

Department of Informatics, School of Multidisciplinary Sciences
SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)
Application Guideline October 2019 (SOKENDAI Recommendation)
(Monbukagakusho: MEXT Scholarship Student)
SOKENDAI PGP (The International Priority Programs):
“Interdisciplinary PhD Program on AI and Data Science for Global Leaders”

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 parent institutions.
- 4) A broad and international vision is fostered by an 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 new scientific field that studies many problems related to information extensively and synthetically. It is based on a core of traditional information science and engineering, but is a multidisciplinary science covering humanities informatics and social informatics as well.

Moreover, informatics serves as a pillar of almost all scientific fields in that the information technology (IT) for supporting information expression, collection, circulation, management, processing, and use is essential. Informatics plays an important role when results in one field are applied to other scientific fields and produce still newer research subjects and methods; it also greatly contributes to such goals as advances in industry and improvement in human life through applications of scientific research results.

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. PGP (The International Priority Graduate Programs)

This MEXT scholarship is offered for the special program “Interdisciplinary PhD Program on AI and Data Science for Global Leaders”, which has been granted to SOKENDAI by MEXT. The program aims at developing next-generation global researchers and highly skilled professionals who should lead researches on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science (DS) as well as many scientific fields that apply AI and DS. The Department of Informatics of SOKENDAI, as one of the member departments of the program, will accept outstanding students for 3-year and 5-year Ph.D. programs who wish to study in AI and/or DS fields 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 50% of the positions are to be reserved for applicants from Southeast Asian countries in this program.

4. Doctoral Degree Requirements

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

[Three-year doctoral program]

Students must be enrolled in SOKENDAI for three years as the standard term; 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 with in a shorter time frame.

[Five-year doctoral program]

Students must be enrolled in SOKENDAI for five years as the standard term; additionally, they

must earn the necessary credits, receive necessary research guidance, and pass doctoral thesis examinations. Students who are recognized as having achieved significant progress may be able to graduate with in a shorter time frame.

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.

[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.

6. Application Procedure

[Application Period]

December 19 to December 25, 2018*

*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

7. Selection Schedule and Method

Early January, 2019: Screening with online interview and documents

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 accepted.

8. Announcement of Result

Preliminary admission and scholarship announcement will be noticed in April 2019.

Final announcement will be noticed by July 2019.

9. 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

Application Guidelines for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Foreign Research Student Scholarship 2019 (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.

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 be under 35 years old as of April 1, 2019 (that is born on or after April 2, 1984)

4) Academic Background:

Applicants for the five-year doctoral program must have completed a 16-year course of study in the educational institutions of a foreign country or expect to complete such a course of study by September 30, 2019.

Applicants for the three-year doctoral program must have been granted or be scheduled to be granted a master's degree or a professional degree by September 30, 2019.

For the detail, please find "4. Qualifications for Application" in application guideline.

5) Study Area:

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

6) Language ability:

The applicant must have sufficient English ability to pursue his/her studies.

In the fields in which Japanese language ability is necessary (Japanese linguistics, Japanese literature, Japanese history, Japanese law), the applicant must have sufficient Japanese ability to pursue his/her studies except under very special circumstances.

7) Health:

Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at universities in Japan.

8) Arrival in Japan:

The applicant must be able to arrive in Japan on the date(s) determined by SOKENDAI in the period between the middle of September and the beginning of October, 2019 (the applicant who cannot arrive in Japan within the determined period should decline the 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 prior to coming to Japan in the home country and enter Japan with "Student" status. Therefore, accepted applicants who are already in Japan under a different resident status must change their resident status to "Student" by the end of September, 2019 and enter Japan with "Student" status. (An applicant who comes to Japan with a visa or resident status other than that of "Student" will NOT qualify for the Japanese government scholarship. Also, please note that an applicant who changes his/her resident 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 resident status may not be approved after the period of MEXT scholarship student.

10) Other:

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

- a) Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list are excluded.
- b) Applicants who are not able to arrive in Japan on the appointed dates are excluded.
- c) Applicants who have received the MEXT scholarship within the past three years are excluded (this restriction does not apply, however, to students who were enrolled as a scholarship student in Japanese language and culture program or as a scholarship student in the Japan-Korea Joint Undergraduate Course for Science and Engineering).
- d) Applicants will not be accepted from those who apply 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/are going to enroll in a Japanese university as a privately-financed foreign student between the time of the application and the beginning of the scholarship

payment. If applicants, who have enrolled/are going to enroll in a Japanese university as a privately-financed foreign student, surely know at the time of the application that they will be going back to their home country before the scholarship period starts and will be acquiring "Student" visa and entering in Japan with the visa, the preceding paragraph shall not apply to those applicants.

