

WB-ROK Scholarship Application 2026

5 March 2026

GKS GLOBAL
KOREA
SCHOLARSHIP



Ministry of Education
National Institute for
International Education

WB-ROK Scholarship



Based upon an MOU between WB and ROK Signed In Feb 2025, the ROK government scholarships, Global Korea Scholarship(GKS), were extended to WB's Partner Universities.



To support inclusive and innovative development in Higher education by enhancing inter-university Cooperation and expanding opportunities for students in higher education institutions



Scholarship Program

- **Quota: Up to 50 scholars per year**

1 YEAR

Korean
Language Program

TOPIK
level 3



Degree Program



Doctoral degree: 3 years



Master's degree: 2 years

* Scholarship duration varies based on the curriculum or program offered by the University

Scholarship Benefits

	Airfare	Tuition	Korean Language Training Fee	Allowances
Recipient	All Scholars	Scholars in Degree Program	Scholars in Korean Language Program	All Scholars
Benefits	One Round-trip Economy class flight ticket (actual expense)	NIIED and ROK Universities will cover the Tuition	1.3 million KRW (four quarters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language Program 14.1 million KRW (about 10,500 USD) per year Graduate Degree Program 15.7 million KRW (about 11,700 USD) per year

The allowance amount in USD has been converted using today's exchange rate to assist your understanding, and it may vary depending on the exchange rate.

Programs (Consisting of departments in various fields established GKS Universities*)

* 75 nationwide – see next slide for Type A and B

<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided by departments at metropolitan(Type A) and regional universities(Type B) • Various majors such as humanities, social studies, natural sciences, arts and athletics, etc
<p>R-GKS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided by departments at regional universities(Type B) • Various majors such as humanities, social studies, natural sciences, arts and athletics, etc
<p>R&D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on cutting-edge science and engineering in emerging industries • 25Schools(Yonsei, KAIST, etc) provide programs in R&D
<p>Global Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on humanities and social science departments related to enhancing global cooperation • 6 Schools(SNU, KDI, PNU, etc) provide master’s programs in international studies • Conducted mainly in English / No Korean language course (Only for Master’s degree within 2 years)

Available Universities

Classification	Available Universities
<p data-bbox="271 788 383 826">Type A</p> <p data-bbox="221 919 432 954">(34 institutions)</p>	<p data-bbox="510 572 2002 1107"> Ajou University, Chung-Ang University, Dankook University, Dongguk University, Duksung Women's University, Ewha Womans University, GIST (Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology), Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Hanyang University (ERICA), Hanyang University (Seoul), Hongik University, Incheon National University, Inha University, KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Konkuk University, Kookmin University, Korea University, Kyung Hee University, NCC-GCSP (National Cancer Center Graduate School of Cancer Science and Policy), POSTECH (Pohang University of Science and Technology), Sejong University, Seokyeong University, Seoul National University, SeoulTech (Seoul National University of Science and Technology), Sogang University, Sookmyung Women's University, Soongsil University, Sungkyunkwan University, Sungshin Women's University, The Academy of Korean Studies, UNIST (Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology), University of Seoul, Yonsei University </p>

Available Universities

Classification	Available Universities
<p data-bbox="315 826 423 858">Type B</p> <p data-bbox="264 959 474 991">(41 institutions)</p>	<p data-bbox="524 571 2029 1198"> Baeseok University, Busan University of Foreign Studies, Changwon National University, Cheongju University, Chonnam National University, Chosun University, Chungbuk National University, Chungnam National University, Daegu University, Daejeon University, Dong-A University, Dongseo University, Gyeongbuk National University, Gyeongsang National University, Hannam University, Hoseo University, Inje University, Jeju National University, Jeonbuk National University, Kangwon National University, Keimyung University, Kongju National University, Konyang University, KOREATECH (Korea University of Technology and Education), Kunsan National University, Kyungpook National University, Kyungsung University, Kyungwoon University, Mokwon University, Pai Chai University, Pukyong National University, Pusan National University, Semyung University, Silla University, Soonchunhyang University, Sun Moon University, Suncheon National University, Tongmyong University, University of Ulsan, Wonkwang University, Yeungnam University </p>

