

2021 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 if you have not graduated from a Korean high school or university. Those who have previously studied in a Korean university as an exchange or visiting students can also apply if a degree certificate (or diploma) was not issued. 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, if you are an Overseas Korean adoptee or a previous GKS scholar who is expected to or have already attained a degree in Korea, you may apply for a GKS Graduate degree. 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 2021. 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 2021 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, 2021. The failure of doing so will result in the cancelation of the scholarship.

Q4	My parents and I hold different citizenships. Am I eligible to apply for the program?
A4	Yes you may. If you hold a citizenship of NIIED designated countries that are invited to take part in our Global Korea Scholarship program AND if your parents do not hold Korean citizenship, you are eligible to apply for our program.
Q5	I meet all the application requirements listed in the GKS-G application guidelines. Does this mean that I am qualified to apply to all GKS partner universities?
A5	<p>Not really. The application requirements we have indicated in our GKS-G application guidelines are the minimum requirements to apply for our Global Korea Scholarship. However, some universities and departments may require a certain level of language proficiency, research experience and other qualifications. Therefore, we ask all prospective applicants to go through “University information” file posted with our application guidelines to check if they should meet further requirements.</p> <p>If the university requests supplementary document(s) beyond NIIED’s required documents, you should submit those materials directly to the university.</p>
APPLICATION SUBMISSION	
Q6	May I apply for the program by submitting my application to NIIED directly?
A6	<p>No, you may not. Applications must apply and submit their application documents to a Korean Embassy where they hold citizenship or directly to one of partner universities. For any inquiries regarding submission guidelines, please refer to the application guidelines or check with the embassies and universities where the first round of selection is conducted since each institute may have different application submission guidelines.</p> <p>Even if you are currently residing in Korea or in a different country and you are to apply via embassy track, you must submit your application documents to the Korean embassy in the country where you hold citizenship.</p>

Q7	When is the deadline for the application?
A7	Each institute (Korean embassy or university) where first round of selection is conducted decides its own deadline. You must check with the Korean embassy in your home country or your desired university regarding exact application deadline.
Q8	Where can I submit my application? Is online submission available?
A8	<p>No, we do not have online application system.</p> <p>All applicants must submit their application documents in hard copies to the institutes that conduct the first round of selection. For GKS-Graduate degrees, you can submit your application documents either to the Korean embassies or Korean universities.</p> <p>Before submitting your application documents, you must carefully read through the 2021 GKS-G Application Guidelines, available on Study in Korea website (www.studyinkorea.go.kr < Scholarships < GKS Notice board).</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 (TOEIC, 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.</p> <p>For your reference, if you hold a TOPIK level 3 or above, you will be given additional points. If you submit your certificates of English proficiency, you may be given preference based on your test scores.</p>

Q10	What should I put in the section of GPA on the Application Form?
A10	<p>Please put your GPA or score percentile for each semester. If you have completed your undergraduate program with 8 semesters for 4 years, fill in the blanks with your GPA or score percentile for each semester.</p> <p>Write your GPA or score you have received in front of the slash (/) and write a full GPA or full marks behind the slash (/).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you had completed more than three semesters per year, you may add additional columns to the term or semester section.</p>
Q11	How many recommendation letters should I submit? For embassy track applicants, we must submit one original and three copies. How do we make copies of the 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 them 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, you should collect one original recommendation letter from each recommender.</p>
Q12	I am planning to apply for 2021 GKS-G and I have already received a recommendation letter from my university's professor in March 2020. 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 deadline.</p> <p>Therefore, if your recommendation letter was issued more than a year from the 2021 GKS-G application submission deadline (set by each Korean embassy or university), you cannot submit that recommendation letter.</p>
Q13	Should I include a detailed research proposal in the Statement of Purpose?
A13	<p>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.</p>
Q14	<p>I will apply through the embassy track. According to the guidelines, I should submit 4 sets of application documents: 1 original document and 3 photocopies. How do I submit my certificates such as transcripts, graduation certificates or recommendation letters?</p>
A14	<p>All certificates must be presented in their original forms. For example, ask your university to issue you four sets of transcripts and four sets of degree certificates. However, if you must submit photocopied documents because the original document cannot be reissued again, you should submit authenticated (notarized, apostilled, or consular confirmed) documents in lieu of original documents. Then, make three more sets of copies of the authenticated documents.</p> <p>For recommendation letter, please refer to Q&A 11 in this FAQ.</p>
Q15	How do I submit my documents written in a language other than Korean or English?

