



FAQ - GKS

- **Do I need to submit my original sworn translations?**

This year, Embassy will **not** require the original sworn translations, **but** notarized copies of the English documents for the candidates applying for the 1st step of the GKS. However, candidates approved in that step will need to submit the original sworn translation as soon as he or she is approved by NIIED. Candidate who is selected and doesn't send the original sworn translation of the documents when requested will be eliminated from the process. We strongly recommend that you get your documents translated anyway and keep them with you in case you pass to the 2nd step of GKS.

- **I have studied in Korea as an exchange student before. Am I eligible for application to this program?**

Yes, you are eligible to apply. However, those with a high school diploma issued by a Korean high school are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply.

- **I have obtained a Bachelor's degree in my country. May I apply for the undergraduate program?**

Unfortunately, you are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply for the undergraduate program. However, in case you are interested in pursuing higher degrees, e.g. Master's or Doctoral, you can still

apply. Please refer to the application guidelines for the graduate-degree programs to be released in February.

- **I'd like to apply for PHD. Should I use my Master degrees documents only?**

Candidates applying for PHD should use Bachelor's and Master's degree information to apply for GKS.

- **May I apply for the program through the NIIED directly or through the University instead of the Embassy?**

No, you may not through NIIED. APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE KOREAN EMBASSY in your home country OR through the UNIVERSITY directly. You can't apply for both tracks. You have to choose EMBASSY TRACK or UNIVERSITY TRACK.

- **What is the difference?**

When you apply through the Embassy track you have the chance to select three different universities whereas in the University track you are required to apply through only one.

- **What documents are required to apply?**

The list of documents is available in the guideline. Even if the guideline hasn't been released by us, candidates can still check the previous one, available at the Embassy website.

- **When is the deadline for application? And where can I submit my application?**

The application deadline and further instructions on document submission is always decided by the Korean Embassy in your country. Usually, we release the guideline for Undergraduate

Program every year August/September. As for the Graduate Program, we release the guideline in February every year. Please refer to the announcement from the embassy. The documents should be sent to the Embassy through mail only.

- **Should I submit the certificate of language proficiency (English and/or Korean) when I apply for the GKS?**

It is not mandatory to submit the language proficiency test results. Those scores are optional. However, the applicants with a valid language proficiency test results level will be considered more favorably.

- **As for recommendation letters, may I submit two letters written by one recommender?**

No, you may not. The recommendation letters must be written either in English or Korean by two (or more, it depends on the guideline) different recommenders such as your high school teacher, the school principal, or the chair of your department.

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

Please have the documents translated either into Korean or English by a public translator. All translated documents must be authenticated by the issuing institution or by a notary's office. This year, Embassy will **not** require the original sworn translations, **but** notarized copies of the English documents for the candidates applying for the 1st step of the GKS. However, candidates approved in that step will need to submit the original sworn translation as soon as he or she is approved by NIIED. Candidate who is selected and doesn't send the original sworn translation of the documents when requested will be eliminated from the process. We strongly recommend that you get your documents translated anyway and keep them with you in case you pass to the 2nd step of GKS.

- **According to the Application Guidelines, I have to submit one set of original application documents and three sets of photocopied ones. How can I prepare the photocopies of the recommendation letters, which must be sealed?**

Please ask your recommender to give you the necessary number of identical letters, each sealed in one or separate envelopes (it depends on the guideline of the current year). For all other documents that are sealed by the issuing institution, such as the degree certificate or the transcript, please get four identical ones from the issuing institution, each sealed in separate envelopes. This is a very important command. Candidates who don't follow this step can be eliminated from the process. The Embassy should receive 1 pack consisted of 4 envelopes inside, one containing the original documents and the other three copies, identical to the first one.

- **Can I be exempt from the Korean Language Program?**

Yes, you can. If you submit a valid advanced level 5 or 6 on TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean), you are exempt from the one year language program and must start your degree program in the first semester under GKS.