Eligibility

- Students under 40
- Current academic professors in one of the ODA recipients under 45
- Global Network Program: No age limitations
- Cumulative Grade Point Average(CGPA) of the entire curriculum from the previous (degree) program is 80% or above
- 2.64/4.0, 2.80/4.3, 2.91/4.5 or 3.23/5.0

Nationality

Age

Level of Education

Grade

- All applicants must hold non-Korean citizenship and IBRD/IDA recipient country listed by the World Bank Group; Dual citizenship with ROK is not allowed.
- Applicant's parents must hold non-Korean citizenship
- Academic professors must hold citizenship of the ODA recipient country listed by OECD DAC.

- Graduate: Bachelor's or master's degree
- Applicants who are expected to graduate by July 31st can apply for the program
- For this round of WB-ROK Scholarship, students and faculty from the institutions affiliated with the African Centers of Excellence and PASET programs would be recommended to apply

Applicants must check **additional restrictions or eligibility** set by each university.



Selection Procedure

<p>Announcement of Application Guidelines(NIIED) (Early Feb)</p>	<p>Available Programs, Benefits, Required Documents, Main points of Evaluation, FAQs (www.studyinkorea.go.kr > Plan your studies > Scholarships > GKS Notice)</p>
<p>Applicants ask for recommendation letter to the PM of the WB Partner University</p>	
<p>WB Partner University issues recommendation letters to the applicant</p>	
<p>Announcement of 1st Round Selection Schedule (Universities, Feb)</p>	<p>Announced by each Korean university - Each university established its own selection plan and schedule and fee structure (all fees related to applying- apostille/consular fees, postage, etc---are the responsibility of the applicant).</p>
<p>Application Submission (Universities)</p>	<p>Application deadline are set by each university - Please check the website of each university(Varies from mid-March to end-March, April)</p>

Selection Procedure

1st Round Selection Schedule (Universities)	Result Announcement of the first round of selection - set by each university
Recommend Successful Candidates to NIIED (Universities→NIIED)	Successful candidates' applications and related documents arrive at NIIED - By May 1
2nd Round of Selection (NIIED)	Announcement of successful candidates of the 2 nd round (www.studyinkorea.go.kr > Plan your studies > Scholarships > GKS Notice) - By early June
Announcement of GKS-G Scholars (NIIED)	The final successful candidates will be announced (www.studyinkorea.go.kr > Plan your studies > Scholarships > GKS Notice) - Expected announcement date: late June

Required Documents

Type	No	Application Documents	Master's	Doctoral
Documents to complete (Required)	1	(Form 1) Application Form	Required	Required
	2	(Form 2) Personal Statement	Required	Required
	3	(Form 3) Study Plan	Required	Required
	4	(Form 5) ONE Letter of Recommendation - WB-ROK Scholarship applicants should submit recommendation letter from the WB Partner University (see slide 13)	Required	Required
	5	(Form 7) Korean Language Program Exemption Application - only applicable for current academic professor applicants	Optional	Optional
	6	(Form 8) GKS Applicant Agreement	Required	Required
	7	(Form 9) Personal Medical Assessment	Required	Required
	8	(Form 10) Consent to Collect and Use Personal Information	Required	Required

