

Department of Genetics, School of Life Science
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
Application Guidelines October 2022 (SOKENDAI Recommendation)
(Monbukagakusho: MEXT Scholarship Student)
Priority Graduate Program: Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Information
Science and Life Science for Leading Researchers on Data Science

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.

*This program is only for five-year doctoral program.

2. Department Outlines

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. Program Outlines

This MEXT scholarship is offered for the special program “Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Information Science and Life Science for Leading Researchers on Data Science”, which has been granted to SOKENDAI by MEXT. This program aims at developing next-generation global researchers and highly skilled professionals who are capable of leading researches on data science as well as other scientific fields to which data science approaches can be applied. The Department of Genetics of SOKENDAI, one of the member departments of the program, will accept outstanding students for 5-year Ph.D. course who wish to study research subjects in data science under the name of this program.

For this program, application is open to anybody who has any nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japanese government. However, based on the strategy by Japanese government on accepting foreign students to gain from the advancements of other countries, around 40% of the positions are targeted for applicants from South-East Asian countries in this program.

4. 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.

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.

5. Qualifications for Application

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 who 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 in advance.

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

6. Application Procedures

[Application Deadline]

Noon on November 1, 2021 (Japan Standard Time)

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

[Contact the prospective supervisor]

Before applying, the applicant must contact the prospective supervisor and confirm whether he/she can accept the applicant if the applicant passes the examination.

[Application Method]

The applicant must submit the complete set of application documents as an email attachment to the Academic Services Division of the Department of Genetics <info-soken@nig.ac.jp> by the deadline.

Notes: If the applicant will be accepted enrollment, the applicant must submit the original of official transcript and certification of graduation.

7. Selection Schedule and Method

Mid November, 2021: Screening with application documents and online examination

Late January, 2022: Screening with onsite written examination and interview at the National Institute of Genetics in Mishima, Japan

* It has been decided that the onsite exam would take place by remote (online) due to the spread of new coronavirus infection. The applicant will take the exam remotely at his/her place of residence on Jan 26 and 27.

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

8. Announcement of Result

Preliminary admission and scholarship announcements will be sent in April 2022.

Final announcements will be sent by July 2022.

9. Contact details for inquiries

Initial applications must be submitted to / Inquiries regarding selection processes 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/nig-gs>

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

Application Guidelines for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Foreign Research Student Scholarship 2022 (SOKENDAI Recommendation)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers a Japanese government scholarship to foreign students who wish to study at SOKENDAI by its recommendation as follows.

1. Qualifications and conditions

1) Applicants:

The scholarship is offered to new foreign students who have earned the equivalent level of a graduate with outstanding academic performance. The applicant must have a minimum GPA 2.3 or higher and are expected to maintain the equivalent level during the scholarship period. In case the applicant's GPA cannot be calculated by the Japanese government formula, it is necessary to submit a letter of recommendation from the Dean or higher of the attended school, which includes a statement that the applicant is ranked within the top 30% in the school, or university.

2) Nationality:

The applicant must hold a nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. The applicant who holds Japanese citizenship at the time of application is not eligible.

3) Age:

The applicant must have been born on or after April 2, 1987.

4) Academic Background:

The applicant for the five-year doctoral program must have completed a 16-year course of study in the educational institutions of a foreign country or is expected to complete such course of study by September 30, 2022.

For details, please see "5. Qualifications for Application" in the application guidelines.

5) Study Area:

The study area must be in the same field as the applicant has studied or in a related one. The field of study must be one available at SOKENDAI.

6) Language ability:

The applicant must fulfill following status.

- a) Holds an English proficiency test score equivalent to B2 or above on the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

To see the CEFR Equivalency Chart, please confirm following webpage.

https://www.soken.ac.jp/cms_upload/CEFR_1.pdf

- b) Has completed an educational program whose primary language of instruction is English that satisfies the entrance requirements to the five-year doctoral program at SOKENDAI.

7) Health:

The applicant must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at a university in Japan.

8) Arrival in Japan:

The applicant must be able to arrive in Japan on the dates designated by SOKENDAI in the period between the middle of September and the beginning of October, 2022 (the applicant who cannot arrive in Japan within the designated period should decline acceptance. Those who arrive in Japan before the designated date for personal reasons will NOT be provided traveling expenses to Japan).

