

Notice for the 2026 Global Korea Scholarship

GKS-G Scholars

Dear 2026 GKS Graduate Scholars!

Congratulations! We are happy to inform you that you have been selected as a 2026 GKS Graduate Scholar. What follows below is important information you should know before entering Korea. **Please read ALL the information thoroughly** and take the necessary actions accordingly.

A. KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Period: September 1, 2026 ~ August 31, 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: GIST, KAIST, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, POSTECH, The Graduate School of Korean Studies (The Academy of Korean Studies) will designate another university for the Korean language program.

Minimum language proficiency: TOPIK level 3

During the mandatory year-long Korean language program, scholars must achieve at least TOPIK level 3 to enroll in their degree program. If a scholar fails to reach TOPIK level 3 within one year of the Korean language program, they will not be allowed to proceed with their degree program. In addition, certain university or department requires students to submit a valid TOPIK certificate of level 4 or higher. Scholars who applied to such department may not enter their degree programs if they fail to achieve the required TOPIK certificate during the year-long Korean language program.

Scholars who achieve TOPIK level 5 or 6 within the first 6 months of the Korean language program must start their degree program in the following semester (March 2027). 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, usually with roommates, during their Korean language program. To live off-campus, scholars must obtain approval from the Korean language institution and possess a valid TOPIK level 3 certificate.

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

B. DEGREE PROGRAM

Scholarship period including one-year mandatory Korean language program:

Degree	Scholarship Period	Note
Korean language Program	September 1, 2026 ~ August 31, 2027	1 year
Master's Degree	September 1, 2027 ~ August 31, 2029	2 years
Doctoral Degree	September 1, 2027 ~ August 31, 2030	3 years
Research Program	September 1, 2026 ~ August 31, 2027 (Korean language program not included)	6 months or 1 year
Global Network Program	September 1, 2026 ~ August 31, 2028 (Korean language program not included)	Within 2 years

Accommodation

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

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

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 **as 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 **July 10th, 2026 (Korea Standard Time)**, please email us at 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 degree program in the **final successful candidates list**. It is different from your previous Candidate Number that was used in the 2nd round successful candidates list. From now on, you will be using your **GKS Scholar Number** whenever you need to communicate with university or NIIED.

D. VISA APPLICATION

Apply for a visa at the nearest Korean Embassy or Consulate in your country with the invitation letter. Even if your country has signed a visa agreement with the Korean government, you will still need to apply for a visa. Please ensure you apply for the correct type of visa.

- **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 fee.)
- **D-2 visa** is for those who are exempt from the Korean language program and start their **degree program**.
※ D-2-7 visa is available for GKS scholars upon their request.

The documents required for visa application may vary by each embassy, and it is strongly recommended that you contact the Korean embassy to confirm the required documents before applying for a visa. You can also visit “the Korea Visa Portal” at www.visa.go.kr for more information. In general, you will 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 a proof of your financial ability to support yourself.

Visa application processing times can vary depending on the scholar’s personal or country circumstances, so scholars should obtain necessary documents and apply for a visa as early as possible.

It is each scholar’s responsibility to verify if the name of 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 correction. It is difficult to change the information in your visa once you enter Korea with the incorrect information.

Please ensure you are attentive to the type of visa issued to you, and the accuracy of the personal information printed on it.

(Attention!!) Scholars who are currently residing in Korea with D-2, D-4, or other visa types may need to return to their home country to obtain a new visa for the GKS program. In this case, the round-trip airfare will not be provided to scholars. These scholars must contact the Immigration Office that has jurisdiction over their university to determine if they can obtain their visa 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

Entry Period

Scholars must arrange their entry schedule with their university. All scholars should enter Korea **before the semester begins on September 1, 2026, mostly between August 24 and August 31, 2026.**

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 preparing in advance. For instance, if you need to transfer flights within the Schengen Area or in the United States, you must get a Schengen visa or a U.S. transit visa before departure. **All fees incurred in the process of getting the transit visa are not covered by NIIED.**

[Expenses **NOT COVERED** by NIIED]

NIIED does not provide support for the following expenses:

- **Transportation expenses other than airfare**, including travel within the Republic of Korea or the scholar's home country.
- **Travel insurance**
※ *It is the scholar's responsibility to decide whether to purchase travel insurance. GKS medical insurance begins at the start of the semester in **early September**. Therefore, scholars are strongly recommended to purchase travel insurance covering the period until the end of **August 2026**.*
- **Additional expenses incurred prior to departure** (e.g., excess baggage fees and other personal expenses).
- **Visa issuance and all entry-related travel expenses, including airfare**
 - scholars entering Korea from a country other than their home country (based on the nationality specified in the scholarship application)
 - scholars who are currently residing in Korea

Entry airfare will NOT be provided to the following GKS scholars:

- **GKS scholars who are in Korea at the time of final announcement.**
- The round trip airfare will not be provided to GKS scholars selected in China and Czech Republic in accordance with the agreement made between Korean government and the governments of two countries

F. ARRIVAL

Upon arriving in Korea, scholars must contact the person in charge of GKS (GKS representatives) at their university immediately. All scholars must have the contact information of the representatives who are responsible for GKS students at their university before arriving in Korea. All scholars must follow the instructions and regulations given by the representatives.

- 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.

- Study in Korea Guidebook (available in Korean, English, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnam)
<https://studyinkorea.go.kr/public/guidebook/main/index.html>

** The above guidebooks are released in 2025. For the updated procedures of visa issuance, please check with the embassy.*

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| ✓ Korean Language Study (Online King Sejong Institute) | https://www.iksi.or.kr |
| ✓ Korean Universities (Study in Korea) | https://www.studyinkorea.go.kr |
| ✓ Korean Culture (KOCIS) | https://www.korea.net |
| ✓ Korean Embassies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) | https://www.mofa.go.kr |
| ✓ Visa & Immigration
(Korea Immigration office, Hi Korea) | https://www.immigration.go.kr ,
https://www.hikorea.go.kr |

H. OTHER INFORMATION

- If a GKS scholar decides to withdraw from their scholarship program before entering Korea or before enrolling in the respective Korean language institution/university, they must contact the embassy (for embassy track) or the university (for university track) with a signed letter stating the reason for their withdrawal. The scholarship will be canceled only when NIIED receives an official letter from the embassy or university regarding the matter.

Scholars who withdraw 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
(OPTIONAL: the form would be provided by other institutions if it is required.)
- ✓ Printed copy of NIIED invitation letter

*** The items listed above do not need to be submitted to NIIED. However, they may be required by the embassy or your assigned university. Please follow the instructions of the respective institution.*

- **(Only for those who applied with provisional academic documents)** Scholars who are expected to graduate by July 31st, 2026 must submit their official graduation certificate (or diploma) and final academic transcript in hard copies with apostilles/consular confirmation to **GKS Team, NIIED by July 31st, 2026**. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of your acceptance. Any kinds of provisional/temporary certificates are not acceptable.

GKS Team (2026 GKS-G), NIIED

191 Jeongjail-ro, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do, 13557, Rep. of Korea
TEL. +82-2-3668-1364

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 August!

Sincerely,

GKS Team, NIIED

July 1st, 2026