A15	Documents written in languages other than Korean or English must accompany a complete Korean or English translation notarized by a notary public.
Q16	I am a Japanese citizen, currently living in Vietnam. May I apply for the program through the Korean Embassy in Vietnam?
A16	No, you may not. If you choose to apply through the embassy track, you must submit your application to the Korean Embassy in Japan. Embassy track applicants must submit your application documents to the Korean embassy in the country where you hold the citizenship. 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.
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	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. ※ 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.
Q18	I am American living in Los Angeles, United States. I am going to apply for the program via the Korea Embassy. Should I submit my application to the Embassy in Washington D.C.?

A18	<p>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.</p>
<h2>CHOICE OF UNIVERSITY & MAJOR</h2>	
Q19	<p>May I choose any fields of study for a Master’s (or Doctoral) degree program?</p>
A19	<p>You may only choose the majors and programs listed in the “2021 GKS-G University Information” file posted with the 2021 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.</p>
Q20	<p>How many majors and universities can I apply for admission?</p>
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 under Type A and B. Please remember that at least one of your three choices has to be chosen from Type B universities. Note that you may choose the same major for all three universities. However, you may NOT choose three different majors from a single university. Please refer to the application guidelines.</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 majors for GKS scholars. Please refer to the available fields of study listed in the “2021 GKS-G University Information” file posted with the 2021 GKS-G Application Guidelines on our website, www.studyinkorea.go.kr.</p> <p>You can apply to any partner universities, both regional and non-regional universities, while choosing a major in the field of liberal arts and social science. For your reference, there are country quota in the university track, and part of the quota is reserved 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. According to the application guidelines, applicants should choose up to 3 preferred universities and departments (or majors). Are there tips on choosing those universities and majors?
A22	<p>Embassy track applicants should understand that passing the second round of selection will not guarantee an admission to the university that you have chosen. There are cases with Embassy track applicants who fail to be selected from all three universities if they choose among highly competitive universities.</p> <p>Each Korean university has recognition for variety of fields and has its own strength. Please conduct your own research to find out which university is the leading institution in the field of study you would like to pursue.</p>
Q23	I am an embassy track applicant. I am aware that I have to choose at least one university from Type B universities. Does this mean that I can only choose one university from Type B?
A23	No. You can choose <u>at least</u> one university from Type B. In other words, your all three choices may not be chosen just from Type A. However, should you wish, your all three choices can be chosen from Type B.

KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Q24

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

A24

Yes, it is. Every GKS scholar must get at least Level 3 on TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) within a yearlong 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.

Q25

May I be exempt from the Korean Language Program?

A25

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, 2021.
Applicants who attained TOPIK level 5 or 6 after the initial application deadline must submit the valid TOPIK certificate to NIIED by Friday, June 11th, 2021.
(*The 75th TOPIK score is the last TOPIK score one should report to NIIED for exemption from the Korean language program.)
If you attain TOPIK level 5 or 6 during the first 6 months of Korean language program, you will be exempt from the remaining 6-month language training and you must start your degree program in the following semester (March, 2022).

DEGREE PROGRAM

Q26

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

A26

No, you may not. Changing the university or transferring to another university is NOT PERMITTED under any circumstances. Changing a major is also not allowed unless there is a structural change in your department or major. However, the procedure for changing a major is extremely complicated so we ask all applicants to obtain sufficient information about your desired university and major before applying.

Q27

What if I do not attain degree within the scholarship period? Can I extend my scholarship period until I graduate?

A27

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
for Graduate Degree Program.

GKS Center, NIIED.