9) Visa Requirement:

If selected, the applicant will be required to acquire a “Student (ryugaku)” visa in the home country prior to coming to Japan and enter Japan with “Student” status. Therefore, the successful applicant who is already in Japan under a different residence status must change his/her residence status to “Student” by the end of September, 2022 and re-enter Japan with “Student” status. (The applicant who comes to Japan with a visa or residence status other than “Student” will NOT qualify for the Japanese government scholarship. Also, please note that the applicant who changes his/her residence status to any status other than “Student” after entry into Japan will lose his/her status as a Japanese government scholarship student.) Please be informed that there is a possibility that your application for the original residence status may not be approved after the period of MEXT scholarship student.

10) Others:

The student under the conditions stated below will NOT be considered as a candidate.

- a) Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list;
- b) The applicant who is not able to arrive in Japan on the appointed dates;
- c) The applicant who has received the MEXT scholarship within the past three years (However; this restriction does not apply to those who have been enrolled as a scholarship student in a Japanese language and culture program or as a scholarship student in the Japan-Korea Joint Undergraduate Course for Science and Engineering).
- d) The applicant will not be accepted if he/she applies for another MEXT scholarship.
- e) Applicants will not be eligible for this scholarship if they have enrolled in a Japanese

university with “Student (ryugaku)” status at the time of the application and have enrolled/will be enrolled in a Japanese university as a privately-financed foreign student between the time of application and the beginning of the scholarship payment. If applicants who have enrolled/will be enrolled in a Japanese university as a privately-financed foreign student surely know at the time of the application that they will return to their home country before the scholarship period starts and will acquire a “Student” visa and enter Japan with the visa, the preceding paragraph shall not apply to those applicants.

- f) The applicant will not be accepted if he/she has already won a scholarship from another institution (including the government of their home country) other than MEXT.

2. Term of Scholarship

Five-year doctoral program

If the grantee will directly enroll in the five-year doctoral program after coming to Japan, the scholarship will be payable for two years (the first two years of the standard program term) (starting in October 2022 and finishing in September 2024). In order for the grantee to extend his/her scholarship till the end of the standard program term (till September 2027), he/she should make an application for the extension of the scholarship which must be approved by MEXT. Please note that depending on his/her academic achievement and the budget condition of MEXT, his/her application will not necessarily be approved.

3. Scholarship Benefits

1) Scholarship amount:

The scholarship amount for 2022 has not been fixed yet.

For reference, the scholarship amount for 2021 is as follows.

Enrolled Program	Amount of Stipend per month
1 and 2-year student of five-year doctoral program	144,000 yen
3 to 5-year student of five-year doctoral program,	145,000 yen

The amount for 2022 may change depending on the budget conditions.

The scholarship will NOT be paid to the grantee who takes a leave of absence from the university or does not attend classes for an extended period of time.

2) Transportation to Japan:

According to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, the grantee will be provided an economy class air ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home

address to Narita airport, or the international airport in Japan nearest to the campus of SOKENDAI where the grantee is placed. Other expenses such as inland transportation from his/her place of residence to the international airport, airport tax, and any special taxes on overseas travel, will NOT be provided. (The address stated in the application is considered as "home address of the grantee".)

*No air tickets will be issued to the grantee for a route from any countries other than the country of his/her nationality.

3) Transportation from Japan:

For the grantee who returns to his/her home country by a specified date after the period of his/her scholarship has ended, MEXT will pay for an economy class air ticket from Narita airport or the international airport in Japan nearest to the campus of SOKENDAI where the grantee is placed to the international airport nearest to his/her home address.

* The grantee should purchase air travel insurance at his/her own expense.

* The airports for departure and return should be in the country of the grantee's nationality.

4) Education fee:

Fee for the matriculation and tuition at SOKENDAI will be paid by MEXT.

4. Recommendation and Selection

1) Scholarship Recommendation:

After screening at SOKENDAI, the President of SOKENDAI recommends applicants who have shown academic excellence to MEXT.

