

Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
[Astronomical Science Program]
Doctoral Program 2024
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 20 programs under one institute operated by 20 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 various institutions 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.

[Admission Policy]

<What SOKENDAI expects of our grad students>

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI, seeks students who have a strong interest in research, who constantly hone their abundant intellect and sensitivity with the aim of conducting research that will open up a new era, while taking a “bird's-eye view” of the entire field of study, and who have the will and enthusiasm to be active on the international stage.

<Basic policy for the selection of our grad students>

In selecting students for admission, SOKENDAI places importance on basic academic ability and logical thinking ability to actively promote research in the cutting-edge 20 research institutes affiliated to SOKENDAI. In order to properly judge such abilities, various selections will be made according to the respective fields of specialization.

2. Astronomical Science Program Outline

Astronomical Science Program offers advanced education and research through a wide range of observational and theoretical studies with state-of-the-art optical-infrared and radio telescopes. More specifically, this program covers development and application of advanced new technologies fundamental to astronomical observation, design, fabrication, and experimentation of new observational instruments, development of data acquisition and analysis methods, and development of technologies ranging from basic to advanced observational astronomy, as well as observational research using these technologies and theoretical research using supercomputers.

Webpage: <https://guas-astronomy.jp/eng/index.html>

3. Doctoral Degree Requirements

A Doctor of Philosophy degree shall be conferred on students who have satisfied the requirements of their respective doctoral 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. Doctoral Programs and Number of Students Accepted

Doctoral Programs	Number of Students Accepted	
	Begin in April 2024	Begin in October 2024
Three-year doctoral program	A few students	A few students
Five-year doctoral program	A few students	A few students

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.

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 doctoral 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 the application period.

*Other than the above qualifications (Qualifications 1 and 2), eligible applicants include those who 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.

[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 in advance.

*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 you have any questions regarding the qualification for admission, please contact the Student Affairs Section in advance.

6. Required Conditions 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 2024 or that begins in October 2024.
- 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.
- 5) Security Export Control: Depending on the specifics of the education and research instructions they wish to receive upon entering the doctoral 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]

From October 13 to November 10, 2023, 5:00pm JST*

*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 by mail or email. For the details, please read the following 1) and 2). The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the application deadline, November 10, 2023 5:00pm JST

1) mail

The complete set of application documents must be submitted by registered express mail or a similar service. If there are any problems with the 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 you attached files contain more than 10 megabytes, please send them separately and number each email subject. Also, when sending files, please attach them to your 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 the 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 originals 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. The 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

- The applicant who applies for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcripts of each academic year from both undergraduate and graduate schools.

- The applicant who applies 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)
 - The applicant who applies for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Certificate of Graduation for both undergraduate and graduate schools.
 - The applicant who applies for the five-year doctoral program must submit the Certificate of Graduation for the undergraduate school.
 - The applicant who has 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

The applicant who has already graduated from a university must submit certified copies of degree diplomas as follows:

 - The applicant who applies for the three-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of his/her bachelor's degree diploma and his/her master's degree diploma.
 - The applicant who applies for the five-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of his/her 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) The applicant's past research work and activities (if applicable)
- 8) Summary of your graduation thesis

If the 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 the applicant's passport pages showing the applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number
- 11) English score record

This is to indicate the applicant's language skills (TOEFL iBT or IELTS are accepted). Only the score recorded within two years before the application deadline date is acceptable. The institutional code for TOEFL iBT of SOKENDAI is 7564. The score record should arrive at SOKENDAI on or before the application deadline.

* If the relevant document will not be available before the submission due date, the applicant can (1) send a screenshot of online score report or a copy of term reports to the

Graduate Student Affairs Unit in NAOJ (daigakuin@nao.ac.jp) by e-mail, by November 24, 2023 and (2) arrange the official records to be sent to SOKENDAI.

- The applicants who have taken more than half of their high school classes in English do not need to submit English score record regardless of their nationality or the place they were born. The applicants have to ask the Graduate Student Affairs Unit in NAOJ (daigakuin@nao.ac.jp) in advance of application and ensure that they are eligible to skip submitting English score record.

12) GRE Subject Test (Physics) Score Report (five-year doctoral program only)

- Note that the minimum GRE Subject Test (Physics) score in the paper screening is 700.
- Applicants are strongly recommended to take GRE Subject Test (Physics) before September 15, 2023. The applicants who will take the GRE test on October 24, 2023, must follow the directions below: (i) include a copy of the registration confirmation e-mail from ETS to the application documents, (ii) send a screenshot of the online record to the Graduate Student Affairs Unit in NAOJ (daigakuin@nao.ac.jp) by e-mail, on or before November 24, 2023 and (iii) arrange the official records to be sent to SOKENDAI.

Notes:

- Application documents must be prepared in Japanese or English. The official English translation must be attached if the documents are prepared in languages other than Japanese or English.
- The application documents above must be prepared using word-processing software. Print all the required documents on A4 size paper (if possible).
- 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

We will carry out the selection in two steps. The first step is paper screening and the second step is interview. Only the applicants who passed the paper screening can proceed to the interview.

[Five-year doctoral program]

(1) Paper screening

We will review English score record (TOEFL iBT or IELTS), GRE Subject Test (Physics) Score Record and other application forms carefully and decide whether the applicant can proceed to the interview or not. We will notify the result of the paper screening to the applicants via e-mail by two weeks before the interview day.

(2) Interview

We will ask applicants about their past studies, research plans and other general matters. The interview will be held on December 8, 2023.

[Three-year doctoral program]

(1) Paper screening

We will review English score record (TOEFL iBT, or IELTS) and other application forms and decide whether the applicant can proceed to the interview. We will notify the result of the paper screening to the applicants via e-mail by two weeks before the interview day.

(2) Interview

Applicants are asked to have a presentation on their past study first. Then an oral examination follows. At the oral examination, applicants are provided with a text about basic physics and astronomy in English and to answer questions based on it. Following that, interview is carried out to review the applicant's research plans and other general matters. The interview will be held on December 8, 2023.

10. Announcement of Result

The result will be announced to all applicants in late December 2023 via email.

11. Admission Procedures

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

The middle of March 2024 for the enrollment of April 2024

Late September 2024 for the enrollment of October 2024

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. Visa

Each candidate who is selected as a privately financed student must apply for a visa that will allow admission to a Japanese graduate school, as stipulated in the “Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Law No. 319, 1951)” 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