

## 2014 KGSP Graduate Program FAQ

### <Qualification>

**1. If my country does not have a quota for the 2014 KGSP graduate program, can I still apply for a graduate program?**

No, you can't. Under our current policies, this is not allowed. The quota for each country will be decided in the GKS committee on the basis of the mutual cultural or educational agreements, MOUs, ODA, etc. Only those who hold a citizenship of the listed countries are eligible for the program.

**2. I am going to finish my master's course in Korea by August 2014. 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 (including exchange program) (anyone who has ever hold D-2 visa in Korea) cannot apply for this program.*

*However, Applicant who has experienced an exchange program in Korea only for previous academic courses graduation, and if it was mandatory for his or her graduation of degree program; thus could submit official explanation from the attended institution can apply for this KGSP program.*

*And, a KGSP scholar who has graduated or will graduate from a Korean university as of August 31st, 2014 can apply for this program again only via the embassy if only he/she holds at least TOPIK Level 4 and obtain another recommendation within the allotment from the Korean Embassy of his/her respective country of origin (re-application is limited to one instance).*

**3. I am going to finish my master's course in August 2014. May I apply for the 2014 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 2014 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, 2014. No submission of the official certificate in time will cause the cancelation of your scholarship qualification.

**4. I am going to get my master's degree in September 2014. May I apply for the 2014 Ph.D. program?**

No, you can't. Only those who are expected to get a master's degree by August 31st, 2014 are eligible for the 2014 Ph.D. program. You may apply for the 2014 Ph.D. program.

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

No, you can't. Only KGSP scholars who have at least TOPIK Level 4 can apply for this program again if they are re-recommended by the Korean embassy within a quota of that in their country of origin.

## <Documents>

### **6. May I apply for the program through the NIIED directly?**

No, you can't. APPLICATIONS MUST 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 accepts and judges only the candidates recommended by the 1st Selection Institutions. (Guideline 11)*

### **7. When is the deadline for application?**

The exact deadline will be decided by the 1st Selection Institutions. It will be around mid-March. You must ask 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 2014*

*※Deadline for the recommendation of candidates to NIIED by the 1st Selection Institutions is April 11th, 2014.*

*※If the respective 1st Selection Institutions do not submit their candidates' documents to NIIED on time, they will be excluded from the examination of NIIED Selection Committee, and their quotas will be substituted by the other 1st Institutions' reserve candidates. (Guideline 11)*

### **8. Where can I submit my application?**

Basically, applicants submit their applications to one of the 1st selection institutions. The 1st selection institutions should be overseas Korean embassies and designated Korean universities. **Before deciding on your 1st selection institution, you have to carefully read the 2014 KGSP Graduate Guideline for Application, which is posted in the GKS website(www.studyinkorea.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.

### **9. I am a Korean adoptee who has a 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 (total 25 grantees in 2014).

**10. 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, but you may be preferred in the selection if you submit it or your 1st selection institution may ask you to submit it to review. In addition, when you apply for admission to your desired universities after passing the 2nd selection round (the NIIED judging committee), you might be requested to submit a certificate of language proficiency to the specific department to which you applied. In that case, the language certificate is a required document for the admission to your degree program.

**11. 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. If you completed three terms in one year, you can fill out each GPA in the respective three blanks ( / ). Your GPA will be posted in the front of slash (/), and the full GPA will be posted in the rear of slash (/). Please refer to the example:

School Year	1 <sup>st</sup> year			2 <sup>nd</sup> year			3 <sup>rd</sup> year			4 <sup>th</sup> year			평균평점 (GPA)	환산점수 (converted score)/100
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	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	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		

**12. How many recommendation letters should I submit?**

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

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

If you have concrete ideas, it's much better you can make a proposal in the study plan. If you don't make a specific proposal, instead, you'd better state your goal, study plan, your future direction, etc.

**14. 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 photocopied ones if a specific document is **sealed by the issuing institution or individual.**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Selection institution is supposed to make 3 photocopies of the sealed document and

send them to NIIED after the 1st selection. If not, you must submit one original copy and three photocopies, which must be certified to be the same as the original copy by the issuing institution, the selection institution, or notary's offices.

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.*

**15. 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 be apostilled.

Please refer to the following guidelines:

*※Documents should be presented in their original form. Documents not in English or Korean must be accompanied by a complete English or Korean translation authenticated by the issuing institution. (Guideline 11)*

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

Sorry, but you can't. You should apply for the program through the Korean Embassy in Japan. In addition, the Korean diplomatic missions of the countries where scholarships are not available are not empowered for selection of the candidates of the program.

**17. I have the Chinese citizenship. According to the Guideline, there are only the university quotas in 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. (Beijing). **Czech applicants should also submit the application to their Ministry of Education according to the mutual agreement.**

**18. 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.?**

Under the discussion between NIIED and the Embassy, you can submit your application to your nearest Korea 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. It's available only in the United States.

**<University Admission>**

**19. 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 get admission to the program to which you apply under the KGSP. We strongly recommend that you make inquiries to your desired university of the major in advance.

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

**You have to apply for only one major in a university if you apply via a domestic university. On the other hand, you have to apply for up to three universities (one major for each university) if you apply for via a Korean embassy.**

Please refer to these guidelines:

**※Eligible Universities: The 60 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 60 universities listed below.**

**Applicants who apply for this program via the designated universities may choose only 1 desired university out of the 60 universities.**

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

**21. I am going to apply for the program via the Korea Embassy in my country. Application guidelines say 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 for 2014 KGSP scholars, you must refer to the attachments named '**Guidelines for 2014 KGSP University Admission**' and '**2014 KGSP University Information**'. After reading them through, please contact and get consultation from 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 get admission from those universities. It is strongly recommended that you should choose three different levels of universities to avoid not getting admission from any university.** For reference, more than 30 graduate program candidates in 2013 were not accepted to our KGSP scholarship grantee finally due to the failure of getting admission.

<Korean Language Course>

**22. 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 and this 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 the additional 6 months' course, his/her scholarship will be cancelled.**

*In addition, the placement of Korean language institution is up to NIIED with NIIED's rules and standards. Scholars are supposed to stay at the dorm with a roommate during Korean language learning period, and they are not allowed to change their Korean language institution. Thus, scholars are not supposed to bring family members for their language learning period.*

**23. Can I be exempted from the Korean Language Course?**

If you have attained at Level 5 or Level 6 in TOPIK, you can be exempted from the language course and you must start your degree course in the immediately coming semester under the permission of NIIED. You can also receive 100,000 won as an additional scholarship every month only after starting your degree course.

<Degree Course>

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

No way. 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 should state your choice.

Please refer to these guidelines:

※**Transferring to a different university after confirming the host university is not permitted in any cases.** 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). However, quitting a program and applying for a new one is not permitted. (Guideline 11)

**25. Is it possible to extend my scholarship for my dissertation composition even after my scholarship period is terminated.**

**No. You may not.** Since 2012 (definitely 2014 KGSP graduate scholars), all KGSP graduate scholars cannot extend your scholarship after the termination of scholarship period (2 years of Master's, or 3 years of doctoral, except the Korean language period).

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