

# Notice for the 2026 Global Korea Scholarship

## GKS-U Scholars

Dear 2026 GKS Undergraduate Scholars!

Congratulations! We are happy to inform you that you have been selected as 2026 GKS Undergraduate Scholars. What follows below is important information you should know before you enter Korea.

**Please read ALL the information thoroughly** and take necessary actions accordingly.

### A. KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

**Period: March 1, 2026 ~ February 28, 2027 (1 year)**

All newly selected GKS Scholars will take the Korean language program at the same university where they will conduct their degree program.

※ Exception: UNIST will designate another university for a Korean language program.

**Minimum language proficiency: TOPIK level 3**

During a year-long mandatory Korean language program, scholars must achieve at least TOPIK level 3 to enroll in their degree program. (The deadline to submit the TOPIK certificate for admission to a degree program is January 2027.) If a scholar fails to reach TOPIK level 3, he or she will not be allowed to proceed with their degree program. In addition, a certain university or department requires students to submit a valid TOPIK certificate of level 4 or higher. Scholars who applied to such departments may not enter their degree program if they fail to achieve the required TOPIK certificate within the duration of a yearlong Korean language program.

Scholars who achieve TOPIK level 5 or 6 within the first 6 months of the Korean language program must begin their degree program in the following semester, starting in September 2026. (The deadline to submit the TOPIK certificate for admission to a degree program is July 2026.) In this case, even though a scholar's language program period is reduced to 6 months, the degree program period will remain the same.

#### **Accommodation**

GKS scholars are required to live on-campus in the dormitory in most cases with other roommates during their Korean language program. To live off-campus, scholars should obtain approval from the Korean language institution with a valid TOPIK level 3.

The scholarship does not cover dormitory fees, so scholars are responsible for paying for their accommodation. Most scholars pay for their accommodation within the stipend they receive each month. Please note that scholarship money including a monthly stipend will be provided only after a scholar opens a bank account in Korea. One can open a bank account after the issuance of the ID card (Residence Card). This procedure may take up to 1~3 months depending on the individual's circumstances.

Therefore, it is recommended that scholars bring additional funds that could cover their initial stay in Korea for **up to 3 months**.

## B. DEGREE PROGRAM

Scholarship period including one-year mandatory Korean language program

\* Scholars who are exempt from the Korean language program will directly start their degree program in March 2026.

| Degree                  | Scholarship Period                | Note    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Korean Language Program | March 1, 2026 ~ February 28, 2027 | 1 year  |
| Associate Degree        | March 1, 2027 ~ February 28, 2029 | 2 years |
| Bachelor's Degree       | March 1, 2027 ~ February 28, 2031 | 4 years |

※ Scholars who were accepted to departments of different program duration (3, 5, or 6 years) will have a different scholarship period. Their scholarship period will be indicated on their invitation letter.

### Accommodation

On-campus housing is generally available for degree program scholars who apply for one at their respective universities. Make sure to check the accommodation details with the universities.

The scholarship does not cover dormitory fees, so scholars are responsible for paying for their accommodation. Most scholars pay for their accommodation within the stipend they receive each month. Please note that scholarship money including a monthly stipend will be provided only after a scholar opens a bank account in Korea. One can open a bank account after the issuance of the ID card (Residence Card). This procedure may take up to 1~3 months depending on the individual's circumstances. Therefore, it is recommended that scholars bring additional funds that could cover their initial stay in Korea for **up to 3 months**.

## C. INVITATION LETTER

We will send you an official NIIED invitation letter, with which you can apply for a student visa to enter Korea. The invitation letter will be sent to you individually via email in a pdf file. Hard copies will not be delivered to you. Please make sure to check your email inbox daily. If you do not receive the invitation letter by **January 16, 2026 (Korea Standard Time)**, please email us at [gksniied@korea.kr](mailto:gksniied@korea.kr) with your **GKS Scholar Number\*** in a subject title. (e.g., [CS01261234]-invitation letter not received)

\* **Your GKS Scholar Number** (also known as **CS Number**) is written before your name in the **final successful candidates list**.

