

Department of Genetics, School of Life Science
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
Doctoral Program 2021
Special Admissions for Applicants Residing Abroad
(Privately Financed International Students)

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) Through promoting extensive cooperation and interchange among all departments and with other universities in Japan and abroad, SOKENDAI encourages a broader, global approach to science.

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 Genetics offers education and research opportunities in a variety of cutting-edge disciplines with the goal of investigating biological phenomena based on genetic information. Study and research fields include molecular, cellular, developmental, behavioral, population, and evolutionary genetics, as well as genome biology and bioinformatics. Students can take advantage of a wide range of databases and genetic resources hosted by the National Institute of Genetics (NIG). To nurture independent researchers, the Department of Genetics adopts an educational philosophy by which the academic guidance of each individual student is carried out by the entire faculty. For example, graduate students meet with their thesis committee twice a year to receive advice from faculty members outside their host labs. Other features of the Department include the Scientific Presentation/Writing Program and ample financial assistance opportunities.

Faculty list (<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/faculty>)

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.

[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	-	-
Five-year doctoral program	-	a few

5. Qualifications for Application

[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 October, 2021.
- 3) Health: Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at a university in Japan.
- 4) Age: Applicants must be under 35 years old as of April 1, 2021 (The applicant must have been born on or after April 2, 1986.)
- 5) GPA: Applicants must have a minimum GPA 2.3 or higher.
- 6) Language Ability: Applicants have their English proficiency equivalent to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) B2 level or above.
- 7) 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 deadline of the primary screening]

Noon on November 2, 2020 (Japan Standard Time)

*The application must arrive no later than the application deadline above without fail.

[Application Method]

Please contact your prospective mentor(s) and discuss possible research projects in advance.

The complete set of application documents must reach the Academic Services Division of the Department of Genetics <info-soken@nig.ac.jp> by the deadline.

For details, please refer to the following website:

<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions/nig-gs>

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) Official Transcript (originals or certified copies)

- 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

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

- 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.

4) 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 five-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of their bachelor's degree diploma.

5) 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)

6) Your past research work and activities (if applicable)

7) Summary of your graduation thesis

8) 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

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

Mid November, 2020: Screening with application documents and online examination

Late January, 2021: Screening with onsite written examination and interview at the National Institute of Genetics in Mishima, Japan

There is a possibility that the onsite written examination and interview would take place by remote (online) due to the spread of new coronavirus infection. In such a case, the invitation to travel to Japan would be cancelled and the applicant would take the exam remotely at his/her place of residence.

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

10. Announcement of Result

Result will be notified to all applicants by the end of March

11. Admission Procedures

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

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 to enter Japan after receiving the Certificate of Eligibility which will be mailed from SOKENDAI.

13. Contact details for inquiries

Initial applications must be submitted to / Inquiries regarding selection must be directed to:
Academic Services Division, National Institute of Genetics (Department of Genetics,
SOKENDAI)

Email: info-soken@nig.ac.jp

Please see the Department's website for detailed information:

<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions>

Other inquiries must be directed to:

Student Affairs Section, Division of Academic and Student Affairs

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI

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