

2018 Korean Government Scholarship Program for Graduate Degrees: FAQ

ELIGIBILITY

Q1

I am currently enrolled at a university in Korea for a Master's degree. Am I eligible to apply for the Master's degree program under KGSP?

A1

Yes, you are eligible to apply for our scholarship program as long as you have not achieved degrees. Those who have taken classes at universities in Korea or participated in exchange student programs in Korea, therefore, may apply for KGSP. However, if you are selected as a 2018 KGSP scholar, then you must drop out of the program you are currently enrolled.

Q2

I am enrolled at a last semester at one of the Korean universities for a Bachelor's degree program. Am I eligible to apply for a Master's degree under KGSP?

A2

No, you are not. In order to apply for a Master's degree program, you must (or are expected to) have at least a Bachelor's degree. Since you will be getting your Bachelor's degree in Korea, you are not eligible to apply for a Master's degree program under KGSP.

Q3

I am enrolled at a last semester at one of the Korean universities for a Master's degree program. Am I eligible to apply for a Doctoral degree under KGSP?

A3

No, you are not. In order to apply for a Doctoral degree program, you must (or are expected to) have at least a Master's degree. Since you will be getting your Master's degree in Korea, you are not eligible to apply for a Doctoral degree program under KGSP.

Q4

I am expected to complete my Master's degree in August 2018. Am I eligible to apply for a Doctoral degree program under this scholarship?

A4

If you submit an official certificate of expected graduation or a provisional degree certificate issued by the university, you may apply for the 2018 KGSP. However, it is allowed in condition that the final degree certificate will be submitted to NIIED by August 31, 2018. The failure of doing so will result in the cancelation of the scholarship.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Q5

May I apply for the program through the NIIED directly?

A5

No you may not. Applications must be submitted either to the Korean Embassy in your home country or to one of the designated Korean universities. Make sure to refer to the information on the application guidelines on how to submit your application. Also note that you may not submit your application to the embassy of your country in Korea.

Q6

When is the deadline for application?

A6

Each Korean Embassy and university decides its own deadline. Although most deadlines fall between late February and March, you must contact the Korean Embassy in your home country or the university of your choice, regarding the deadline.

Q7

Where can I submit my application?

A7

All applications must be submitted to the institutions of the 1st round of selection, which means the Korean Embassies or the Korean universities. Before submitting your application, you must carefully study the 2017 KGSP Application Guidelines, available on www.studyinkorea.go.kr. Please note that you must submit your application either to the Korean Embassy in your home country or to one of the designated Korean universities, not both.

Q8

I am a Korean adoptee who has a foreign nationality. Where can I submit my application for the KGSP graduate program?

A8

There is a separate quota assigned for the Overseas Korean Adoptees under the Embassy Track(Overseas Koreans included). The Korean adoptees from the countries selected by NIIED are eligible to apply under this option. If you hold the nationality of one of the selected countries, you may apply through the Korean Embassy in your country. A total of 20 persons will be selected under the Overseas Korean Adoptees option.

Q9

Should I submit the certificates of language proficiency (English or Korean) when I apply for the KGSP?

A9

The certificate of English proficiency (TOEFL or IELTS) or Korean proficiency (TOPIK) is an optional document, which means you may apply for KGSP without it. However, those with the language proficiency certificate will be given preferences in the selection procedure. It is also important to note that some embassies and universities **DO REQUIRE** the language proficiency certificate for all applicants.

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 of each semester in the blank. Make sure to put your GPA in front of the slash (/), and the full GPA behind the slash (/). For example, if your GPA is 3.5 out of 4.5, you must put 3.5/ 4.5.

Q11

How many recommendation letters should I submit?

A11

NIIED requires **TWO** letters of recommendation. It is highly advised that applications ask their professors and academic advisors for the letters. However, in case the university of your choice asks for more letters of recommendation, you must submit additional letters.

Q12

Should I include a detailed research proposal in the Statement of Purpose?

A12

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 your degree program.

Q13

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. How may I submit the sealed documents, such as transcripts and recommendation letters?

A13

Please submit **FOUR** identical documents, each sealed in a separate envelope. For all other documents that are not sealed, you can make photocopies of the original.

Q14

Can I submit the documents that are in languages other than Korean or English?

A14

KGSP 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.

Q15

I am a Japanese citizen, currently working in Vietnam. May I apply for the program through the Korean Embassy in Vietnam?

