop out of the university you are currently enrolled at and start the degree program under GKS as a first year. The transfer of credits from your previous university is not possible.
Q2	I am in the last semester at one of the Korean universities for a Bachelor's (Master's) degree program and am expected to attain degree soon. Am I eligible to apply for a Master's (Doctoral) degree under GKS?
A2	No, you are not. If you are classified as a student who is expected to attain your Bachelor's (Master's) degree in Korea, you are not eligible to apply for a Master's (Doctoral) degree program under GKS. However, there is an exception for Korean adoptees and previous GKS scholars. If you are a Korean adoptee or a previous GKS scholar who is expected to or have already attained a degree in Korea, you may apply to GKS for Graduate degrees. Previous GKS scholars can reapply for a higher degree only once.
Q3	I am expected to complete my Bachelor's (Master's) degree in August 2019. Am I eligible to apply for a Master's (Doctoral) degree program under this scholarship?
A3	If you submit an official certificate of expected graduation or a provisional degree certificate issued by the university, you may apply for the 2019 GKS. However, it is only permitted under the condition that you will submit your final degree certificate and final academic transcript to NIIED by August 31, 2019. The failure of doing so will result in the cancelation of the scholarship.

Q4	My parents and I hold different citizenships. I am an Italian citizen while my parents each hold French and Polish citizenship. Am I eligible to apply for the program?
A4	Yes you may. If you and your parents are citizens of the countries that are invited to take part in our Global Korea Scholarship program, you are eligible to apply to our program. Since Italy, France, and Poland are all countries participating in our GKS program, you are eligible to apply for our program.
Q5	I meet all the application requirements listed in the GKS-G application guidelines. This means I am qualified to apply to all GKS partner universities, right?
A5	<p>Not really. The application requirements we have indicated in our GKS-G application guidelines are the minimum requirements to apply to our Global Korea Scholarship. However, some universities and departments may require a certain level of language proficiency, research experience and other qualifications. Thus, we ask all prospective applicants to go through “University information” file uploaded along with our application guidelines to check if they should meet further requirements.</p> <p>If a university you intend to apply asks for supplementary document, you submit those materials along with our GKS application documents.</p>
APPLICATION SUBMISSION	
Q6	May I apply for the program by submitting my application to NIIED directly?
A6	<p>No you may not. All applications must be submitted either to the Korean Embassy where you hold the citizenship or to one of our partner universities in Korea. Make sure to refer to the information on the application guidelines on how to submit your application.</p> <p>Even if you are currently living in Korea or a different country, if you are to apply via embassy track, you must submit your application documents to the Korean embassy in the country where you hold the citizenship.</p>

Q7	When is the deadline for the application?
A7	<p>The calls for 2019 GKS-G application starts in early February and lasts till mid-March. Each Korean embassy and university decides its own deadline within that period. Most deadlines fall in March, but in order to know the exact deadline, we highly recommend you to contact the Korean Embassy in your home country or your desired university.</p>
Q8	Where can I submit my application? Is online submission available?
A8	<p>No, we do not have online application system. All applicants must submit GKS applications in hard copies to the institutions that conduct the 1st round of selection. For GKS-Graduate degrees, you can submit the applications either to the Korean Embassies or Korean universities. Before submitting your application, you must carefully read through the 2019 GKS-G Application Guidelines, available on Study in Korea website (www.studyinkorea.go.kr < Scholarships <GKS Notice). Please be noted that you cannot apply via both embassy and university tracks. You can only apply via either one of the two tracks.</p>
Q9	Must I submit the certificates of language proficiency (English or Korean) when I apply for GKS?
A9	<p>The certificate of English proficiency (TOEFL or IELTS) or Korean proficiency (TOPIK) is an optional document, which means you may apply for GKS without it. However, if you are an applicant of highly competitive country, Korean embassy or Korean university may require a certain level of language proficiency. Moreover, in some cases, those with high language proficiency may be given preferences during the selection.</p>