2) Scholarship Selection:

Candidates are screened and selected by the selection committee from a pool of applicants recommended by presidents of all universities in Japan. Based on the results of screening and selection by the committee, MEXT selects grantees and their terms of scholarship.

3) Documents to be submitted:

- a) Application Form
- b) Field of study and Research Plan
- c) Photograph or digital image sized 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm taken within the past six months (Full-faced photograph. When photographed, the applicant must not wear a hat or cap hiding a part of his/her face or head. The applicant must write his/her name and nationality on the back of the photograph.)
- d) Proof of nationality (A copy of the applicant's passport is most preferable.)
- e) Certified academic records (originals or certified copies)

The applicant must submit certified academic records of each academic year of all universities attended (issued by the university attended.)

- Applicants who apply for the five-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcript of all academic year from the undergraduate school. If applicants who have master's or doctor's degree must submit the Official Transcript from graduate schools.

- f) Diploma or degree certificate (originals or certified copies)

The applicants must submit a diploma or degree certificate of all universities attended (or a document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the university by September 2022).

- Applicants who apply for the five-year doctoral program must submit the Certificate of Graduation from the undergraduate school. If applicants who graduated graduate schools must submit the Certificate of Graduation from graduate schools.

- Applicants who have not yet graduated from a university must submit an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the university before entering the doctoral program.

- g) Proof of the applicant's academic level, such as the academic ranking in his/her previous university (e.g., GPA, ABC grading, ranking of academic achievement.)

- h) Dean's recommendation letter from the home institution, addressed to the President of SOKENDAI (original)

- i) Abstracts of thesis

If applicant has no thesis or publications, please submit a summary of his/her current research project.

- j) Certificate of English proficiency

The applicant must submit a certificate of English as follow.

- i. Official score report, such as TOEFL iBT, IELTS, proving that applicants have English proficiency equivalent to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) B2 level or above. Please note that the applicant must have been taken one of the above tests after January 1, 2020
- ii. Applicants for the five-year doctoral program: certificate that they have completed a bachelor's course in English as the main language

[How to submit score record]

- i. TOEFL iBT

Please submit the original of official score report by one of the following methods.

- Applicants submit the original of official score report by mail with application documents
- Applicants submit a copy of official score report with application documents and

make arrangement ETS to send the original of official score report to SOKENDAI directly.

The Institution Code and Institution Name is as follow.

Institution Code: 7564

Institution Name: SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)

The score must be submitted to us during the application period. Please note that it will take six weeks or more to receive the score after applicants ask ETS to send it.

ii. IELTS

Please submit a copy of official score report with application documents.

If applicants who cannot submit any of the above scores during the application period, please contact the Student Affairs Section of SOKENDAI.

- k) Proof of the applicant's specific knowledge and capability in his/her field, such as a commendation for research achievement (optional)

5. Additional considerations

- 1) The documents above 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.
- 2) The documents above must be prepared using word-processing software. Print all required documents on A4 size paper (if possible).
- 3) Admission may be withdrawn at any time even after enrollment if the application documents are found to be invalid or contain false information.

6. Notes

- 1) The recipient of the MEXT scholarship may have his/her scholarship revoked in the following cases. In case the recipient wrongly receives the scholarship under the following circumstances, he/she may be required to return the scholarship for the period.
 - a) When the recipient has made false statements on the application;
 - b) When the recipient violates his/her contractual agreement with MEXT;
 - c) When the recipient has been the subject of disciplinary action at SOKENDAI;
 - d) When it becomes definitive that the recipient will not be able to graduate (or complete the program) within the standard program term because of his/her poor

academic achievement or suspension;

- e) When the recipient changes his/her "Student" visa status to some other status of residence;
 - f) When the recipient receives other scholarships (excluding grants for specific research projects);
 - g) When the recipient proceeds to a higher course without approval for the extension of the scholarship by MEXT;
 - h) When the recipient withdraws from SOKENDAI or transfers to a different graduate school.
- 2) If the recipient takes a leave of absence from SOKENDAI or does not attend classes for an extended period of time, he/she will NOT receive scholarship payments during the period.
- 3) 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 for further details.