Required Documents

Certificates (Required)	11	Applicant's/Parent(s)' Proof of Citizenship and family relationship Document	Required	Required
	12	Bachelor's Graduation Certificate (or Diploma)	Required	Required
	12'	Bachelor's Degree Transcript	Required	Required
Must be Apostilled or Consular confirmed	13	Master's Graduation Certificate (or Diploma)		Required
	13'	Master's Degree Transcript		Required
*Required for relevant applicants	15	Certificate of Employment - only applicable Faculty members from WB Partner universities	Required	Required
	16*	Proof of Overseas Korean Document/Proof of Korean Adoptee Document	Optional	Optional
	17*	Proof of Korean Citizenship Renunciation Document - applicant and his/her parent(s)	Optional	Optional
	18*	Proof of Korean War Veteran's Descendant	Optional	Optional
	19*	Certificate of Employment or certificate of Experience (e.g., faculty members of the International Organization partner university)	Optional	Optional
Other documents (Optional)	20	Score report of valid TOPIK/TOPIK IBT (Original) or English Proficiency Test (copy)	Optional	Optional
	21	Awards and other certificates, etc. (copy)	Optional	Optional
	22	Applicant's Passport (copy)	Optional	Optional

Required Documents-Letter of Recommendation

All WB-ROK Scholarship applicants should submit one recommendation letter **from the WB Partner University and attach it as a part of th application package.**



00 March 2025

**Recommendation Letter
for World Bank-Republic of Korea Scholarship (WB-ROK Scholarship)
from [University Name]**

To whom it may concern,

I am delighted to recommend the applicant, [applicant's name], for the WB-ROK Scholarship (Attachment 1). The candidate is an esteemed [teacher / one student/graduate/faculty member] of our university and meets all the eligibility criteria specified in Attachment 2. Furthermore, the person has obtained/is scheduled to obtain his/her diplomas from the [university degree] program no later than July 31, 2025, positioning him/her to begin the scholarship program in the Republic of Korea in September 2025.

[The contents should be consistent with the following but may be edited as needed.] The academic and professional development of [applicant's name] is of paramount importance to us, as it directly contributes to the ongoing success and impact of our current project with WB. The candidate has consistently demonstrated strong academic performance and dedication to his/her studies, exemplifying the high standards we uphold at our institution. The candidate's commitment to excellence and their aspirations for meaningful contributions to society underscore his/her suitability for this prestigious scholarship.

I wholeheartedly endorse [applicant's name] for postgraduate study in the Republic of Korea and am confident in their potential to contribute significantly to our nation's development. They possess the academic excellence, commitment, and ambition that will make them invaluable assets to our country's future growth and progress.

If you require any additional information or further insight into this applicant's qualifications and achievements, please feel free to contact me at [email address].

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Position]
[University Name]
[University Address]
[Email Address]



Attachment 1

Recommended Applicant

Name of Applicants (same as the names in their passport)	Nationality	Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	Degree Program Applied for Master's / PhD/ Global Network Program	Department Applied for Admission, School Applied for Admission The Name of Department The Name of University
Mr./Ms. _____				



Attachment 2

Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria are the minimum requirements for the scholarship. Applicants should check any additional requirements set by each Korean university.

- Applicants for scholarships for Master's degree programs must possess a **Bachelor's** degree, and applicants for scholarships for Doctoral studies programs must possess a Master's degree.
- All applicants must hold citizenship of IBRD and IDA recipient countries of WB¹. Applicants' parents (or legal guardians) must hold citizenship from another country other than ROK.
- Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of the entire curriculum from the previous degree program² must meet one of the conditions as follows: (i) score percentile should be 80% or above on a 100-point scale or be ranked in the top 20% of one's class, (ii) CGPA must be equal to or above 2.64/4.0, 2.80/4.3, 2.91/4.5, or 3.23/5.0.
- All applicants must be in good health, both mentally and physically, to study in ROK for the full duration of the program.
- Applicants must be under 40 years of age (born after September 1, 1985). Academic professors³ under 45 years of age are eligible to apply. No age limitations with Global Network Program⁴ applicants.

¹ Please check <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906619/world-bank-country-and-soft-top-guarantee-494>
² For example, previous degree for a doctoral degree program applicant is a master's degree program.
³ According to ROK's national CDA policy, academic professors must hold the nationality of a country listed as an CDA recipient by the OECD DAC.
⁴ Global Network Program is available for master's degrees in international studies only at 5 schools: KDI school, Busan National University, Seoul National University, Yonsei University and KAIST. Further details will be announced on the official website: <http://www.studyinkorea.go.kr>

Required Documents

All documents must be submitted in English or Korean

- Documents written in English or Korean must be **apostilled or consular confirmed**.
- Documents written in other languages:
 - 1) must be submitted together with a certified translation in English or Korean,
 - 2) must be apostilled or consular confirmed (either original document or certified translation)

Applicants submit one set of apostilled/consular confirmed documents directly to the University they're applying to.

FAQs: Application Procedure

- **Can the applicant apply to multiple universities?**
 - Applicants can only apply to one university and one department. If an applicant is found to have applied to more than two universities, their scholarship will be cancelled.
- **When is the deadline for the application?**
 - Each University has a different application period. Please check the website of each university.
- **May the applicant submit their application to WB?**
 - No. Applicants must submit their application documents directly to the **university** they are applying. Submission to WB or KMOE/NIIED will not be accepted. Any documents mistakenly sent to WB/KMOE/NIIED will be excluded from the screening and will not be returned.

FAQs: Application Procedure

- **I'm expected to graduate from my current degree program in May of 2026. Am I eligible to apply for this program?**
 - Yes. Applicants who are expected to graduate by July 31st, 2026 can also apply for the program with a certificate of expected graduation. Such applicants must submit their official graduation certificate (or diploma) and final academic transcript to GKS Center, NIIED by July 31st, 2026. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of your acceptance.
- **I have a master's degree. Can I apply for a master's degree program in a different major? Which degree certificate should I submit?**
 - You can apply for a master's program while holding another master's degree. If you are applying to a master's degree program, you should submit a degree certificate and academic transcript of your bachelor's degree. In this case, your CGPA of your bachelor's degree should meet the grade requirement in the application guidelines. Providing your master's degree certificate and academic transcript is optional.

FAQs: Application Procedure

- **I am applying for a doctoral degree program. Should I also submit a CGPA of my bachelor's degree?**
 - Applicants for a doctoral degree program should put a CGPA of their previous degree (master's degree) on the application form. Doctoral degree program applicants should submit the graduation certificate and official academic transcript of both bachelor's and master's degree. The CGPA required in the application is of the master's degree.
- **When it comes to faculty members, is this opportunity open only to those who are currently employed?**
 - Yes, students and graduates under the age of 40 are eligible to apply for the WB-ROK Scholarship. However, former faculty members are not eligible to apply.

FAQs: Language course

- **Is it mandatory for all GKS scholars to pass at least Level 3 in TOPIK after one year of Korean Language Program?**
 - Yes. Every GKS scholar (except scholars in Global Network program) must achieve at least Level 3 on TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) within a yearlong Korean language program to proceed to his or her 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 program if they fail to achieve the required TOPIK certificate during a yearlong Korean language program.

FAQs: Language course

- **The degree program I applied to is taught in English only. May I be exempt from the Korean Language Program?**
 - No. A yearlong Korean language program is an important part of the GKS program. (exception: Global Network Program)
 - However, if you have already attained advanced level (Level 5 or 6) on TOPIK when applying for the program, you must submit your valid TOPIK certificate to be exempt from Korean language program. You will directly start your degree program from September 2026.
 - If you attain TOPIK level 5 or 6 during the first 6 months of Korean language program, you will be exempt from the remaining 6-month language program, and you must start your degree program in the following semester (March, 2026).
 - Current academic professors who are apply for an exemption from Korean language training in a 100% English-taught program will be exempted from the Korean Language program.

