

Department of Informatics, School of Multidisciplinary Sciences
SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)
Doctoral Program April 2020
Special Admissions for Applicants Residing Abroad
(Privately Financed International Students)

1. General Prospectus

SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies) was founded on October 1, 1988 as one of the national universities of Japan. The basic idea of SOKENDAI is to develop a new system of postgraduate education in Japan. Its key features are as follows;

- 1) SOKENDAI offers both three-year and five-year doctoral programs.
- 2) SOKENDAI consists of six schools with 20 departments operated by 17 Inter-University Research Institutes and Independent Administrative Institutions (“parent institutions”).
- 3) Research and education are carried out in close cooperation with the parent institutions.
- 4) Broad and international visions are fostered by enhanced interchange among all departments and other universities in Japan and abroad.

The parent institutions provide Japanese and foreign scientists with opportunities to conduct advanced joint research in various branches of science. They are equipped with extensive research facilities and function as centers for advanced studies. At present, they are cooperating in establishing a world-class program of postgraduate education in SOKENDAI.

2. Department Outline

Informatics is a scientific field that studies many problems related to information extensively and synthetically. Informatics started as a field based on a core of traditional information science, information engineering and information processing. Now informatics is a multidisciplinary science covering computer science, information technology (IT), artificial intelligence (AI), data sciences, human-machine interfaces, and studies of methods for acquiring and handling information in natural science, humanities, social science, and so on.

Informatics serves as a pillar of all scientific and engineering fields by exploring methods about information, that is, extraction, representation, storing, management, processing, communication, utilization, and update of information. Informatics thus greatly contributes to advanced goals in industry and improvement in human life.

The Department of Informatics at SOKENDAI consists of six sub-fields: Foundations of Informatics, Information Infrastructure Science, Software Science, Multimedia Information Science, Intelligent Systems Science, and Information Environment Science. It has a unique education system where National Institute of Informatics (NII) provides an excellent education and research environment for Ph.D. students of the department with rich and advanced IT facilities as well as leading IT researchers. Internationality is also one of the notable strengths of the department; more than 80 students including many foreign students from over ten countries are learning together, and many classes and seminars are conducted in English. Through their daily life in the department, students are able to gain valuable experiences in a multicultural, multilingual environment which will likely help in their future global activities.

List of Faculty: <https://www.nii.ac.jp/graduate/en/about/advisor/>

3. Doctor's Degree Requirements

Doctor of Philosophy shall be conferred to students who have satisfied the requirements of their respective program as prescribed below.

[Three-year doctoral program]

Students must be enrolled in SOKENDAI for at least three years; additionally, they must earn the necessary credits, receive necessary research guidance, and pass the examination for a doctoral thesis. Students who are recognized as having achieved significant progress may be able to graduate in a shorter time frame.

[Five-year doctoral program]

Students must be enrolled in SOKENDAI for at least five years; additionally, they must earn the necessary credits, receive necessary research guidance, and pass the examination for a doctoral thesis. Students who are recognized as having achieved significant progress may be able to graduate in a shorter time frame.

4. Programs and Number of Students Accepted

Program	Number of Students Accepted
	April 2020
Three-year doctoral program	Several
Five-year doctoral program	Several

5. Qualifications for Application

[Qualifications for the three-year doctoral program]

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions;

- 1) Applicants on whom a Master's degree or a degree equivalent to a Professional degree has been conferred or is expected to be conferred in a foreign country by the preceding month of enrollment;
- 2) Applicants who hold or are expected to obtain a Master's degree or Professional degree by the preceding month of enrollment in Japan;
- 3) Applicants who have been recognized by SOKENDAI as having academic ability equivalent to, or superior to those who have a Master's degree or a Professional degree by the individual screening of Admission Qualifications of SOKENDAI, and attain the age of 24 by the end of preceding month of enrollment. (Note)

Notes:

*Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (3) above are required to have qualification screening to confirm "having academic ability equivalent to those who have a Master's degree or a Professional degree" before the application can be submitted. If applicable, please contact the Student Affairs Section by email in advance.