From now on, you will be using your **GKS Scholar Number** whenever you need to communicate with us.

## D. VISA APPLICATION

Apply for a visa at the nearest Korean Embassy or Consulate in your country with the invitation letter. You would still need to apply for a visa even if your country has signed a visa agreement with the government of Korea. Please remember the type of visa you should apply for.

- **D-4 visa** is for those who will start a **Korean language program**.  
*(All scholars will be initially issued with a **6 months** D-4 visa, and scholars are responsible to renew their visa during their Korean language program. NIIED does not support visa renewal fees.)*
- **D-2 visa** is for those who are exempt from the Korean language program and have started their **degree program**.  
*※ D-2-7 visa is available for GKS scholars upon their request.*

The documents required for visa application may differ from each embassy, and it is strongly recommended that you contact the Korean embassy to check the required documents before you apply for a visa. You can also visit the “Korea Visa Portal” (<https://www.visa.go.kr>). In general, you would need the following documents:

- ✓ Visa Application Fee is generally exempt for GKS scholars
- ✓ Valid Passport
- ✓ A photo in a standard format
- ✓ Visa application form (available at the Korean Embassy/Consulate)
- ✓ An invitation letter issued by NIIED
- ✓ Document indicating the final level of education
- ✓ Standard Admission Letter issued by universities

NIIED sent an official letter to all Korean embassies around the world, asking for their cooperation in visa processing for this year’s GKS scholars. However, each embassy may request additional documents if it is deemed necessary for visa evaluation.

With the NIIED’s invitation letter, you can apply for a visa without proof of your financial ability to support yourself.

**Visa application process may take an extended period of time depending on the scholar’s personal or country circumstances, so scholars should obtain necessary documents and apply for a visa as soon as possible.**

**It is each scholar’s responsibility to verify if the name of the university is indicated correctly in the visa.**

If, by any chance, you are issued a wrong type of visa or if any error is found, contact the Korean embassy or consulate immediately to make necessary corrections. It is difficult to change the information in your visa once you enter Korea with the incorrect information.

**Please do not be negligent about the type of visa you were issued, and the personal information printed on the visa.**

**(Attention!!)** Scholars who are currently residing in Korea with D-2, D-4, or another visa type may need to return to their home country to obtain a new visa for GKS program. In this case, the round-trip airfare will not be given to scholars. Corresponding scholars must contact the Immigration Office that has jurisdiction over their university to find out if they can issue their visas without leaving the country.

※ For example, scholars who are currently residing in Korea with a D-4 visa may have to get a new D-4 visa from their home country.

## E. ENTRY AIR TICKET

### 1. Entry Period

Scholars must arrange their entry schedule with their university. All scholars should enter Korea **before the semester begins on March 1, 2026, mostly between February 19 and February 28, 2026.**

### 2. Purchase of Flight Ticket

- NIIED will provide funds for a **one-way economy class flight ticket** which must be purchased through the university.
- The itinerary must be a **direct flight** or a flight with the shortest route to Korea.  
※ If there is no direct flight available, the layover should be limited to 30 hours.
- Each university will ask you to submit a flight entry information form. You must complete the form and **submit it back to the relevant institution.**
- Your ticket must be arranged through the university. NIIED does not book tickets for scholars.
- Those who have flight connections in another country are responsible for checking the transit visa requirements in that country and prepare in advance. For example, if you need to transfer a flight within the Schengen Area or in the United States, you must get a Schengen visa or a U.S. transit visa before your departure. **All fees incurred in the process of getting the transit visa are not covered by NIIED.**
- NIIED does not cover the cost of domestic trips within a scholar's own country.
- NIIED does not cover the cost of travel insurance. It is up to an individual to decide whether to purchase travel insurance or not.  
※ Scholarship will cover the medical insurance from the beginning of a semester in early **March**. Therefore, we recommend scholars to subscribe to travel insurance until the end of **February 2026**.
- NIIED does not cover baggage fees.
- NIIED does not cover any additional fees incurred prior to your departure. (e.g., expense for a self-quarantine before departure, PCR test fee, etc.)
- Any ticket change fee (change of schedule, cancelation of flight, etc.) is the responsibility of the person who generated such situations.