FAQs: Required document

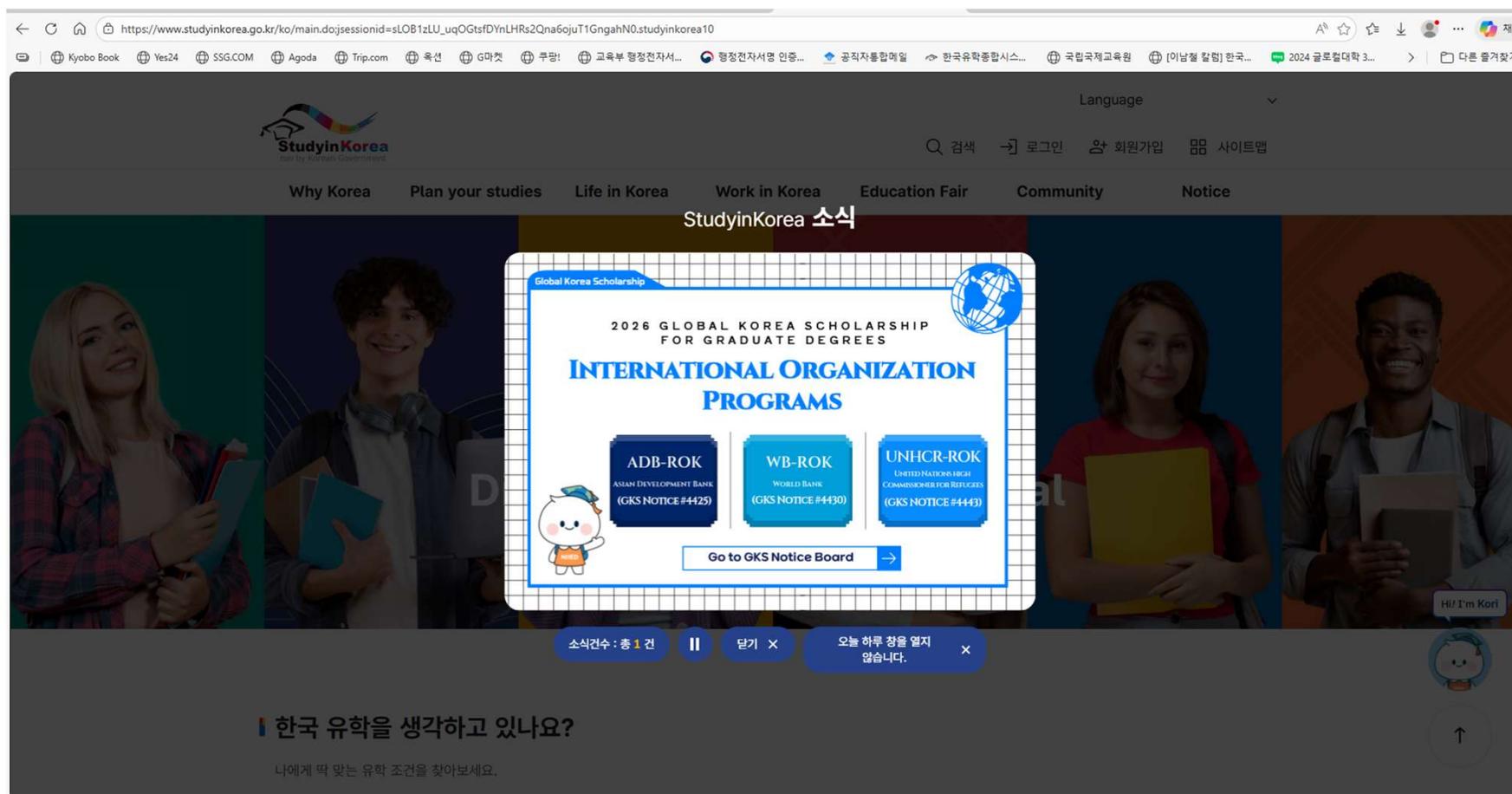
- **Whom should the applicant get a recommendation letter from?**
 - WB-ROK Scholarship applicant should get a recommendation letter from the Project manager of the WB Partner University.
- **For the legalization on “Required certificates”, can I choose between apostille or consular confirmation?**
 - Countries that have joined the Apostille Convention, can only issue an apostille. For the rest of the countries, you should obtain consular confirmation from the Korean embassy/consulate in your country.
 - If your country does not belong to the Apostille Convention or if the document cannot be apostilled, please obtain a consular confirmation from the Korean embassy/consulate.

FAQs: Others

- **May I change my final university choice during my Korean language program or during a degree program?**
 - No. Changing the university or transferring to another university is NOT PERMITTED.

Official announcement is on the website:

<http://studyinkorea.go.kr> > Popup > **GKS Notice**



Official announcement is on the website:

<http://studyinkorea.go.kr> > Popup > **GKS Notice**

https://studyinkorea.go.kr/ko/plan/scholarship.do?tab=gks-tab4

Degree Programs Korea-Japan Programs Exchange Students Program **GKS Notice**

GKS Notice

All

A total of **80** search results are available.

4443	2026 UNHCR-ROK Scholarship Guidelines	GKS센터	2026-02-26	2695
4430	2026 WB-ROK Scholarship Guidelines	GKS Team	2026-02-24	1968
4425	2026 ADB-ROK Scholarship Guidelines	GKS Team	2026-02-13	5643
4422	[Important Notice] Changes to Available Universities for the 2026 GKS-G Program	GKS Team	2026-02-12	26253
4420	2026 Application Guidelines of Global Korea Scholarship for Graduate Degrees(GKS-G) / 2026학년도 정부초청외국인 대학원 장학생 모집 요강	GKS CENTER	2026-02-02	61689

inkorea.go.kr/ko/plan/scholarship.do?tab=gks-tab4#

GKS GLOBAL KOREA SCHOLARSHIP

2026 Global Korea Scholarship
Application Guidelines for Graduate Degrees
(WB-ROK Scholarship)

2026. 2.

Ministry of Education
National Institute for
International Education

This application guideline was originally written in Korean and translated to English. The Korean application guideline prevails the translated application guideline if any conflicts occur in the interpretation.

For applicants,

- **Reading the official Application Guidelines** is the most important step.

Contact Information

<https://www.studyinkorea.go.kr>
(Plan your studies - Scholarships - GKS Notice)

**Inquiries regarding
requirements/documents/eligibility:**
gksnied@korea.kr

**Inquiries regarding WB-ROK Scholarship -
recommendation letter & procedure:**
mobonyo@iucea.org

THANK YOU



00 March 2026

**Recommendation Letter
for World Bank-Republic of Korea Scholarship (WB-ROK Scholarship)
from [University Name]**

To whom it may concern,

I am delighted to recommend the applicant, [applicant's name], for the WB-ROK Scholarship (**Attachment 1**). The candidate is an esteemed [choose one: student/graduate/faculty member] of our university and meets all the eligibility criteria specified in **Attachment 2**. Furthermore, the person has obtained/is scheduled to obtain **his/her** diplomas from the **XXX** degree program no later than July 31, 2026, positioning **him/her** to begin the scholarship program in the Republic of Korea in September 2026.

[The contents should be consistent with the following but may be edited as needed] The academic and professional development of [applicant's name] is of paramount importance to us, as it directly contributes to the ongoing success and impact of our current project with WB. The candidate has consistently demonstrated strong academic performance and dedication to **his/her** studies, exemplifying the high standards we uphold at our institution. The candidate's commitment to excellence and their aspirations for meaningful contributions to society underscore **his/her** suitability for this prestigious scholarship.

I wholeheartedly endorse [applicant's name] for postgraduate study in the Republic of Korea and am confident in their potential to contribute significantly to our nation's development. They possess the academic excellence, commitment, and ambition that will make them invaluable assets to our country's future growth and progress.

If you require any additional information or further insight into this applicant's qualifications and achievements, please feel free to contact me at [email address].

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Position]
[University Name]
[University Address]
[Email Address]

Attachment 1

Recommended Applicant

Name of Applicants (same as the names in their passport)	Nationality	Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY)	Degree Program Applied for	Department Applied for Admission, School Applied for Admission
Mr./Ms. _____			Master's / PhD/ Global Network Program	<i>The Name of Department</i> <i>The Name of University</i>

Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria are the minimum requirements for the scholarship. Applicants should check any additional requirements set by each Korean university.

1. Applicants for scholarships for Master's degree programs must possess a Bachelor's degree, and applicants for scholarships for Doctoral studies programs must possess a Master's degree.
2. All applicants must hold citizenship of IBRD and IDA recipient countries of WB¹. Applicants' parents (or legal guardians) must hold citizenship from another country other than ROK.
3. Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of the entire curriculum from the previous degree program² must meet one of the conditions as follows: (i) score percentile should be 80% or above on a 100-point scale or be ranked in the top 20% of one's class, (ii) CGPA must be equal to or above 2.64/4.0, 2.80/4.3, 2.91/4.5, or 3.23/5.0.
4. All applicants must be in good health, both mentally and physically, to study in ROK for the full duration of the program.
5. Applicants must be under 40 years of age (born after September 1, 1986). Academic professors³ under 45 years of age are eligible to apply. No age limitations with Global Network Program⁴ applicants.

¹ Please check <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups> and <https://ida.worldbank.org/en/about/borrowing-countries>

² For example, previous degree for a doctoral degree program applicant is a master's degree program.

³ According to ROK's national ODA policy, academic professors must hold the nationality of a country listed as an ODA recipient by the OECD DAC.

⁴ Global Network Program is available for master's degrees in international studies only at 5 schools: KDI school, Busan National University, Seoul National University, Yonsei University and KAIST. Further details will be announced on the official website: <http://www.studyinkorea.go.kr>

WB-RoK GKS - International Organization Track

1. **How do I know I am eligible to apply?**
 - You must be from World Bank-affiliated universities in Africa who meet the academic and admission requirements of a Korean university.
2. **Must I be personally funded by a World Bank project?**
 - No; eligibility is based on your university's affiliation with a World Bank-supported project, not individual funding.
3. **How do I know if my university is eligible?**
 - Your university should be able to confirm its affiliation with a World Bank-supported higher education or skills project.
4. **Can my country be eligible even if the University is not?**
 - No; eligibility is institutional, not country-based, and depends on World Bank project affiliation.
5. **How do I know which Korean universities participate?**
 - Applicants must identify programmes at Korean universities that accept GKS students. Information on the universities can also be found on the GKS scholarship call page.
6. **Where do I find eligible programmes?**
 - On the Study in Korea GKS pages listing universities and programmes accepting international organization track applicants.
 - Once you find the university, then select the program that you desire
7. **Who makes the final selection decision?**
 - Final selection is made by the Korean universities and the Government of the Republic of Korea.
8. **Are there any priority academic fields?**
 - Fields aligned with development priorities, including engineering, health sciences, Data Science, technology, and applied research.
9. **What documents are required?**
 - GKS Scholarship Application Forms, Academic transcripts, certificates, referees, and a **World Bank affiliation letter, and so on. Detailed document requirements are specified on the call page.**

Applicants are responsible for checking any additional documents required by the universities they select.

10. How are applications submitted?

- Applications are submitted directly to the university to which you are applying. It may be possible to submit at a RoK embassy in your home country, but you would need to confirm directly with the embassy if applying via the International Organization track]

11. Are there any current or former students, we applicants may contact for academic guidance?

- Yes, there are, **but** the admissions or graduate offices of the Korean universities offering the programmes provide more information.
- We have a chance to meet them during the information session [soon]

12. What is the most common reason applications fail?

- Weak academic alignment (official World Bank affiliation letter), late preparation and submission.