- f) Applicants will not be accepted from those who have already won a scholarship from another institution (including the government of their home country) other than MEXT.

2. Term of Scholarship

1) Non-degree student

If a grantee will enroll as a non-degree student after coming to Japan, his/her scholarship will be payable for 18 months from October 2019 through March 2021.

2) Three-year doctoral program

If a grantee will directly enroll in a three-year doctoral program after coming to Japan, the scholarship will be payable for three years (standard program term) (starting October 2019 and finishing September 2022).

3) Five-year doctoral program

If a grantee will directly enroll in a 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 October 2019 and finishing September 2021). In order for the term of his/her scholarship to be extended till the end of the standard program term (that is, till September 2024), he/she should make an application for the extension of the scholarship and have it 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.

4) Proceed to degree seeking program

A grantee who desires to proceed to from a non-degree student course to a degree seeking program may have the term of his/her scholarship extended upon approval by MEXT, provided that he/she has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement that meets specified criteria. Please note that depending on the budget conditions, not all application will be approved.

*A grantee who proceeds to a degree seeking program from a non-degree student course may NOT move to another university with a MEXT Scholarship.

3. Scholarship Benefits

1) Scholarship amount:

The scholarship amount for 2019 has not been fixed yet.

For reference, the scholarship amount for 2018 is as follows.

Enrolled Program	Amount of Stipends per month
Non-degree student	- yen
1 and 2-year student of 5-year doctoral program	147,000 yen
3 to 5-year student of 5-year doctoral program	148,000 yen

Amounts for 2019 may change depending on the budget conditions.

The scholarship will NOT be paid to a 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:

The grantee will be provided, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, 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 ticket will be issued to a grantee for a route from any country other than the country of his/her nationality.

3) Transportation from Japan:

For a 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 buy 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) Tuition:

SOKENDAI will provide all the tuition.

4. Recommendation and Selection

1) Scholarship Recommendation:

After the screening process, the president of SOKENDAI recommends an applicant or applicants who have shown academic excellence and need the scholarship, to the Minister of 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, and, based on the result of screening and selection by the committee, MEXT selects grantees and their term of scholarship.

3) Documents to be submitted:

- a) Application Form (Attached)
- b) Field of study and study program (Attached)
- c) Passport photographs or digital images (size 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm) taken within the past six months (Full-faced photograph from the waist up. 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 each photograph.)
- d) Proof of nationality (A copy of the applicant's passport is most preferable)
- e) Certified academic records (originals or certified copies)

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

- 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.
- Submit Official Transcript of each academic year of all the universities or graduate schools you have attended.
- f) Diploma or degree certificate (originals or certified copies)

The applicants must submit the diploma or degree certificate of all universities attended (or an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the university by September 2019, were applicable).

- Applicants who apply for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Certificate of Graduation both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- Applicants who apply for the five-year doctoral program must submit the Certificate of Graduation from the undergraduate school.
- 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) Documents showing the applicant's research ability
 - I. Applicants who apply for the three-year doctoral program
Applicants must submit a copy of Master's thesis or, if applicants are in Master's program at the timing of application, a summary of Master's thesis.
*If you cannot submit a copy of Master's thesis, submit a summary of Master's thesis and a document which explains the reason why you cannot submit the copy of Master's thesis (Free form).
*If applicants have no thesis, submit documents showing the applicant's research ability such as papers or reports etc.
 - II. Applicants who apply for the five-year doctoral program
Applicants must submit a copy of graduation thesis or relevant documents such as papers, reports, etc. (Free Form)
- j) Certificate of English proficiency
 - i. Official score report, such as TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC L&R and S&W, proving that applicants have their English proficiency equivalent to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) B2 level or above
 - ii. Applicants for the Five-year doctoral program: certificate that they have completed a bachelor's course in English as main language
 - iii. Applicants for the Three-year doctoral program: certificate that they have completed a master's course in English as main language
- 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 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) SOKENDAI doesn't respond to inquiries regarding the receipt of individual application

documents.

- 4) SOKENDAI will not return the submitted documents. In the case that a document is not re-issuable, please submit an attested (notarized) copy instead.
- 5) Admission may be withdraw at any time, even after enrollment, if the application documents are found to be invalid or contain false information.
- 6) If the applicant is a native English speaker or 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.

6. Notes

- 1) A recipient of the MEXT scholarship may have his/her scholarships revoked in the following cases. In case a 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 gets other scholarship (excluding grants for specific research projects).
 - g) When the recipient proceeds to a higher courses without the 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 a 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.