

GKS Personal Statement (SOP) — Working Template

Prepared by GKS India. Use this to draft; then transfer the final text into the official NIIED Form 2. Typical limit: about 1 page / 700–1000 words. Do not exceed the official form's stated limit.

Section 1 — Motivation for applying (150-200 words)

Prompts, answer each in one specific sentence:

- What concrete event or problem in India first pushed you toward this field?
- Why Korea specifically, and not the UK/US/Germany? Name a Korean policy, industry, institution or research strength.
- What did you already do about this interest before applying?

Write here:

Section 2 — Educational background (150 words)

- Degree, institution, GPA/percentage (state the scale).
- 2–3 courses or projects that directly feed the programme you chose.
- One academic setback and what you changed. (Optional, but honesty scores well.)

Write here:

Section 3 — Work / research / volunteer experience (150 words)

- Role, organisation, dates, and ONE measurable outcome each.
- Weak: "I worked on a water project." Strong: "Surveyed 240 households in Nashik district and cut sampling turnaround from 9 days to 4."

Write here:

Section 4 — Extracurricular and community contribution (100 words)

- Leadership, teaching, NSS/NCC, clubs, community work.
- Show consistency over time, not a one-day event.

Write here:

Section 5 — Why this scholarship, and what you give back (150 words)

- What GKS specifically unlocks that self-funding cannot.
- Your plan to contribute to India-Korea relations: language, alumni network, research collaboration, industry linkage.
- Concrete post-study plan with a 5-year horizon.

Write here:

Self-review before submitting

- [] Zero generic sentences ("Korea has a rich culture and advanced technology")
- [] Every claim has a number, name, place or date attached
- [] The field named here matches the department in the application form
- [] No repetition of the Study Plan — the SOP is about you, the Study Plan is about the work
- [] Read aloud once; cut every sentence that survives deletion without loss
- [] Proofread by someone who has never heard about your project