* The qualifications concern not the date of completion of the master's course of study, but the date of conferral of a master's or equivalent professional degree. Those who have completed or are expected to complete a master's course before the time of enrollment in the program, but are not expected to be granted a master's or professional degree by that time must take extra screening procedures before the application.

*Other than the qualifications above (Qualification 1 to 3), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to SOKENDAI. If you have any questions regarding the qualification for admission, please contact the Student Affairs Section in advance.

[Qualifications for the five-year doctoral program]

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions;

- 1) Applicants who have completed or are expected to complete a 16-year course of school education in a foreign country by the preceding month of enrollment;
- 2) Applicants who have graduated or are expected to graduate from a Japanese university specified in Article 83 of the School Education Law by the preceding month of enrollment;
- 3) Applicants who have been conferred or are expected to be conferred a degree equivalent to a Bachelor's degree by the preceding month of enrollment by completing an educational course of three or more years in a foreign university or in a foreign educational institute;

- 4) Applicants who have completed a 15-year course of school education in a foreign country by the end of preceding month of enrollment; (Note)
- 5) Applicants who have been recognized as having academic ability equivalent to a university graduate or higher by the individual screening of Admission Qualifications of SOKENDAI, and attain the age of 22 by the end of preceding month of enrollment. (Note)

Notes:

Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (4) or (5) are required to have qualification screening before the application can be submitted. If applicable, please contact the Student Affairs Section by email in advance.

*Other than the qualifications above (Qualification 1 to 5), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to SOKENDAI. If you have any questions regarding the qualification for admission, please contact the Student Affairs Section in advance.

6. Required Condition and Notes

Applicants are expected to satisfy each of the following conditions.

- 1) Applicants must be foreign nationals currently residing overseas.
- 2) Arrival in Japan: Applicants have to be able to arrive in Japan in time for the semester that begins in April, 2020.
- 3) Health: Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at a university in Japan.
- 4) Language Ability: Applicants who have a good command of English or Japanese.
- 5) Security Export Control: Depending on the specifics of the education and research instructions they wish to receive upon entering the program, applicants may be subject to regulations on the export/transfer of controlled technologies based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law. Please consult the Student Affairs Section of SOKENDAI for further details.

7. Application Procedure

[Application Period]

July 1 to July 12, 2019

*The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period without fail.

[Application Method]

Please contact a faculty member of the department whom you would like to study under in

advance. The complete set of application documents must be enclosed in the designated envelop and generally must be submitted **by registered express mail or a similar service.**

The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the last day of the application period.

Mailing address:

Student Affairs Section, Division of Academic and Student Affairs
SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)
Shonan Village, Hayama, Miura, Kanagawa 240-0193 JAPAN
Telephone number +81-46-858-1526

8. Application Documents

Please read "Application checklist" on our website.

1) Application Form (Attached)

Please attach a photograph (sized 4.5cm × 3.5 cm taken within the past six months, upper body, full-faced with no hat) on Application Form. Your signature is required on Application Form.

2) Examination fee

For payment details, please confirm with a faculty member of the Department whom you'd like to study under.

3) Official Transcript (originals or certified copies)

- Applicants who apply for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcripts from both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- Applicants who apply for the five-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcript from the undergraduate school.
- Official Transcript of each academic year of all the universities or graduate schools you have attended

4) Certificate of Graduation or Expected Graduation (originals or certified copies)

- Applicants who apply for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Certificate of Graduation for both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- Applicants who apply for the five-year doctoral program must submit the Certificate of Graduation for the undergraduate school.
- Applicants who have not yet graduated from a university must submit an attested document certifying the applicant will graduate from the university before entering the doctoral program.