Q10	What should put in the section of GPA on the Application Form?
A10	Please put your GPA or scores for each semester. If you have completed your undergraduate program with 8 semesters for 4 years, write your GPA or scores for each semester in the blank. Make sure to the slash (/) between the GPA or scores you have received and the full GPA or scores. For example, if your GPA is 3.5 out of 4.5, you must indicate it as 3.5/ 4.5. If your percentage is 85 out of 100, indicate it as 85/100
Q11	How many recommendation letters should I submit? For embassy track applicants, we must submit one original and three copies. How do we handle sealed recommendation letters?
A11	<p>NIIED requires applicants to get recommendation letters from TWO different recommenders.</p> <p>For embassy track applicants, as recommendation letters cannot be opened by the applicant, you should ask each of your recommender to first write one original recommendation letter. Each recommender should make three identical copies of the original recommendation letter, sign each letter, and seal all together in an envelope and sign across the back flap of the envelope. Thus, a sealed envelope containing 4 identical recommendation letters should be submitted per recommender.</p> <p>For university track applicants, each recommender can just provide one recommendation letter and a total of two sets of recommendation letter should be submitted.</p>
Q12	I am planning to apply for 2019 GKS-G. However, as I have already received a recommendation letter from my university's professor in March 2018. Can I submit this recommendation letter?
A12	<p>The recommendation letter should be dated within a year from the very last date of the application registration.</p> <p>Thus, if your recommendation letter was issued within a 1 year from the 2019 GKS-G application registration deadline (set by the Korean embassy or university), then you may submit that recommendation letter.</p> <p>However, if the recommendation letter was issued more than a year from the 2019 GKS-G application registration deadline, then you cannot submit that letter.</p>

Q13	Should I include a detailed research proposal in the Statement of Purpose?
A13	Yes. You must at least describe the general direction and outlines of your study plans, if not in full detail. Please elaborate on your study objectives in Korea, tangible plans during and after you complete the degree program.
Q14	I will apply through the embassy track. According to the guidelines, I have to submit 4 sets of application documents: 1 original and 3 photocopies. Then, how can I submit the sealed documents, such as transcripts, graduation certificates or recommendation letters?
A14	<p>For transcripts or graduation certificates, please submit FOUR identical documents, each sealed in a separate envelope. For example, ask your university to issue you 4 sets of transcripts and certificates.</p> <p>For applicants who cannot get academic documents issued multiple times from their institutions, please make 3 photocopies of the original academic document you have.</p> <p>For recommendation letter, please refer to Q&A 11 in this FAQ.</p>
Q15	Can I submit the documents that are in languages other than Korean or English?
A15	No. GKS requires that all documents be translated into Korean or English, and then be authenticated by the issuing institution or by a notary public. If your country has joined the apostille convention, you can get your document apostilled.
Q16	I am a Japanese citizen, currently living in Vietnam. May I apply for the program through the Korean Embassy in Vietnam?
A16	<p>No, you may not. If you choose to apply through the embassy track, you must submit your application to the Korean Embassy in Japan.</p> <p>All embassy track applicants must submit your application to the Korean embassy in the country where you hold the citizenship.</p> <p>In addition, if you hold the citizenship of a country that is not invited to take part in GKS-G, you are not eligible to apply for GKS.</p>

Q17	I am a Chinese citizen. In the application guidelines, there is quota only assigned in the embassy track for the Chinese citizens. Does that mean that I must apply to the Korean Embassy in China?
A17	<p>No, if you are a Chinese citizen, you should not submit your application to the Korean Embassy in China. According to the mutual agreement between Korea and China, Chinese applicants must submit their applications to China Scholarship Council (CSC) under the Ministry of Education in China.</p> <p>※ Likewise, a Czech citizen must also submit his or her application to the Ministry of Education in Czech Republic, in accordance with the mutual agreement between the governments of Korea and Czech Republic.</p>
Q18	I am American living in Los Angeles, United States. I am going to apply for the program via the Korea Embassy. How should I submit my application to the Embassy in Washington D.C.?
A18	You can submit your application to your nearest Korean Consulate. In your case, you can submit your application to the Korea Consulate in LA. Korean embassy in Washington and several Korean consulates in the United States will cooperate to select the prospective candidates. This arrangement is available only for the United States.
CHOICE OF UNIVERSITY & MAJOR	
Q19	May I choose any fields of study for a Master's (or Doctoral) degree program?
A19	You may only choose the majors and programs listed in the "University Information" file attached along with our 2019 GKS-G Application Guidelines, on our website, www.studyinkorea.go.kr . NIIED strongly recommends that you contact the universities to consult on the majors and degree programs you are interested in.

