Department of Evolutionary Studies of Biosystems,
School of Advanced Sciences
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
Doctoral Program 2022
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) 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 Evolutionary Studies of Biosystems at SOKENDAI (the Graduate University for Advanced Studies) offers stimulating multidisciplinary educational programs for graduate students. Our aim is to cultivate students with deep knowledge of evolutionary science, together with a strong awareness of the role and impact of their studies within our society. A varied study program is provided by skilled professors and lecturers in the fields of Integrative Anthropology, Behavioral Biology, Evolutionary Biology, Theoretical Biology, and Science and Society.

Our students follow multidisciplinary education programs covering Evolutionary Studies, and Science and Society. We provide a wide range of dissertation courses for students. The sub-thesis is a key feature of our educational program. Students who choose a biological topic for their primary research are required to write a sub-thesis in the field of Science and Society (and vice versa). Our educational supervision follows the maxim of "all-for-one": every student is
supervised by all the professors and lecturers of our department.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-year doctoral program</td>
<td>A few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-year doctoral program</td>
<td>A few</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 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 applicant has any questions regarding the qualification for admission, please contact the
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 or Japanese.

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]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First round</th>
<th>Second round</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 24th to 30th 2021</td>
<td>January 6th to 12th 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Only for enrolment in October 2022)

*The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period 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 either mail or email. For the details, please confirm following 1) and 2). The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the application deadline.

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 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. 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
   ▶ Applicants who apply for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Official
   Transcripts of each academic year from both undergraduate and graduate schools.
   ▶ Applicants who apply 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)
   ▶ 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 already graduated from a university must submit certified copies of
degree diplomas 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) Past research work and activities (if applicable)

8) Summary of 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

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

I. Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First round</th>
<th>Second round</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 5th-6th 2021</td>
<td>February 9th-10th 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Method

Note: The examination in August 2021 will be given online. Please see the announcement on the SOKENDAI website for the latest information on the changes of selection method.

https://www.soken.ac.jp/news/7029/

Also please see the website of the Department of Evolutionary Studies of Biosystems for details.


Five-year doctoral program:

(i) Screening

Screening will be carried out based on the submitted documents.

(ii) Interview

Note: The interview in August 2021 will be given online (see the above-mentioned website).

Applicants will perform a ten-minute presentation on their previous work and future research interests. They may provide a one-page handout for reference (A4- or letter-size paper only) and may make use of a whiteboard. A Q&A session will be held following the presentation. Applicants should prepare and bring 25 copies of their handout to be distributed to the interview panel.

Three-year doctoral program:

(i) Screening

Screening will be carried out based on the submitted documents.

(ii) Interview

Note: The interview in August 2021 will be given online (see the above-mentioned website).

Applicants will perform a twenty-minute presentation on their research achievements to date (ten minutes) and their academic interests and research plans (ten minutes). They may provide a two-page handout for reference (one page for each segment, A4- or letter-size paper only) and may make use of a whiteboard. A Q&A session will be held following the presentation. Applicants should prepare and bring 25 copies of their handout to be distributed to the interview panel.

Please contact the Department of Evolutionary Studies of Biosystems for details.

10. Announcement of Result

First round: The result will be mailed to all applicants in August 2021
Second round: The result will be mailed to all applicants in February 2022

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. 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