### 3. Entry airfare will **not** be provided to the following GKS scholars:

- **GKS scholars who have stayed in Korea at the time of the final announcement.**

- The round trip airfare will not be provided to GKS scholars selected in China and the Czech Republic in accordance with the agreement made between the Korean government and the governments of the two countries

## F. ARRIVAL

- **After arriving in Korea, scholars must contact the person in charge of GKS (GKS representatives) at the university immediately.** All scholars must have the contact information of the representatives who are responsible for GKS students in the university before arriving in Korea. All scholars must follow the instructions and regulations given by the representatives at the universities.
- All scholars are advised to travel with a valid Korean visa and the invitation letter issued by NIIED.

## G. LEARN ABOUT KOREA BEFORE YOU COME TO KOREA

Prior to arrival, scholars are strongly recommended to find sufficient information about Korean life, culture, language, climate, etc. Please click on the link below and download the e-guidebook for international students living in Korea.

- ✓ Guidebook for International Students in Korea (available in Korean, English, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese)  
<https://cdn.studyinkorea.go.kr/public/guidebook/main/index.html>
- ✓ Korean Language Study    <https://www.ksif.or.kr>                      <https://www.kmooc.kr>
- ✓ Korean Universities        <https://www.studyinkorea.go.kr>
- ✓ Korean Culture              <https://www.korea.net>
- ✓ Korean Embassies          <https://www.mofa.go.kr>
- ✓ Visa & Immigration        <https://www.immigration.go.kr>        <https://www.hikorea.go.kr>

## H. OTHER INFORMATION

- In case a GKS scholar decides to withdraw from their scholarship program before their entry to Korea or before their enrollment to the respective Korean language institution/university, he or she must contact the embassy (embassy track) or the university (university track) with a letter including the reason of withdrawing. The scholarship will be canceled only when NIIED receives an official letter from an embassy/university regarding the matter.

A scholar who withdraws from the scholarship program within the first three months must immediately refund the full amount of scholarship received during their stay. This includes airfare, settlement allowance, monthly allowance, Korean language training expenses, tuition, insurance, Korean proficiency grants, etc.

Scholars who withdraw from the GKS program after they are listed on the final successful candidates list will not be eligible to re-apply for the program in the future.

- Even after a candidate has been selected as a final successful candidate, if a scholar is found to be disqualified or an application document of a scholar is discovered to be a fraud, the scholarship will be canceled.
- **(Attention!!)** GKS scholars are advised to bring the documents listed below *(in original or in authenticated version.)* for future purposes. (e.g., visa renewal, change of visa type, etc.) The list is not all inclusive, and scholars are encouraged to bring any documents that are considered important to them during their studies in Korea.
  - ✓ Graduation certificate or Diploma (It is strongly recommended to have your certificates apostilled or consular-confirmed)
  - ✓ Academic Transcript
  - ✓ Proof of citizenship (e.g., birth certificate, family registration, passport copy)
  - ✓ Medical examination results
  - ✓ Printed copy of NIIED invitation letter

*\* You don't have to submit noted items to NIIED. However, they would be asked by the visa center or your school depending on your statement. Please follow instructions by respective institutions for your needs.*

## I. FURTHER QUESTIONS

Should you have any further questions, please contact us at **gksniied@korea.kr** with your GKS Scholar Number in the subject line. We greatly look forward to seeing you here in March!

Sincerely,  
GKS Center, NIIED

January 9, 2026