Q20	How many majors and universities can I apply for admission?
A20	<p>If you apply through the university track, you may choose only ONE university and ONE major offered for GKS. If you apply through the embassy track, you may choose THREE universities and the majors offered for GKS. Note that you may NOT choose three different majors from a single university. Please refer to the application guidelines and the university information.</p>
Q21	I am planning to apply via university track. May I apply for a major in the field of liberal arts and social science at one of the regional universities?
A21	<p>Yes, you may as long as the university of your choice offers a degree program and your intended majors for GKS scholars. Please department/majors listed in the “University Information”. Therefore, you are free to choose to apply to any one of the designated universities, whether it is classified as regional university or non-regional university.</p> <p>Moreover, within the university track quota, for some countries, there are reserved quota for natural science and engineering majors applying to regional universities. Please refer to the application guidelines for more information.</p>
Q22	I am going to apply for the program via embassy track. The application guidelines say that applicants should choose up to 3 preferred universities and departments (or majors). Do you have any useful tips on choosing those universities and majors?
A22	<p>First, make sure to carefully study the application guidelines and “University Information” file. Feel free to do your own search and contact the university of your interest for further inquiries. You have to bear in mind that passing the 2nd round of selection will not guarantee an admission to the university that you have chosen.</p> <p>In Korea, each university has recognition for variety of fields and has its own strength. You may want to check which university is the leading institution in the field of study you would like to pursue for your graduate degrees.</p>

KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Q23

Is it mandatory for all GKS scholars to pass at least Level 3 in TOPIK after one year of Korean Language Course?

A23

Yes, it is. Every GKS scholar must get at least Level 3 on TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) within the 1-year Korean language program in order to proceed to his or her degree program.
Please note that NIIED assigns Korean language institution for each GKS scholar with various factors in consideration. The scholars cannot change their assigned language institutions. During the language program, scholars are required to live on-campus and accompanying family members is not allowed.

Q24

May I be exempt from the Korean Language Program?

A24

If you have already attained advanced level (Level 5 or 6) on TOPIK when applying for the program, you are exempt from Korean language program and you must directly start your degree program from September, 2019.
If you attain advanced level (Level 5 or 6) during the first 6 months of Korean language program, you can start your degree program in the following semester (Spring 2020).

DEGREE PROGRAM

Q25

May I change my final choice of a university for a graduate degree during the preliminary Korean language course?

A25

No, you may not. Changing the university or transferring to another university is **NOT PERMITTED** under any circumstances. Changing a major, however, may be allowed under restricted conditions, upon approval from the related departments of the university and NIIED. However, the procedure for changing major is extremely complicated so we ask all applicants to obtain sufficient information about your desired university and major and make choices.

Q26	What if I do not attain degree within the scholarship period? Can I extend my scholarship period until I graduate?
A26	Even if you do not attain degree within the scholarship period NIIED has designated, once your initial scholarship period is over, your scholarship benefits will come to an end. The extension of scholarship period is strictly forbidden.

THANK YOU
for your interest in
Global Korea Scholarship
Korean Government Scholarship Program
for Graduate Degree.

In case you need further assistance, we recommend you take the following steps:

1. Carefully read and study the Application Guidelines, which contains detailed information (pretty much all you need to know) on the application procedure.
2. If you still have difficulty finding information, please contact GKS Team at NIIED.