

Department of Structural Molecular Science and
Department of Functional Molecular Science, School of Physical Sciences
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
Doctoral Program 2021
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

Department of Structural Molecular Science

Education and research are primarily concerned with a systematic unveiling of the static as well as dynamic properties of materials through real images of molecules and molecular assemblies deduced from detailed structural analyses. Advanced training and research are conducted in the field of structural molecular science with the use of advanced methods for detecting and analyzing dynamic structures.

URL: <https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/>

Department of Functional Molecular Science

Education and research are primarily directed towards, firstly, unveiling the underlying mechanisms of various functions of materials at the atomic or molecular level, and secondly, the

design and generation of new functional properties of molecules and molecular assemblies. Advanced training and research are conducted in the field of functional molecular science with an emphasis on the development of modern techniques for functional analysis and novel theoretical approaches.

URL: <https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/>

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 2021	October 2021
Three-year doctoral program	A few students	A few students
Five-year doctoral program	A few students	A few students

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) Arrival in Japan: Applicants have to be able to arrive in Japan in time for the semester that begins in either April, 2021 or that begins in October, 2021.
- 2) Health: Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at a university in Japan.
- 3) Language Ability: Applicants who have a good command of English or Japanese.
- 4) 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]

Program	First round	Second round
Three-year doctoral program (April 2021 admission)	From Thursday, July 2 to Wednesday, July 29, 2020*	
Three-year doctoral program (October 2021 admission)	From Thursday, July 2 to Wednesday, July 29, 2020*	From Thursday, November 5 to Wednesday, December 2, 2020*
Five-year doctoral program (April 2021 and October 2021 admission)	From Thursday, July 30 to Wednesday, August 26, 2020*	

*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
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
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: 30,000 yen

For payment details, please refer to "Instructions on how to make a payment" on our website.

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) Summary of your graduation thesis
If applicant has no thesis or publications, please submit a summary of his/her current research project.
 - 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) TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score (Only applicants for the Five-year doctoral program)
For the detail, please find "9. Selection schedule and Method".
 - 12) Elective Registration Form for Specialized Subjects for the Written Examination. (Only applicants for the Five-year doctoral program)
Applicants must choose two subjects they wish to answer from the following six subjects when applying. Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Biological Chemistry, Physics A (classical mechanics, electromagnetism), Physics B (quantum mechanics, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics). Each subject has two questions, and applicants select any three questions out of four questions from the subjects of their choice.

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.

9. Selection Schedule and Method

1. A Three-year Doctoral Program

[Selection Method]

Selection will be done based on examining submitted application documents and face-to-face interviews. In the interview, applicants are requested to present the details of their previous research (Master thesis or equivalence) for 15 minutes and future plan that they wish to conduct as their PhD works for 5 minutes. Subsequently, discussion is allocated for 10 minutes. A PC-projector is available. English or Japanese will be used.

The face-to-face interview will be held in Institute for Molecular Science (IMS), Okazaki, Japan, according to the schedule below. Applicants will be separately informed of additional selection details after their documents have been received. An interview through internet is not allowed.

In the interview, applicant's scholastic and research abilities, motivation for research, originality, future potential, etc. will comprehensively be evaluated. Total scores of the interview, previous research and academic records will consequently be judged.

Notes:

We will provide financial supports as Research Assistant program. We will also provide IMS SRA Supports to outstanding students. For details of application to IMS SRA Supports, see the website:

<https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/sra.html>

Those who are applying for IMS SRA Supports, interview will be conducted as stated in selection method for IMS SRA Supports.

[Selection Schedule]

	First round	Second round
April 2021 admission	From Monday, August 24 to Tuesday, August 25, 2020	
October 2021 admission	From Monday, August 24 to Tuesday, August 25, 2020	From Monday, January 25 to Tuesday January 26, 2021

2. A Five-year Doctoral Program

[Selection Method]

Selection will be done based on examining submitted application documents, written examinations and face-to-face interviews.

Applicants are required to obtain the below-mentioned TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score. Please make sure that applicants are not allowed to take main entrance examination unless he or she has the required TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score.

Required TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score:

TOEFL: Official Score Report or Examinee's Score Report. The score must be PBT500, CBT173, iBT61, or higher.

TOEIC: Official Score Certificate of TOEIC test or IP test. The score must be 586 or higher.

IELTS: IELTS (Academic Module) Test Report Form. The score must be 5.0 or higher.

* English test scores may not be necessary for the applicants who are native speaker of English or graduated universities in the countries where English is a native language and education is made in English.

1) Examination of application documents: done by referring to submitted transcripts etc.

2) Written examination:

Specialized subjects (Test duration: 120 minutes): Applicants must choose two subjects they wish to answer from the following six subjects when applying: (a) physical chemistry, (b) organic chemistry, (c) inorganic chemistry, (d) biological chemistry, (e) physics A (classical mechanics & electromagnetism), and (f) physics B (quantum mechanics, thermodynamics & statistical mechanics). Each subject has two questions, and applicants select any three questions out of four questions from the subjects of their choice.

3) Face-to-face interview: 15-minute question session is to be conducted to examine the applicant's fundamental scientific knowledge, research ability and motivation for research etc.

When reporting TOEFL score, applicants may either have Official Score Report sent directly to SOKENDAI Student Affairs Section, or submit a copy of Examinee's Score Report along with application. In the case of submitting a copy of Examinee's Score Report, applicants must bring the original copy of it on the day of examination. Deadline for submission of TOEFL Official Score Report is the same as deadline for application.

When reporting TOEIC score, applicants must submit a copy of Official Score Certificate or a copy of Score Report of IP test along with application. In this case, applicants must also bring the original copy on the day of examination.

When reporting IELTS score, applicants must submit a copy of IELTS (Academic Module) Test Report Form along with application. In this case, applicants must also bring the original copy on the day of examination.

Those who have enclosed a copy of score proof must submit the original on the day of examination when instructed by person in charge. Please be advised that if the applicant fails to present the original, he / she will not be considered for admission.

If you cannot submit the TOEIC, TOEFL or IELTS score record by the application period, please submit Attached Form.

The written examination and the face-to-face interview will be held in Institute for Molecular Science, Okazaki, Japan, according to the schedule below. Applicants will be separately informed of additional selection details after their documents have been received.

[Selection Schedule]

	First round
April 2021 and October 2021 admission	From Wednesday, September 23 to Thursday, September 24, 2020

3. Notes

The face-to face interview is to be conducted at the Institute for Molecular Science (IMS).

We do not give applicants any support in obtaining a visa and airline tickets and arranging accommodations when visiting Japan for the entrance examination. Applicants of foreign nationalities who live abroad who have the entrance examination must prepare the necessary procedures for visiting Japan by themselves.

10. Announcement of Result

Program	First round	Second round
Three-year doctoral program (April 2021 admission)	Late September, 2020	
Three-year doctoral program (October 2021 admission)	Late September, 2020	Late February, 2021
Five-year doctoral program (April 2021 and October 2021 admission)	Late October, 2020	

11. Admission Procedures

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

The middle of March 2021 for the enrollment of April 2021

Late September 2021 for the enrollment of October 2021

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

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI

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