

Checklists for SOKENDAI Doctoral Program 2027

“Special Admissions for Applicants Residing Abroad”

The Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies [Astronomical Science Program]

Before submitting your application documents, review them using this checklist and prepare them accordingly. If any of the application documents are incomplete, your application will not be accepted.

Application documents must be submitted in either English or Japanese. If any certificates or other documents are issued in a language other than English or Japanese, they must be accompanied by an English translation.

☐	a) Application Form (attached)
	☐ No columns are left blank or unfilled. You signed the application form.
☐	b) Examination fee: 30,000 yen
☐	c) Official Transcripts
	☐ Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcripts of each academic year from both undergraduate and graduate schools. ☐ Applicants applying for the five-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcripts of each academic year from their undergraduate school.
☐	d) Certificate of Graduation or Expected Graduation (original or certified copies)
	☐ Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit Certificates of Graduation for both undergraduate and graduate schools. ☐ Applicants applying for the five-year doctoral program must submit a Certificate of Graduation for undergraduate school. ☐ Applicants who have not yet graduated from a university must submit an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate before entering the doctoral program.
☐	e) Certified copy of degree diploma
	☐ Applicants who have already graduated from a university must submit certified copies of degree diplomas, as follows: • Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit certified copies of their bachelor's and master's degree diplomas; • Applicants applying for the five-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of their bachelor's degree diploma;
☐	f) Recommendation letter (original, free format)
	☐ Recommendation letter should be written on letterhead of the affiliation. ☐ The recommender should know your research / academic activities and be in a superior position to you. ☐ The recommendation letter must be addressed to the President of SOKENDAI. It is preferred that the letter starts with 'Dear President of SOKENDAI' or 'Dear Dr. Nagata Takashi' instead of 'Dear Sir/Madam' or 'To whom it may concern'. ☐ Please attach a document indicating the position of the person who wrote the recommendation letter.
☐	g) Your past research work and activities (if applicable)
☐	h) Summary of your graduation thesis
	☐ If the applicant has no theses or publications, please submit a summary of his/her current research project.
☐	i) Field of Study and Research Plan (Attached)
☐	j) Photocopy of applicant's passport pages showing applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number.
☐	k) English score record
	☐ Submit proof of English language proficiency (TOEFL iBT or IELTS). ☐ If the official score record cannot be submitted by the deadline, send a screenshot of the online score report or a copy of the term report by e-mail to the Graduate Student Affairs Unit at NAOJ (ken-

		daigakuin@dl.nao.ac.jp) by November 12, 2026. In such cases, the applicant must still arrange for the official score record to be sent separately to SOKENDAI. ☐ Applicants who have completed more than half of their high school classes in English are not required to submit an English score record, regardless of their nationality or place of birth. <u>Applicants who wish to be exempt from submitting an English score record must contact the Graduate Student Affairs Unit at NAOJ (ken-daigakuin@dl.nao.ac.jp) before applying and confirm their eligibility for the exemption.</u>
☐	I)	GRE Subject Test (Physics) Score Report (five-year doctoral program only) ☐ The minimum GRE Subject Test (Physics) score reported in the paper is 700. ☐ Applicants are strongly recommended to take the GRE Subject Test (Physics) on or before September 27, 2026, so that the official score report reaches SOKENDAI within the application period. ☐ Applicants taking the GRE Subject Test during the exam period from October 19 to November 1, 2026 must: • Include a copy of the ETS registration confirmation email with the application documents; • Send a screenshot of the online score record to the Graduate Student Affairs Unit at NAOJ by e-mail at ken-daigakuin@dl.nao.ac.jp by November 12, 2026; and • Arrange for the official score report to be sent to SOKENDAI.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Student Affairs Section at SOKENDAI at gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp. When making inquiries, be sure to CC an email to your prospective academic advisor.