- **Application guidelines say that applicants should choose up to 3 preferred universities and departments (or majors) in the application forms; FORM 1, FORM 4 and FORM5. However, 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 for GKS scholars, please refer to the "University Information" which is available on the announcement made by NIIED or in the guideline itself. For further inquiries on the degree program, the applicants are encouraged to contact each university.

- **How does the university admission procedure work?**

Application for university admissions will be proceeded as shown below for those who pass the 2nd round of selection:

After announcing the successful candidates of the 2nd round, NIIED will forward the application documents to all universities that applicants have chosen in their application forms.

Each university will begin its own reviews on the applications forwarded by NIIED. Please note that some universities might conduct interviews with prospective candidates, or request the submission of supplementary documents.

The universities will notify the admissions review results to each candidate and to NIIED. All GKS applicants must make their final choice of university and notify NIIED about the final decision.

- **May I change my final choice of a university for an undergraduate degree during the preliminary Korean language course or even change my desired field of study?**

Never. After the final result announcement by NIIED, changing universities is NOT ALLOWED at all circumstances. Please give yourself enough time to consider your choice before notifying NIIED about your final choice of university.

- **May I choose more than one department or major for a university?**

No, you may not. You must choose one department or major. In other words, it is not allowed to put three different majors from a single university as your university choice in the application form.

- **If I am not selected through the Embassy Track, am I able to receive my documents back?**

No. The guideline is very clear regarding this. Once the documents are sent, they cannot be returned to the applicants.

- **Does the Embassy provide any kind of feedback for those who were not selected?**

No. We can't give individual feedback for those who were not selected, but we do encourage students to keep on trying.

- **I don't have excellent grades in school, but I do want to go to Korea through GKS. Is it still possible?**

Korean Government invites excellent students every year to apply for GKS. Only students with 8.0 grade and above are selected.

- **Good grades are enough to be selected?**

No. It also depends on academic and personal assets. We encourage students who are willing to apply to be involved in extra projects in school, to seek for good grades, to study languages and be as good as possible in his or her field of interest.

- **I am an excellent student, I have several scientific articles published, awards and speak English fluently and yet I haven't been selected through GKS. What is wrong?**

Although we are looking for bright students to send to Korea through our Scholarship Program, there are many elements that we do consider during the selecting process such as field of study, interest in Korea, academic background, language proficiency and also, not

least important, the ties with our country and how the student can become an important bridge between his or her country and Korea in the future. There are many steps we follow at evaluating the academic background plus the personal background of a student in order for us to make a final decision.

- **What are the top majors that get selected through GKS?**

Every year the GKS guideline suggests a major that is most likely to get selected. For instance, Engineering and Sciences are the fields mentioned in the guideline. That doesn't mean, however, that only candidates from those areas will be selected.

- **Is it true that Medicine is not among the fields through GKS?**

Any major that takes more than 4 years to be completed are not part of the GKS, such as Medicine and Nursing etc.

- **Once I am selected, do I have to travel to go to the Embassy to get the visa?**

It depends on each country. Selected students need to go cities where there are Embassy or Korean Consulates in order to get the visa.

- **Will GKS last forever? I am afraid to get old and not be able to live my dream.**

Candidates for UNDERGRADUTE program can apply till their 25 years old while GRADUATE candidates have the chance to apply until their 40s.

- **What should put in the section of GPA on the Application Form?**

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.

The Embassy can not and will not help students to calculate their GPA.

- **I'm a Korean descendent. Can I apply for the overseas Korean quota?**

GKS candidates and their parents must **not** hold Korean citizenship. Korean citizens and dual citizenship holders are not eligible to apply through this program. Although GKS won't allow candidates in this situation to apply for GKS quota, there may be other programs suitable for you. Please get in touch with the Korean Educational Center in Brazil for further information at (11) 3229-4324. E-mail : cecoreiasp2@hotmail.com.

For those candidates whose parents had previously held Korean citizenship, they can still apply through GKS but should submit the document that proves their renunciation of Korean citizenship.