1. General Prospectus

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI 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

The Department of Astronomical Science, School of Physical Sciences, SOKENDAI, is a graduate school based at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, a member institute of the National Institutes of Natural Sciences. The goal of the department is to train researchers capable of doing cutting-edge research, to train specialists capable of developing advanced technologies, and develop human resources with the highly specialized knowledge needed to work in the scientific field. To this end, graduate students conduct observational and theoretical research and research on the development of new instruments related to astronomical science in an environment equipped with state-of-the-art observational instruments and supercomputers.

Webpage: https://guas-astronomy.jp/eng/index.html

3. Doctoral Degree Requirements

A Doctor of Philosophy degree shall be conferred on students who have satisfied the
requirements of their respective programs as prescribed below.

[Three-year doctoral program]
Students must be enrolled in SOKENDAI for at least three years in principle; 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 in principle; 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number of Students Accepted</th>
<th>Begin in April 2022</th>
<th>Begin in October 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three-year doctoral program</td>
<td>A few students</td>
<td>A few students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-year doctoral program</td>
<td>A few students</td>
<td>A few students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 by the month preceding enrollment;

2) 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 the Admission Qualifications of SOKENDAI, and have attained the age of 24 years by the end of the month preceding enrollment. (Note)

Notes:
*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.

*Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (2) above are required to have a 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.
Also, 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. If applicable, please contact the Student Affairs Section by email before application period.

*Other than the above qualifications (Qualification 1 and 2), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy the qualification requirements for general admission to SOKENDAI. If the applicant has any questions regarding the qualifications 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 month preceding 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 month preceding enrollment;
3) Applicants upon whom have been conferred or are expected to be conferred a degree equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree by the month preceding 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 the month preceding 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 have attained the age of 22 years by the end of the month preceding 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 before application period.

*Other than the above qualifications 1) to 5), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy the qualification requirements for general admission to SOKENDAI. If the applicant has 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 either April, 2022 or that begins in October, 2022.
3) Health: Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at a university in Japan.
4) Language Ability: Applicants must have a good command of English.
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]
From October 4 to November 3 2021 5:00pm JST*
*The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period without fail.

[Contact the prospective supervisor]
Please contact a faculty member of the department whom the applicant would like to study under in advance.

[Application Method]
The applicant must submit the complete set of application documents either mail or email. For the details, please confirm following 1) and 2). The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the application deadline, November 3 2021 5:00pm JST

1) mail
The complete set of application documents must be submitted by registered express mail or a similar service. If there are any problems in submitted documents, SOKENDAI will contact the applicant via email.
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

2) email
The complete set of application documents must be submitted by email. If the applicant attached files contain more than 5 megabytes, please send them separately and number each email subject. Also, when sending files, please attach them to email directly, not using the uploaders. After receiving the applicant’s email, SOKENDAI will send the applicant a confirmation email. If the applicant does not receive our email within a week after submitting documents, please contact us.

Email address; gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp (Student Affairs Section, SOKENDAI)
Notes: If the applicant will be accepted enrollment, the applicant must submit the original of official transcript and certification of graduation.

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 the Application Form. The applicant’s signature is required on the 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 Transcripts

- The applicant who applies for the three-year doctoral program must submit the official transcripts of each academic year from both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- The applicant who applies for the five-year doctoral program must submit the official transcript of each academic year from the undergraduate school.

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

- The Applicant who applies for the three-year doctoral program must submit the certificate of graduation for both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- The applicant who applies for the five-year doctoral program must submit the certificate of graduation for the undergraduate school.
- The applicant who has 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

The applicant who has already graduated from a university must submit a certified copy of his / her degree diplomas as follows:

- The applicant who applies for the three-year doctoral program must submit certified
copies of his / her bachelor’s degree diploma and his / her master’s degree diploma.

- The Applicant who applies for the five-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of his / her 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) The applicant’s past research work and activities (if applicable)

8) Summary of graduation thesis
   If the 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 the applicant’s passport pages showing the applicant’s name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number

11) English score record
   This is to indicate the applicant’s language skill (TOEFL iBT or IELTS are accepted). Only the score recorded within two years before the application deadline date is acceptable. The institutional code for TOEFL iBT of SOKENDAI is 7564. The score record should arrive at SOKENDAI on or before the application deadline.
   * If the relevant document will not be available before the submission due date, the applicant can (1) send a screenshot of online score report or a copy of term reports to the Graduate Student Affairs Unit in NAOJ (daigakuin@nao.ac.jp) by e-mail, by November 18, 2021 and (2) arrange the official records to be sent to SOKENDAI.

   - The applicants who have taken more than half of their high school classes in English do not need to submit English score record regardless of their nationality or the place they were born. The applicants have to ask the Graduate Student Affairs Unit in NAOJ (daigakuin@nao.ac.jp) in advance of application and ensure that they are eligible to skip submitting English score record.

12) GRE Subject Test (Physics) Score Report (five-year doctoral program only)
   - Note that the minimum GRE Subject Test (Physics) score in the paper screening is 700.
   - Applicants are strongly recommended to take GRE Subject Test (Physics) before September 11. The applicants who will take the GRE test on October 23, 2021, must
follow the directions below; (i) include a copy of registration confirmation e-mail from ETS to the application documents, (ii) send a screenshot of online record to the Graduate Student Affairs Unit in NAOJ (daigakuin@nao.ac.jp) by e-mail, on or before November 22, 2021 and (iii) arrange the official records to be sent to SOKENDAI.

[IMPORTANT]

Applicants who are unable to take TOEFL iBT, IELTS, or GRE Subject test (physics) due to the effect of covid-19 must contact the Graduate Student Affairs Unit in NAOJ before the application period starts.

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).
- The 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

We will carry out the selection by two steps. The first step is paper screening and the second step is interview. Only the applicants who passed the paper screening can proceed to the interview.

[Five-year doctoral program]

(1) Paper screening
We will review English score record (TOEFL iBT or IELTS), GRE Subject Test (Physics) Score Record and other application forms carefully and decide whether the applicant can proceed to the interview or not. We will notify the result of the paper screening to the applicants via e-mail by two weeks before the interview day.

(2) Interview
We will ask applicants of their past study, research plans and other general matters. The interview will be held on December 3, 2021.

[Three-year doctoral program]

(1) Paper screening
We will review English score record (TOEFL iBT, or IELTS) and other application forms carefully
and decide whether the applicant can proceed to the interview or not. We will notify the result of the paper screening to the applicants via e-mail by two weeks before the interview day.

(2) Interview
Applicants are asked to have a presentation on their past study first. Then an oral examination follows. At the oral examination, applicants are provided with a text about basic physics and astronomy in English and to answer questions based on it. Following that, interview is carried out to review the applicant’s research plans and other general matters. The interview will be held on December 3, 2021.

10. Announcement of Result
The result will be mailed to all applicants in late December 2021.

11. Admission Procedures

(1) The period of admission procedures is scheduled as below:
   - The middle of March 2022 for the enrollment of April 2022
   - Late September 2022 for the enrollment of October 2022
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. Visa

Each candidate who is selected as a privately financed student must apply for a visa that will allow admission to a Japanese graduate school, as stipulated in the “Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Law No. 319, 1951)” in person at the nearest Japanese consulate. The Certificate of Eligibility to acquire a ‘student’ visa 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