

2012 KGSP Graduate Program FAQ

<Qualifications>

1. If my country has not been allocated an applicant quota for the 2012 KGSP graduate program, can I still apply for a master's program through KGSP?

Unfortunately, under our current policies, this is not allowed. Country selection for quota allocation is decided within the GKS committee on the basis of mutual cultural or educational agreements, MOUs, ODAs, etc. Only those who hold citizenship of the listed countries are eligible for the program.

2. I will finish my master's course in Korea by August 2012. Am I eligible for application to this program?

No, you are not eligible for application to this program. According to the Guideline No. 7, *Applicants who have enrolled in or graduated from a university in Korea will be disqualified from applying to the KGSP program. Specifically, an applicant who has previously enrolled in or graduated from an undergraduate program, a master's program, or a doctoral program in Korea cannot apply for this program.*

However, a KGSP scholar who has graduated or will graduate from a Korean university as of August 31st, 2012 can apply for this program again. However, he or she may only do so if only he/she holds at least TOPIK Level 4. Additionally, he or she must re-apply through a Korean embassy, and obtain another recommendation within the allotment from the Korean Embassy of his/her respective country of origin (Note: re-application is limited to one instance).

3. I will finish my master's course in August 2012. May I apply for the 2012 KGSP Ph.D. program?

If you submit a certificate of expected graduation officially issued from the university at which you have enrolled, you can apply for the 2012 KGSP. However, you cannot apply if your school does not issue an official certificate of expected graduation by the application

deadline. If you are selected as a final KGSP grantee, you must submit the official certificate of graduation to NIIED by August 31st, 2012. Failure to submit the official certificate on time will cause the cancelation of your scholarship qualification.

4. I will complete my master's degree in September 2012. May I apply for the 2012 Ph.D. program?

Unfortunately, this is not possible under current policies. Only those who are expected to complete a master's degree by August 31st, 2012 are eligible for the 2012 Ph.D. program. However, you may apply for the 2013 Ph.D. program.

5. I am receiving the GKS scholarship for self-funded students of excellence. May I apply for this program?

Unfortunately, you may not. Only KGSP scholars can apply for this program again if they have at least TOPIK Level 4.

6. I am studying in a Korean university as an exchange student. May I apply for this program?

Yes, you may apply for this program. However, if you have completed a degree in a Korean university as an exchange student, you are not eligible for this program.

<Documents>

7. May I apply for the program through the NIIED directly?

No, you may not. APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH the 1st SELECTION INSTITUTIONS.

Please refer to the following guidelines:

※NIIED and foreign embassies in Korea are not 1st Selection Institutions and do not accept applications.

※NIIED only accepts and judges the candidates recommended by the 1st Selection Institutions. (Guideline 11)

8. When is the deadline for application?

The exact deadline date will be decided by your respective 1st Selection Institutions; however, this date will fall around mid-March. You must make inquiries to your respective 1st Selection Institution regarding its specific deadline directly.

Please refer to the following guidelines:

※Deadline of Submission : The date set forth by the 1st Selection Institutions within March 2012

※Deadline for the Recommendation of Candidates to NIIED by the 1st Selection Institutions: April 13th, 2012.

9. Where can I submit my application?

Applicants must submit their applications to one of the 1st Selection Institutions - an overseas Korean embassy, or a designated Korean university. Before deciding on your 1st Selection Institution, you have to carefully read/peruse the 2012 KGSP Graduate Guideline for Application, which is posted on the GKS website (www.gks.go.kr); it is better to examine the Application Guideline first, and then decide to which institution you will submit your application. You can submit your application to only one institution.

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

First, you have to check whether your country is allotted the adoptee quota in the Application Guideline. If your country is allotted the adoptee quota, you can submit your application only to the Korean Embassy in your country. There is a special portion of scholarship support reserved for Korean adoptees (around 5% of the total grantees).

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

The certificate of English proficiency (TOEFL or IELTS) or Korean proficiency (TOPIK) is optional for the KGSP. That is to say, you can apply for the KGSP whether you have it or not.

Having stated this, it is also important to note that applicants who submit these certificates may be given preferential consideration.

Furthermore, when you apply for admission to your desired universities after passing the 2nd selection round (the NIIED judging committee), you may be requested to submit a certificate of language proficiency to the specific department which you applied. In that case, the language certificate is a required document for the admission to your degree program.

12. What should I fill out in the *Transcript section* of [Personal Data] ?

You can fill out only your GPA which you obtained each semester or term. For example, if you completed three terms in one year, you should fill out the respective GPA values in the three blanks (/) to which they belong. Your GPA should be posted in the front of slash (/), and the maximum possible GPA should be posted at the rear of slash (/). Please refer to the following example:

School Year	1 st year			2 nd year			3 rd year			4 th year			평균평점 (GPA)	환산점수 (converted score)/100
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3		
Bachelor	3.5/4.0	3.5/4.0	/	3.5/4.0	3.5/4.0	/	3.5/4.0	3.5/4.0	/	3.5/4.0	3.5/4.0	/	3.5/4.0	90/100
Master	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		

13. How many recommendation letters should I submit?

Only one for most applicants. It should be requested and received from one of the professors belonging to the academic institution which you previously attended. However, you might submit an additional recommendation letter if the university department which you are applying to requires two recommendation letters. In that case, you can submit all the recommendation letters to your 1st Selection Institution. If you apply for this program via a Korean embassy and pass the 2nd selection round, NIIED will send all your documents to the universities which you are applying.

14. Should I write down a specific proposal in the study plan?

Your application will fare much better throughout the selection process if you are able to make a concrete proposal in your study plan. If you do not make a specific proposal, you should at least state your goals, study plans, your future direction, et cetera, in detail.

15. According to the Guideline, I have to submit one original document package and three photocopied document packages. How can I photocopy my transcript and recommendation letter? They are already sealed by the issuing school and the recommender.

You have only to submit only the original document without the photocopies if the specific document in concern is already sealed by the issuing institution or individual. The 1st Selection Institution is supposed to make 3 photocopies of the sealed document and send them to NIIED after the 1st selection.

Please refer to the following guidelines:

※In case of submitting photocopied documents, applicants must submit the original to the 1st Selection Institution and have the original one and the photocopied one collated. The confirmation of collation should be indicated in the photocopied documents. (Guideline 11)

16. If my documents are not written in English or in Korean, how should I submit them?

KGSP requires that all documents must be translated into Korean or English, and then be authenticated by the issuing institution or by a notary's office. If your country has joined the apostille system, your documents can also be apostilled.

Please refer to the following guidelines:

※Documents not in English or Korean must be accompanied by a complete English or Korean translation authenticated by the issuing institution or notarized by a notary's office. (Guideline 11)

17. I am Japanese but I am working in Vietnam. May I apply for the program through the Korean Embassy in Vietnam?

Sorry, but all applicants who want to apply for the program through a Korean Embassy must apply for it through the Korean Embassy in their respective home country. In addition, it is important to note that the Korean diplomatic missions of the countries where scholarships are not available (i.e., countries which have not been allotted KGSP application quotas) are not empowered for selection of the candidates of the program.

18. I have Chinese citizenship. According to the Guideline, there is only Embassy quotas allocated to China. Therefore, should I apply for the program via the Korea Embassy?

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. You can contact the person in charge in CSC with the following phone number: 010-6609-3963 or 010-6609-3900(Beijing). Czech applicants should also submit the application to their Ministry of Education according to the mutual agreement.

19. I am American living in Los Angeles, United States. I am going to apply for the program via the Korean Embassy. Should I submit my application to the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C., and how?

As determined by the discussions between NIIED and the Korean Diplomatic Mission to the United States, you can submit your application to your nearest Korean Consulate. In your case, you can submit your application to the Korea Consulate in Los Angeles. The primary Korean embassy in Washington, D.C. and the regional Korean consulates throughout the United States will cooperate to select the prospective candidates. Note: this applies only to the United States.

<University Admission>

20. When I apply for a master's or doctoral program, may I choose any field of study in my desired program?

Basically, you can choose a field of study only listed in *University Information*, and it should be the same major as your previous degree course. For example, it is recommended that you apply for the economics program for your master's course if you majored in economics in your undergraduate course. If you apply for a program that is totally different from the major field of study in your previous degree course, you may not gain admission. We strongly recommend that you make inquiries to your desired university concerning your desired field of study in advance.

21. How many majors and universities can I apply for admission?

You can only and must select one major if you apply via a domestic university. On the other hand, you should apply up to three universities (and in turn, select three majors - one major for each university) if you apply via a Korean embassy.

Please refer to these guidelines:

※Eligible Universities: The 51 listed universities (or institutions) as designated by NIIED.

Applicants (including Korean adoptees) who apply for this program via Korean Embassies must choose 3 desired universities out of the 51 universities listed below.

Applicants who apply for this program via the designated universities may choose only 1 desired university out of the 51 universities.

※Available Fields of Study: Applicants must choose their desired fields of study from the listed programs detailed in the University Information section. (Guideline 3)

22. I am going to apply for the program via the Korea Embassy in my country. Application guidelines state that applicants should choose up to 3 preferred universities and departments (or majors). I have no idea how to choose them. Could you give me any good tips for choosing my 3 universities?

For information on the universities available to 2012 KGSP scholars, you must refer to the attachments titled 'Guidelines for 2012 KGSP University Admission' and '2012 KGSP University Information'. After reading them through, please contact and get consultation from the university staff in charge of admissions. It is advisable to choose universities suitable for your abilities and disposition. Some universities are very competitive and many candidates do not gain admission from these universities. It is strongly recommended that you should choose three universities of differing selectiveness (i.e. between very selective and relaxed selectiveness) to avoid not gaining admission from any of the universities which you applied. For reference, more than 10 graduate program candidates in 2011 were not accepted into KGSP scholarship due to their failure in gaining admission from any of the universities which they applied.

<Korean Language Course>

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

Yes, it is mandatory. If a grantee does not attain at least Level 3 in TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) after one year of language course, he/she cannot start his/her degree course and must take an additional 6 months' language course. If he/she does not get at least Level 3 in TOPIK after this additional 6 months' course, his/her scholarship will be cancelled.

24. Can I be exempted from the Korean Language Course?

If you have attained at least Level 5 in TOPIK, you may be exempted from the language course and you can start your degree course in the immediate coming semester under the permission of NIIED. You will also receive 100,000 won as an additional scholarship stipend every month (only after starting your degree course).

<Degree Course>

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

Such a change is not permitted. Once the announcement of the final successful candidates has been made, changing universities is NOT ALLOWED REGARDLESS OF ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Therefore, please pay attention and caution when choosing preferred universities and filling out the application forms in which you state your preference.

Please refer to these guidelines:

※ Transferring to a different university after confirming the host university is not permitted in any case. In regards to changing majors, it would be permitted only under the mutual agreement of the departments concerned only within the same university, with the scholarship period unchanged. (2 years of Master's, or 3 years of Doctoral, in total). Also, quitting a program and applying for a new one is not permitted. (Guideline 11)

26. Is it possible to extend my scholarship for my dissertation composition even after my scholarship period has been terminated?

No, this is not permitted as well. According to the new policies, the 2012 KGSP graduate scholars cannot extend their scholarships after their scholarship period has concluded (2 years of Master's, or 3 years of Doctoral. Note: the said scholarship period indicates only the period of the degree course requirement).