

GKS India — 18-Month Preparation Roadmap

Prepared by GKS India (expert guidance). Always confirm rules against the current official NIIED guideline on studyinkorea.go.kr.

Phase 1 — Months 18 to 15 (Orientation)

- [] Read the most recent GKS guideline end to end (both Embassy and University Track).
- [] Confirm eligibility: age limit, nationality of you and both parents, GPA thresholds (typically 80/100, percentile 80, or CGPA equivalents), degree completion date.
- [] Decide track: Embassy Track (apply via Korean Embassy in New Delhi, up to 3 universities) vs University Track (apply directly to 1 university).
- [] Shortlist 10–15 universities and departments from the University Information file.
- [] Start TOPIK study if you have zero Korean — Level 3+ removes the 1-year language requirement pressure and adds points.

Phase 2 — Months 15 to 12 (Academic groundwork)

- [] Request official transcripts from every institution attended (Class X, XII, Bachelor's, Master's as applicable).
- [] Confirm your university's grading conversion and ask the registrar for a grading-scale certificate on letterhead.
- [] Identify 2 recommenders (professor + supervisor/employer). Give them your brief early.
- [] Begin drafting the Personal Statement and Study Plan (first drafts are always weak — start now).

Phase 3 — Months 12 to 9 (Documents and attestation)

- [] Get birth certificate, and parents' documents proving Indian nationality (passport copies / Aadhaar as supporting).
- [] Apostille route for India: Notary → State Home Department / HRD (for educational docs) → MEA apostille (Branch Secretariat / outsourced agency). Allow 4–8 weeks; longer during peak season.
- [] Certified English translations for any non-English document, by a recognised translator, then apostilled.
- [] Medical: complete the NIIED Personal Medical Assessment form; keep a recent full health check-up ready for the later comprehensive medical exam.

Phase 4 — Months 9 to 6 (Application build)

- [] Download the current-year forms the moment NIIED publishes them (Embassy Track usually Sept–Feb window; University Track usually Feb–Mar).
- [] Fill Form 1 (Application), Form 2 (Personal Statement), Form 3 (Study Plan), Form 4 (Recommendation ×2, sealed), Form 5 (Pledge), Form 6 (Medical), Form 7 (if applicable).
- [] Match your Study Plan to named professors, labs and courses at each chosen university.
- [] Get recommendation letters in sealed, signed-across-the-flap envelopes.
- [] Prepare the required number of full document sets (Embassy Track typically 1 original + 3 copies).

Phase 5 — Months 6 to 3 (Submission and interview)

- [] Submit to the Korean Embassy in New Delhi (Embassy Track) by the stated deadline — couriered or in person as instructed that year.
- [] Prepare for the Embassy interview: motivation, why Korea, why that university, study plan specifics, contribution to India–Korea relations, post-study plans.
- [] Practise a 2-minute self-introduction, including a short Korean greeting.

Phase 6 — Months 3 to 0 (Selection and departure)

- [] NIIED (2nd round) and university (3rd round) results.
- [] Comprehensive medical examination at an approved hospital.
- [] D-4 (language year) or D-2 (degree) visa at the Korean Embassy/Consulate.
- [] Book flights per NIIED instructions, arrange initial funds, and complete pre-departure orientation.

India-specific lead times to respect

Task	Realistic time
University transcripts + grading certificate	2–4 weeks
State HRD/Home attestation	2–4 weeks
MEA apostille	1–3 weeks
Certified translation	3–7 days
Passport issue/renewal (fresh)	3–6 weeks