A15

No, you may not. If you choose to apply in the Embassy Track, you must submit your application to the Korean Embassy in Japan. In addition, those who hold the citizenship of the countries to which the KGSP quota is not assigned, are unable to apply for KGSP through the Korean Embassies in those countries.

Q16

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 at the Korean Embassy in China?

A16

No, you should not submit your application to the Korean Embassy in China. According to the mutual agreement between Korea and China, Chinese applicants should submit their application to China Scholarship Council (CSC) affiliated with Ministry of Education in China. Likewise, the Czech citizens should also submit the application to their Ministry of Education according to the mutual agreement between the governments of Korea and Czech Republic.

Q17

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.?

A17

You can submit your application to your nearest Korean Consulate. In case of you, you can submit it to the Korea Consulate in LA. Embassy in Washington and regional 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

Q18

May I choose any field of study for a Master's (or Doctoral) degree program?

A18

You may choose the majors and programs listed in the University Information announced on our website, www.studyinkorea.go.kr. Although it is not required, it is highly recommended that you apply for a major that is in the same field of study as your previous degree. For example, those who majored in economics for undergraduate degrees are recommended to apply for a Master's degree in economics. NIIED is unable to be held responsible for any disadvantage arising from applying for a field in which an applicant has no prior experience. NIIED strongly recommends that you contact the universities to consult on the majors and degree programs you are interested in.

Q19

How many majors and universities can I apply for admission?

A19

If you apply in the University Track, you may choose only ONE university and ONE major. If you apply in the Embassy Track, you may choose THREE universities and the majors offered at each university. Note that you may not choose three different majors from a single university. Please refer to the application guidelines and the university information.

Q20

I am from Mongolia and I want to apply for Master's degree in Electronic Engineering. Would I stand a better chance to be selected if I apply for regional universities other than non-regional universities?

A20

Not really. The Ministry of Education in Korea has created a separate admission track for regional universities, especially in the field of Natural Science and Engineering, as part of the endeavor to attract talented students at those universities.

What can be said at this point, however, is that the application of those who apply for a degree program in the field of science and engineering at a regional university, might be given additional consideration, depending on the applicant's country of origin. For example, the University Track quota for Mongolian applicants is 11. Out of the total 11, 7 will be selected among all fields. The remaining 4 will be selected among the applicants in the science and engineering fields. That is to say, the applicants in the field of science and technology have double chances to be considered in the selection procedure. Since not all applicants will have this second chance, it is highly recommended to check the quota table in the application guidelines.

Q21

I am from Malaysia. May I apply for a major in the field of Liberal Arts and Social Science at one of the regional universities?

A21

Yes, you may as long as the university of your choice offers a degree program for KGSP scholars. You are eligible to apply for any degree program listed in the University Information. Therefore, you are free to choose to apply for any one of the 64 designated universities, both regional and non-regional alike.

However, out of the total quota of 9 assigned for the University Track applicants from Malaysia, 6 will be selected from all range of available majors because 3 is reserved for the applicants in the field of science and engineering.

Q22

I am going to apply for the program via Embassy Track. 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

First, make sure to carefully study the application guidelines and the University Information. Then feel free to 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 chose. The admission rate for the successful candidates of the 2nd round is about 80%. It might be wise to broaden your scope on the universities since each university has its strength and specialize in different fields. You would want to check which university is the leading institution in the field of study you would like to pursue for your graduate degree.

KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Q23

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

A23

Yes, it is. A KGSP scholar must get at least Level 3 on TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) by the end of the 1-year Korean language program in order to proceed to his or her degree program.

Please note that NIIED will assign the language institution for each KGSP scholar with various factors in consideration, and the assignment of language institution will not and cannot be altered. Through the language program, scholars are required to live on-campus of the language institution and it is strictly forbidden to live with family members.

Q24

May I be exempt from the Korean Language Course?

A24

If you have an advanced level (Levels 5 or 6) on TOPIK, you are exempted from the language course and you must start your degree course starting from the following semester of the date you achieve the advanced level on TOPIK. In addition, you will receive the Korean Proficiency Grant of 100,000 KRW per month.

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, might be allowed very limitedly, provided the related departments of the university agree to the change of your major.

Q26

Is it possible to extend my scholarship period for completing my thesis (or dissertation) beyond the designated period?

A26

No, it is not. According to the KGSP Academic Regulations amended in 2012, the KGSP scholars from 2012 are not allowed to extend the scholarship period.

THANK YOU

for your interest in the

Korean Government Scholarship Program

for Graduate Degrees.

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 on the application procedure.
2. If you still have difficulty finding information, please contact GKS Team at NIIED.