5) Certified copy of degree diploma

Applicants who have yet graduated from a university must submit a certified copy of degree diploma as follows:

- Applicants who apply for the three-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of their bachelor's degree diploma and their master's degree diploma.
 - Applicants who apply for the five-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of their bachelor's degree diploma.
- 6) Recommendation letter from a person who knows the applicant's research / academic activities well (e.g., the applicant's academic supervisor at the university in which the applicant is currently enrolled or the university which the applicant previously attended.)addressed to the President of SOKENDAI.(original, free format)
- 7) Your past research work and activities (if applicable)
- 8) Documents showing the applicant's research ability
- Applicants who apply for the three-year doctoral program must submit a copy of master's thesis.
 - *Applicant who enrolls in master's program at the timing of application must submit a summary of master's thesis.
 - *If it is difficult to submit a copy of master thesis, submit a summary of master's thesis and a document which explains the reason why it is difficult to submit the copy of master's thesis (Free from).
 - Applicants who apply for the five-year doctoral program must submit documents such as graduation thesis, papers, reports, etc.(Free Form)
- 9) Field of study and Research Plan (Attached)
- 10) Photocopy of applicant's passport pages showing applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number
- 11) Proof of English Skill (also see Note in below)
- Only TOEFL or TOEIC scores taken within the past five years, or IELTS score taken within the past two years are acceptable. Submit one of the following:
 - TOEFL Official Score Report
 - TOEIC Official Score Certificate (Original)
 - IELTS Academic Module Test Report Form (Original)
 - * TOEFL DI code for SOKENDAI is: 7564.
 - * TOEFL-ITP and TOEIC-IP are unacceptable.

Notes:

- Application documents must be prepared in Japanese or English. If the documents are prepared in languages other than Japanese or English, the official English translation must be attached.

- The application documents above must be prepared using word-processing software. Print all the required documents on A4 size paper. (if possible.)
- SOKENDAI cannot respond to inquiries regarding the receipt of individual application documents. The applicant is responsible for tracking and receipt of all materials. SOKENDAI strongly recommends that applicants send the documents by registered mail, courier service or a similar service that provide tracking numbers and receipt verification services.
- SOKENDAI will not return the submitted documents nor provide photocopies of the submitted documents under any circumstances. Please keep a copy of all documents for personal reference. In the case that a document is not re-issuable, please submit an attested (notarized) copy instead.
- Your admission may be rescinded at any time even after enrollment if the application documents are found to be invalid or contain false information.
- If the applicant is a native English speaker or has earned either a Bachelor's degree or a Master's degree (whose course must be a program for two years or longer) from an institution in which English was the primary institutional language of instruction, submission of Proof of English skill is optional. In that case, the applicant may be asked to submit additional documents which prove that the applicant satisfies the above condition.

9. Selection Schedule and Method

Early August, 2019: Online interview and document screening

Make sure that applicants have to contact a faculty member of the Department whom the applicant would like to study under before preparing the application documents.

* Applicants will be separately informed of additional selection details after their documents have been submitted.

10. Announcement of Result

Result will be mailed to all applicants in no later than October 31, 2019

11. Admission Procedures

(1) The period of admission procedures is scheduled as below:

The middle of March 2020 for the enrollment of April 2020

Late September 2020 for the enrollment of October 2020

Successful applicants must complete admission procedures during the prescribed period.

Further details will be notified to successful applicants separately.

(2) Fees required for admission are as follows.

Entrance Fee: JPY 282,000

Tuition Fee for six months: JPY 267,900

*If the entrance or tuition fees are revised at the time of or during enrollment, the revised fees shall be applied from the date of revision.

12. Student Visa

Each candidate who is selected as a privately financed student must apply for a visa in person at the nearest Japanese consulate in order to enter Japan after receiving the Certificate of Eligibility which will be mailed from SOKENDAI.

13. Contact details for inquiries

Student Affairs Section, Division of Academic and Student Affairs

SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)

E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp