

October 2025
April 2026

For reference

Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
[Astronomical Science]
Application Guidelines

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The following Application Guidelines in English are provided for non-Japanese Applicants' reference only. In the event of any inconsistency between the Japanese Application Guidelines and the English version the Japanese version shall prevail. The utmost care shall be taken to ensure that the applicant is not disadvantaged by inconsistencies between the two versions.

Applicants are required to obtain a booklet of Application Guidelines to start the application procedure. Please contact the address below to ask for a booklet or any further information.

[Contact Information]

Student Affairs Section, Academic and Student Affairs Division
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
Shonan Village, Hayama, Miura, Kanagawa 240-0193 JAPAN
E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp
Telephone number +81-46-858-1525/1526

I . Outline: Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies

Admission Policy

<What SOKENDAI expect of our grad students>

SOKENDAI tends to attract students who have a strong interest in research, who constantly hone their abundant intellect and sensitivity with the aim of conducting research in the 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.

About SOKENDAI

<https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/features/>

Faculty Directory

<https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/faculty-directory/index.html>

Course

<https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/education/curriculum/course/>

Requirements for Graduation

<https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/education/curriculum/requirement/>

Degree: Apply to Doctor (Katei-Hakase)

<https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/education/degree/doctor/index.html>

II. Five-year Doctoral Program: Application Procedures and Important Notes

1 Number of Students Accepted

Program	Number of Students Accepted	
	April Admission	October Admission
Informatics	Around 8	A few
Statistical Science	Around 2	A few
Particle and Nuclear Science	Around 6	A few
Accelerator Science	Around 2	A few
Astronomical Science	Around 5	
Fusion Science	Around 3	A few
Space and Astronautical Science	Around 4	A few
Molecular Science	Around 7	
Materials structure Science	Around 2	A few
Polar Science	Around 2	
Basic Biology	Around 5	A few
Physiological Sciences	Around 3	A few
Genetics	Around 6	A few
Integrative Evolutionary Science	Around 3	A few
Total	58	

2 Qualifications for Application

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions

Applicants who are not required to have qualification screening;

- (1) 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.
- (2) Applicants on whom a Bachelor's degree has been conferred or are expected to be conferred by the preceding month of enrollment in accordance with Article 104, Paragraph 4 of the School Educational Law.

*1

- (3) Applicants who have completed or are expected to complete 16-year course of school education in a foreign country by the preceding month of enrollment.
- (4) Applicants who have completed or are expected to complete 16-year course of school education in a foreign country by taking the correspondence courses provided by a school in said foreign country while residing in Japan by the preceding month of enrollment.
- (5) Applicants who have completed or are expected to complete a program in an educational institute in Japan

designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, that provides programs of a foreign university within the 16-year school education of said foreign country, by the preceding month of the enrollment. This applies solely to those who have completed 16-year program of school education in said foreign country.

- (6) 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; which shall be evaluated by an organization approved by a relevant official institution in the country for their education and research activities, or recognized as so by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The course shall include a correspondence course which enables students to study in Japan by a university or an educational institute which is approved by the educational system of the country and satisfy the above requirements.
- (7) Applicants who have completed or are expected to complete the specialized course of a vocational school designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in accordance with Enforcement Regulation of the School Education Law, Article 155, paragraph 1, item 5 (limited to programs for which the term of study is four years or more, and which satisfies the standards determined by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) on or after the date determined by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, or by the preceding month of enrollment.
- (8) Applicants who are designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in accordance with Enforcement Regulation of the School Education Law, Article 155, paragraph 1, item 6 (i.e., Ministry of Education Notification number 5, 1953) *2

Applicants who are required to have qualification screening before the general application can be submitted;

- (9) Applicants who fulfill any of the following provisions (a) to (c) below, and have been recognized by SOKENDAI as having acquired the specified credits with excellent results;
 - (a) Applicants who have completed 15-year course of school education in a foreign country by the end of the preceding month of enrollment,
 - (b) Applicants who have completed 15-year course of school education in a foreign country by taking the correspondence courses provided by a school in said foreign country while residing in Japan,
 - (c) Applicants who have completed or are expected to complete a program in an educational institute in Japan designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, that provides courses of a foreign university within the 15-year school education of said foreign country, by the preceding month of the enrollment. This applies solely to those who have completed 15-year course of school education in said foreign country.
- (10) Applicants who have been or will have been enrolled in a Japanese university specified in Article 83 of the School Education Law for at least three years by the end of the preceding month of enrollment, and have been recognized by SOKENDAI as having acquired the specified credits of said university with excellent

results.

- (11) Applicants who have entered a graduate school other than SOKENDAI in accordance with Article 102, paragraph 2 of the School Education Law, and have been recognized by SOKENDAI as having the appropriate academic ability to follow the content of graduate coursework.
- (12) 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 attain the age of 22 by the end of the preceding month of enrollment. *3

*1 Applicants to whom the provision (2) above applies are those on whom a Bachelor's degree has been conferred or is expected to be conferred by National Institute for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (formerly, National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation).

*2 Applicants to whom the provision (8) above applies are those who have graduated or are expected to graduate from a university under Old University Ordinances or Daigakko under orders for organization and acts of establishment of government ministries or agencies.

*3 Applicants to whom the provision (12) above applies are those who have graduated or are expected to graduate from junior college, technical college, vocational school, other schools, Japan campus of foreign university, foreigners' school in Japan and other educational institutes, and who have been recognized by SOKENDAI as having academic ability equivalent to a university graduate or higher by individual screening.

If you have any questions regarding the qualification for admission, please contact the Student Affairs Section (E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp or telephone no.: +81-46-858-1525/1526) in advance.

3 Qualification Screening for Application

Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (9) to (12) in "2 Qualifications for Application" are required to submit the following documents to the Student Affairs Section by the designated deadline. Application documents shall be withheld until the qualification screening is completed.

(1) Documents Required for Qualification Screening for Application

(a) Application for Certifying Applicant's Qualification (Attached **Form 7-1**)

(b) Application documents (as described in "5 Application Documents" below)

Application fee, however, should be paid after the application qualification is approved.

(c) Other documents required by the program. For details, please refer to the program office.

(a), (b) and (c) above must be submitted altogether. Please note that applicants might be asked to submit other documents by the program.

(2) Application Period for Qualification Screening

Application Period	
April 2026 Admission	Monday, June 2 to Thursday, June 5, 2025

The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period without fail.

It must be received between 09:00~12:00, and 13:00~17:00 on weekdays of the application period.

(3) Procedure for Qualification Screening

The complete set of application documents should be sent by postal mail in a commercially available envelope (33cm x 24cm) with the prescribed label in the booklet pasted. Please be sure to send it by registered express mail. Applicants should write “Application Documents and Application for Certifying Applicant’s Qualification Enclosed” in red ink on the face of the envelope. The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the last day of the application period.

(4) Result of Qualification Screening for Application

The result of the qualification screening shall be notified prior to the application period. Applicants who have been approved by the screening should send in the payment for the examination fee in accordance with **Form 8**. After remittance is completed, please submit **Form 8** on which the remittance receipt is attached.

4 Application Procedure

Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (1) to (8) in “2 Qualifications for Application” are required to submit the following documents to the Student Affairs Section by the designated deadline.

(1) Application Period

Application Period	
April 2026 Admission	Thursday, June 26 to Wednesday, July 2, 2025

The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period without fail.

It must be received between 09:00~12:00, and 13:00~17:00 on weekdays of the application period.

(2) Application Method

In principle, the complete set of application documents should be sent by postal mail in a commercially available envelope (33cm x 24cm) with the prescribed label in the booklet pasted. Please be sure to send it by registered express mail. The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the last day of the application period. Please note that application documents will not be accepted by any parent institute or program office.

Mailing address:

Student Affairs Section, Academic and Student Affairs Division
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
Shonan Village, Hayama, Miura, Kanagawa 240-0193 JAPAN
Telephone number +81-46-858-1525/1526

5 Application Documents

Please read through the “Important Notes” on page12 beforehand. Also, application forms must be completed with a black or blue pen or ballpoint pen (erasable pens are not acceptable).

(1) Application form and admission ticket for the examination (**Form 1-A**)

Please attach two identical photographs (4.5cm by 3.5cm taken within the past three months, upper body, full-faced with no hat) on **Form 1-A**. Please read through the application guidelines and sign your name in agreement with the contents.

(2) Academic transcripts (originals)

- (a) Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (1) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit academic transcripts from the undergraduate school. In case any of the credits was approved after transferring to the undergraduate school, academic transcripts from the technical college or other college are also required.
- (b) Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (2) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit all the academic transcripts concerning the Bachelor’s degree.
- (c) Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (3) to (9) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the academic transcripts from the foreign undergraduate school.
- (d) Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (10) to (12) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the academic transcript from their final academic background.

(3) Certificate of (expected) graduation (original)

- (a) Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (1) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the certificate of graduation from the university which a Bachelor’s degree has been conferred from.
- (b) Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (2) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the certificate from National Institute for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (formerly, National Institute for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation).
- (c) Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (3) to (9) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the certificate of (expected) graduation from the foreign undergraduate school.
- (d) Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (10) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the certificate of enrollment, and applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (11) and (12) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the certificate of graduation of their final academic background.

(4) Statement of Purpose (**Form 2**)

Applicants who apply to their second-choice program must prepare **Form 2** for the second-choice program separately.

(5) Examination fee of 30,000 yen

For payment details, please refer to **Form 8**. MEXT scholarship students do not have to bear the examination fee, therefore certificate of MEXT scholarship student status is required.

(6) Recipient’s address labels (**Form 9**)

Applicants who live outside Japan must contact the Student Affairs Section in advance. [E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp]

(7) Confirmation Letter regarding the Applicability of the Specific Categories for Compliance with Article 25(1) and (2) of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (**Form10**)

Applicants residing in Japan must submit **Form 10**. Please refer to the simple check flow chart (*) to complete the form. For details, please contact the Research Coordination Section. [E-mail: kenkyo@ml.soken.ac.jp]

* <https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/file/tokuteiruikei-E.pdf>

(8) LETTER PACK PLUS

We will send Admission ticket for the examination by "LETTER PACK PLUS." Please purchase "LETTER PACK PLUS" at the post office in Japan. Applicants who live outside Japan must contact the Student Affairs Section in advance. [E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp]

(9) Curriculum Vitae (**Form 1-2**)

Only for international applicants and Japanese applicants who have received their education outside Japan.

(10) Documents certifying the applicant's research abilities, such as thesis, research reports, and other materials are also accepted, if applicable.

Applicants who apply to the second-choice program must submit another set of copies of the documents for the second-choice program separately.

(11) Permission for Studying While in Employment (**Form 6**)

Applicants who are currently employed full-time are required to submit Permission for Studying While in Employment (**Form 6**). In case the permission cannot be obtained or the applicant intends to resign before enrollment, s/he may submit a statement of reason sealed by her/himself. In this case, "Letter of Permission to be enrolled while employed" or "Certificate of Resign" must be submitted at the time of admission.

(12) A copy of Residence Card (international applicants residing in Japan) or

A copy of passport (international applicants residing outside Japan at the time of application)

Notes:

- i. Incomplete documents shall not be accepted. No documents shall be returned.
- ii. In case the applicant's name has changed after marriage etc., a copy of family register should be attached.
- iii. **Please use the application forms in the booklet. Form 2** is also downloadable at our website.
https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/astro/
- iv. Application documents should be written in Japanese or English. If you submit the certificate neither in Japanese nor English, please also attach the certificate in Japanese or English.
- v. Applicants who are (were) in the doctoral or master's program must submit a transcript of the doctoral or master's program. Applicants who have graduated from a doctoral or master's program must submit a certificate of graduation. Applicants who have withdrawn from the doctoral or master's program must submit a withdrawal certificate.

6 Screening Procedures

Screening will be conducted based on submitted application documents and results of the examination. For the details of the screening methods for this program, please refer to "Important Notes for Applicants".

If you apply to more than two programs, please note that screening is conducted individually, and the date or venue may differ depending on the screening.

Examination Dates	
April 2026 Admission	Written examination: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 Interview: Friday, August 29, 2025

Note: Detailed information about the time and venue of the examination will be provided with the admission ticket for the examination. In case the ticket shall not be delivered one week prior to the date of examination, please contact the Student Affairs Section. Please see the following website for the delivery schedule of admission ticket.

https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/astro/

Venue of the examination

Program	Location and Directions
Astronomical Science	<p>National Astronomical Observatory of Japan</p> <p>2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka-city, Tokyo 181-8588</p> <p>*From the South Exit of JR Musashi-sakai station (JR Chuo Line), take Odakyu bus No.91 at the No.3 bus stop and get off at "Tenmondai Mae" bus stop.</p> <p>*From the North Exit of Keio Chofu station, take Odakyu bus (91 and 51) at the No.14 bus stop, and get off at "Tenmondai Mae" bus stop.</p> <p>https://www.nao.ac.jp/en/access/mitaka/access.html</p>

7 Announcement of Results

Notification	
April 2026 Admission	Early-September, 2025

Further details will be sent to applicants.

Results will be mailed to the successful applicants. Announcement of results will be made on the SOKENDAI website (https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/general_admission/result/index.html), however, results shall be confirmed by notification by mail. Inquiries regarding the results by telephone or other means will not be responded to.

8 Admission Procedures

(1) Admission period is scheduled as below:

Early to mid-March 2026 for the enrollment of April 2026

Successful applicants must complete the 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

Student Insurance Fee for five years: JPY 5,750

(Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research)

Note:

(a) In case 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.

(b) Entrance fees shall not be refunded under any circumstances once the payment is made. Premium for the student insurance, however, may be refunded only if applicants decline the admission by the cut-off dates as blow:

March 31, 2026 for the enrollment of April 2026

- (3) Applicants who are currently employed full-time should submit a “Letter of Approval” issued by the employer that acknowledges the enrollment while employed. Resignation certificate must be submitted if you resign before you enroll at SOKENDAI.
- (4) Applicants who are enrolled at a school other than SOKENDAI at the time of application (not including applicants who will have graduated/completed the school before you enroll at SOKENDAI) must submit the certificate of withdrawal from said school.
- (5) Foreign nationals are strongly advised to acquire a student visa unless a particular reason would prohibit them from doing so. Detailed information on how to acquire this type of visa is available on the SOKENDAI's website: <http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/campuslife/international/immigration/>

9 Long-term course system

Long-term course system is a planned course of study for a certain period of time beyond the standard period of study upon request from the student, who has an occupation or other circumstances. For further information, please contact the Educational Affairs Section.

E-mail: kyomu@ml.soken.ac.jp, or Fax: +81-46-858-1632

10 General Notes

- (1) Before applying and taking the entrance examination, applicants should read through “Important Notes for Applicants”.
- (2) Submitted documents shall not be returned. No changes or alternations to the submitted documents will be accepted after filing.
- (3) Admission might be revoked in case of any false entry or act of dishonesty on application documents and other documents.
- (4) Applicants who wish to transfer to SOKENDAI from other graduate schools must contact Student Affairs Section before the last day of the application period.
- (5) Applicants with disabilities who require special consideration at the examination and after enrollment are advised to inform SOKENDAI three months prior to the application period.
- (6) Applicants should inform the Student Affairs Section if they wish to withdraw their applications.
- (7) In case the applicant has changed the mailing address after submitting the application documents, please inform the Student Affairs Section of the change.

E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp, or Fax: +81-46-858-1632

- (8) Students are not allowed to simultaneously register at other universities while studying at SOKENDAI.
- (9) For applicants with foreign nationality, if your name contains characters from your native language, these

characters may be replaced with the Roman alphabet for administrative purposes.

- (10) Please be sure to check our website for any changes in the method of admission selection due to the impact of new coronavirus infection or other factors.
- (11) Students enrolled in the five-year doctoral program of the Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies who have passed the certification for master's degree eligibility stipulated in Article 5 of the University's Degree Regulations and who were also permitted to withdraw from the program will be awarded a master's degree upon leaving the program.

11 Security Export Control

Based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (*), SOKENDAI has established regulations and conducts examinations for the provision of technology and the acceptance of researchers and students. For this reason, if it is deemed that there is a risk of falling under regulations, you may be required to change your desired education or research content. Security Export Control regulations has nothing to do with passing or failing the entrance examination. Please consult the program office for further details.

* <https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/englishpage.html>

12 Privacy Policy

- (1) Any personal information including the applicant's name and address submitted to SOKENDAI as part of the application documents shall be used during the application process such as applicant/examination procedures, notification of results, and admission procedures. After enrollment, personal information shall also be used for student affairs (school register and course registration), student services (health care, tuition exemption and scholarship application, and career support) and administrative purposes of processing payments for entrance and tuition fees.
- (2) Personal information obtained in the screening process such as examination results, shall be used for aggregate analyses of examination results and research for use in the screening process.

Important Notes for Applicants to Astronomical Science Program (Five-year Doctoral Program)

Astronomical Science Program offers, by exploiting one of the most advanced set of research facilities it has access to, including optical and radio telescopes and a supercomputer, an environment in which students can be involved in theoretical, observational or instrumentation researches at the highest levels, and aims to train researchers in the forefront of the international stage of research, leading experts in advancement of technology, or education and public outreach professionals with advanced knowledge.

The program provides an excellent research environment for students with various backgrounds, both in observational and theoretical astronomy. The program encompasses the following three areas: “Optical and infrared astronomy”, “Radio astronomy” and “General astronomy and astrophysics”, but they cooperate in our educational efforts. The first-year students are to study the basics of astronomy primarily in Mitaka campus. Once this stage is finished, students set out to take on more advanced topics such as the principles behind the most advanced technology and their applications to astronomy, designing and building observational instruments, data acquisition, and data analyses. At the same time, students are expected to be engaged in observational or theoretical research in astronomy.

Astronomical Science Program seeks students with interests in astronomy, motivated to tackle scientific questions by theoretical or observational researches or through developing instruments, and equipped not only with basic academic skills but also with the ability to think logically and creatively, which are all crucial for the pursuit.

1. Research field selection

When selecting your field of research (research area) and supervisor, please carefully go through this document along with information provided on the website, to fully understand the research field and research contents.

The list of all the possible supervisors can be found at the URL:

<https://www.guas-astronomy.jp/Supervisors/index.html>.

In Astronomical Science program, applicants may choose professor, associate professor, or assistant professor as their potential supervisor. In addition, faculty members of the Astrobiology Center/NINS are also involved in the education of Astronomical Science Program, and applicants may choose a faculty member of the Astrobiology Center as their potential supervisor as well.

It is strongly recommended for applicants to contact the potential supervisor they intend to work with and to discuss research plans. Applicants also may contact the academic guidance instructors (contact information shown in the URL below) in order to have further information on research and educational activities of supervisors. If you are not sure which supervisor you should choose at the time of application, you may leave the section for your potential supervisor blank on the Application Form (**Form 1-A**), but please describe the research you are interested in in detail on the Statement of Purpose (**Form 2**).

You may apply for up to two programs at the same time if both programs have the same application period,

course of study, and admission date. However, since the selection process is conducted for each program, please be aware of the examination schedules and venues when applying for two programs.

Astronomical Science Program : <https://guas-astronomy.jp/eng/index.html>

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan : <https://www.nao.ac.jp/en/>

2. Selection Method

Screening is conducted by examining submitted documents, results of written examination (on Wednesday, August 27, 2025) and interview (on Friday, August 29, 2025). Based on the contents of the submitted documents and the results of the written examination, we select applicants to proceed to interview.

- (1) Paper screening: Transcripts and statement of purpose. When writing statement of purpose, please be sure to clearly state the contents of research you wish to conduct after enrollment.
- (2) Written examination: Special subjects and English. Regarding special subjects, applicants will be given three questions from physics and two from physical mathematics. The English test is for 1 hour and 30 minutes (point allocation: 150), and the special subject test 3 hours (point allocation: 400).

All the questions and the answers of English test are in English.

- (3) Interview: Based on the submitted documents and the results of the written examination, applicants are screened and the names of those who have passed this screening will be posted at 5 pm on the day following the written examination (5pm, Thursday, August 28, 2025) on the website of Astronomical Science Program, along with the interview schedule. In the interview, applicants are asked to explain about his or her previous research and education, what motivates them to study at Astronomical Science Program, as well as contents of researches they intend to conduct once they are accepted.

3. Criteria for grading, evaluation and admission decision

Admission decision is made by evaluating submitted transcripts, statement of purpose, results of written examination and interview comprehensively and also considering the followings.

- 1) An applicant must, aligned with objectives of Astronomical Science Program, have ability to become a “world-class researcher,” “professional to lead improvement of advanced technology,” or “education and public outreach professional with advanced knowledge” in the field of astronomy or related area.
- 2) An applicant also must have basic knowledge and understanding of physics and mathematics etc., as well as English skills, logicity, creativity, solid motivation for research, and future potential.

4. Financial support for students

There is “Associate Researcher” system that provides certain amount of monthly allowance to reward the students’ contribution to researches. (Applicable only after six months have passed after enrollment)

In addition, the program offers the NAOJ Junior Fellow system whereby students demonstrating exceptional research abilities and displaying motivations for pursuing a career in research are selected and granted scholarships.

5. Languages used in written examination

Written examination is developed targeting on those who are able to read and write in Japanese language. For applicants who are not able to read and write in Japanese, there is Special admissions for applicants residing abroad, in which only English is used for written examination of GRE Subject Tests (physics) and English (TOEFL-iBT score). Applicants who are not able to read or write in Japanese language must go through Special admissions for applicants residing abroad.

6. Contact details for inquiries

Graduate Student Affairs Unit,
Research Promotion Division, Administration Department,
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan
2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka-city Tokyo 181-8588
TEL +81-422-34-3659
E-mail daigakuin@nao.ac.jp

III. Three-year Doctoral Program: Application Procedure and Important Notes

1 Number of Students Accepted

Program	Number of Students Accepted	
	April Admission	October Admission
Anthropological Studies	Around 4	
Japanese Studies	Around 3	
Japanese History	Around 3	
Japanese Literature	Around 2	
Japanese Language Science	Around 3	
Informatics	Around 12	A few
Statistical Science	Around 6	A few
Particle and Nuclear Science	Around 1	A few
Accelerator Science	Around 1	A few
Astronomical Science	Around 1	A few
Fusion Science	Around 2	A few
Space and Astronautical Science	Around 3	A few
Molecular Science	Around 5	A few
Materials structure Science	Around 1	A few
Global Environmental Studies	Around 2	
Polar Science	Around 1	A few
Basic Biology	Around 3	A few
Physiological Sciences	Around 6	A few
Genetics	Around 2	A few
Integrative Evolutionary Science	Around 1	A few
Total	62	

2 Qualifications for Application

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions

Applicants who are not required to have qualification screening;

- (1) Applicants who hold or are expected to obtain a Master's degree or a Professional degree by the preceding month of enrollment.
- (2) 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.

- (3) Applicants who have completed the correspondence courses provided by a school in a foreign country while residing in Japan, and have been conferred or are expected to be conferred a Master's degree or a degree equivalent to a Professional degree by the preceding month of enrollment.
- (4) Applicants who have completed or are expected to complete a program in an educational institute in Japan that provides courses from a foreign graduate school within the school education system of said foreign country, and that is designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and have been conferred or are expected to be conferred a Master's degree or a degree equivalent to a Professional degree by the preceding month of enrollment.
- (5) Applicants who have completed a course at the United Nations University and have been conferred or are expected to be conferred a degree equivalent to a Master's degree by the preceding month of enrollment, in accordance with the Enforcement Regulation of the School Education Law, Article 156, Item 4.
- (6) Applicants who have completed a course of study at a school in a foreign country or an educational institute that has graduate school in a foreign country or the United Nations University, and have passed or will have passed the examinations and screening equivalent to those specified in Article 16-2 of the Standards for Establishment of Graduate Schools (1974 Ministry of Education, Science and Culture Ordinance Number 28), and who have been or will have been recognized by SOKENDAI as having academic abilities equivalent to those who have a Master's degree.

Applicants who are required to have qualification screening before the general application can be submitted;

- (7) Applicants who have graduated from a university and have been or will have been engaged in research at a university or a research institute for at least two years by the preceding month of the enrollment, and 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 based on said research achievement.
- (8) Applicants who have completed 16-year course of school education in a foreign country or 16-year course of school education by taking the correspondence courses provided by a school in a foreign country while residing in Japan, and thereafter, have been or will have been engaged in research at a university or a research institute for at least two years by the preceding month of the enrollment, and 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 based on said research achievement.
- (9) 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 Admission Qualifications of SOKENDAI, and attain the age of 24 by the end of preceding month of enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding the qualification for admission, please contact the Student Affairs Section (E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp or telephone no.: +81-46-858-1525/1526) in advance.

3 Qualification Screening for Application

- (1) Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (7) to (9) in “2 Qualifications for Application” are required to submit the following documents to Student Affairs Section by the designated deadline. Application documents shall be withheld until the qualification screening is completed.
- (2) Applicants who wish to apply under the provisions (7) to (9) in “2 Qualifications for Application” are required to submit the following documents for screening to be recognized as “having academic ability equivalent to those who have a Master’s degree or a Professional degree”. An interview may be conducted if necessary.

(a) Documents Required for Qualification Screening for Application

(i) Application for Certifying Applicant’s Qualification (**Form 7-2**)

(ii) Application Documents as specified in “5 Application Documents”

Examination Fee, however, should be paid after the application is approved.

(iii) Other documents required by this program. Please consult the program office for details.

(i)(ii) and (iii) above must be submitted altogether. Please note that applicants might be asked to submit other documents by the program.

(b) Application Period for Qualification Screening

Application Period		
First round	October 2025 Admission April 2026 Admission	Monday, June 2 to Thursday, June 5, 2025
Second round	April 2026 Admission	Tuesday, November 4 to Thursday, November 6, 2025

The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period without fail.

It must be received between 09:00~12:00, and 13:00~17:00 on weekdays of the application period.

(c) Procedure for Qualification Screening

The complete set of application documents should be sent by postal mail in a commercially available envelope (33cm x 24cm) with the prescribed label in the booklet pasted. Please be sure to send it by registered express mail. Applicants should write “Application Documents and Application for Certifying Applicant’s Qualification Enclosed” in red ink on the face of the envelope. If the application documents do not fit in an envelope, they may be sent in a box. However, even in this case, please send the documents by traceable mail. The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the last day of the application period

(d) Result of Qualification Screening for Application

The result of Qualification Screening for Application shall be notified prior to the application period. Applicants who have been approved by the screening should send in the payment for the examination fee in accordance with **Form 8**. After the remittance is completed, please submit **Form 8** on which the remittance receipt is attached.

4 Application Procedure

Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (1) to (6) in “2 Qualifications for Application” are required to submit the following documents to the Student Affairs Section by the designated deadline.

(1) Application Period

Application Period		
First round	October 2025 Admission April 2026 Admission	Thursday, June 26 to Wednesday, July 2, 2025
Second round	April 2026 Admission	Thursday, December 4 to Wednesday, December 10, 2025

The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period without fail.

It must be received between 09:00~12:00, and 13:00~17:00 on weekdays of the application period.

(2) Application Method

In principle, the complete set of application documents should be sent by postal mail in a commercially available envelope (33cm x 24cm) with the prescribed label in the booklet pasted. Please be sure to send it by registered express mail. If the application documents do not fit in an envelope, they may be sent in a box. However, even in this case, please send the documents by traceable mail. The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the last day of the application period. Please note that application documents will not be accepted by any parent institute or program office.

Student Affairs Section, Academic and Student Affairs Division

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI

Shonan Village, Hayama, Miura, Kanagawa, 240-0193 JAPAN

5 Application Documents

Prior to application, contact with the potential supervisor is required.

Please read through the “Important Notes for Applicants” beforehand. Also, application forms must be completed with a black or blue pen or ballpoint pen (erasable pens are not acceptable).

(1) Application form and Admission Ticket for the Examination (**Form 1-B**)

Please attach two identical photographs (4.5cm by 3.5cm taken within the past three months, upper body, full-faced with no hat) on **Form 1-B**. Please read through the application guidelines and sign your name in agreement with the contents.

(2) Academic transcripts (originals)

- (a) Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (1) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the academic transcript from the graduate school or the Professional graduate school, and that from the undergraduate school. In case any of the credits was approved after transferring to the undergraduate school, academic transcripts from the technical college or other college are also required.
- (b) Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (2) to (6) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the academic transcript from the graduate school in said foreign country (a Master’s degree or a Professional degree) and that from the undergraduate school concerning the Bachelor’s degree.

- (c) Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (7) to (9) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the academic transcript from their final academic background.
- (3) Certificate of (expected) graduation (original)
- (a) Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (1) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit a certificate of (expected) graduation from the graduate school which a Master’s degree or a Professional degree has been conferred from.
- (b) Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (2) to (5) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit the certificate of (expected) graduation from the foreign graduate school.
- (c) Applicants who intend to apply under the provisions (6) to (9) in “2 Qualifications for Application” must submit a certificate of graduation of their final academic background.
- (4) Summary of Previous Research Experience (**Form 3**) (Downloadable from SOKENDAI’s website)
- (5) List of Research Presentations and Publications (**Form 4**) (Downloadable from SOKENDAI’s website)
- (6) Research Proposal (**Form 5**) (Downloadable from SOKENDAI’s website)
- Applicants who apply to their second-choice program must prepare **Form 5** for the second-choice program separately.
- (7) Examination fee of 30,000 yen
- For payment details, please refer to **Form 8**. MEXT scholarship students do not have to bear the examination fee, therefore, a certificate of MEXT scholarship student status is required.
- If not applicable, specify “None” and submit the Form.
- (8) Recipient’s address labels (**Form 9**)
- Applicants who live outside Japan must contact the Student Affairs Section in advance. [E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp]
- (9) Confirmation Letter regarding the Applicability of the Specific Categories for Compliance with Article 25(1) and (2) of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (**Form10**)
- Applicants residing in Japan must submit **Form 10**. Please refer to the simple check flow chart (*) to complete the form. For details, please contact the Research Coordination Section. [E-mail: kenkyo@ml.soken.ac.jp]
- * <https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/file/tokuteiruikei-E.pdf>
- (10) LETTER PACK PLUS
- We will send Admission ticket for the examination by "LETTER PACK PLUS." Please purchase "LETTER PACK PLUS" at the post office in Japan. Applicants who live outside Japan must contact the Student Affairs Section in advance. [E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp]
- (11) Curriculum Vitae (**Form 1-2**)
- Only for international applicants and Japanese applicants who have received their education outside Japan
- (12) Two copies of Master’s thesis
- Applicants who have (or are expected to obtain) a Master’s degree or a Professional degree are required to submit the Master’s thesis. Specify “Master’s thesis” on the upper-right corner of the front page in red ink. Applicants who apply to their second-choice program must submit another set of copies of the Master’s

thesis for the second-choice program separately.

(13) Reporting form for expected submission date of Master's thesis (**Form 16**)

Applicants applying for the second round who expect to submit a Master's thesis must submit **Form 16** within the application period, and then submit copies of the Master's thesis by the designated date.

(14) Two copies of academic publications (if any)

Applicants who apply to their second-choice program must submit another set of copies of the academic publications for the second-choice program separately.

(15) Letter of Recommendation

Applicants are strongly advised to submit the Letter of Recommendation from those who are appropriate to evaluate the applicant's academic ability. The letter must be sealed up by the writer.

(16) Permission for Studying While in Employment (**Form 6**)

Applicants who are currently employed full-time are required to submit Permission for Studying While in Employment (**Form 6**). In case the permission cannot be obtained or the applicant intends to resign before enrollment, s/he may instead submit a statement of reason with her/his signature.

(17) A copy of Residence Card (international applicants residing in Japan), or

A copy of passport (international applicants residing outside Japan at the time of application)

Notes

- i. Incomplete documents shall not be accepted. No documents shall be returned.
- ii. In case the applicant's name has changed after marriage etc., a copy of family register should be attached.
- iii. **Form 3, 4, and 5** are also downloadable at our website.
https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/astro/
- iv. Application documents should be written in Japanese or English. If you submit the certificate neither in Japanese nor English, please also attach the certificate in Japanese or English.
- v. Applicants who are (were) in the doctoral program must submit a transcript of the doctoral program. Applicants who have graduated from a doctoral program must submit a certificate of graduation. Applicants who have withdrawn from the doctoral program must submit a withdrawal certificate.

6 Screening Procedures

Screening will be conducted based on submitted application documents and results of the examination. For details of the screening methods for this program, please refer to "Important Notes for Applicants".

If you apply to more than two programs, please note that screening is conducted individually, and the date or venue may differ depending on the screening.

Examination Date		
First round	October 2025 Admission April 2026 Admission	Monday, August 25, 2025
Second round	April 2026 Admission	Thursday, January 22, 2026

Detailed information about the time and place of the examination will be provided with the admission ticket for the examination. In case the ticket shall not be delivered one week prior to the date of examination, please contact the Student Affairs Section. Please see the following website for the delivery schedule of admission ticket.

https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/astro/

Venue of the examination

Program	Location and Directions
Astronomical Science	<p>National Astronomical Observatory of Japan 2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka-city, Tokyo 181-8588</p> <p>*From the South Exit of JR Musashi-sakai station (JR Chuo Line), take Odakyu bus No.91 at the No.3 bus stop and get off at "Tenmondai Mae" bus stop.</p> <p>*From the North Exit of Keio Chofu station, take Odakyu bus (91 and 51) at the No.14 bus stop, and get off at "Tenmondai Mae" bus stop.</p> <p>http://www.nao.ac.jp/en/access/mitaka/access.html</p>

7 Announcement of Results

Notification		
First round	October 2025 Admission April 2026 Admission	Early-September, 2025
Second round	April 2026 Admission	Mid-February, 2026

Further details will be sent to applicants.

Results will be mailed to the successful applicants. Announcement of results will be made on the SOKENDAI website (https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/general_admission/result/index.html), however, results shall be confirmed by notification by mail. Inquiries regarding the results by telephone or other means will not be responded to.

8 Admission Procedures

(1) Admission procedures period is scheduled as below:

Late September 2025 for the enrollment of October 2025

Early to mid-March 2026 for the enrollment of April 2026

Successful applicants must complete the 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

Student Insurance Fee for three years: JPY 3,620

(Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research)

Note:

- (a) In case 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.
- (b) Entrance fees shall not be refunded under any circumstances once the payment is made. Premium for the student insurance, however, may be refunded only if applicants decline the admission by the cut-off dates as below:

September 30, 2025 for the enrollment of October 2025

March 31, 2026 for the enrollment of April 2026

- (3) Applicants who are currently employed full-time should submit the “Letter of Approval” issued by the employer that acknowledges the enrollment while employed. Resignation certificate must be submitted if you resign before you enroll at SOKENDAI.
- (4) Applicants who are enrolled at a school other than SOKENDAI at the time of application (not including applicants who will have graduated/completed the school before you enroll at SOKENDAI) must submit the certificate of withdrawal from said school.
- (5) Foreign nationals are strongly advised to acquire a student visa unless particular reason would prohibit them from doing so. Detailed information on how to acquire this type of visa is available on the SOKENDAI's website: <http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/campuslife/international/immigration/>

9 Long-term course system

Long-term course system is a planned course of study for a certain period of time beyond the standard period of study upon request from the student, who has an occupation or other circumstances. For further information, please contact the Educational Affairs Section.

E-mail: kyomu@ml.soken.ac.jp, or Fax: +81-46-858-1632

10 General Notes

- (1) Before applying and taking the entrance examination, applicants should read through “Important Notes for Applicants”.
- (2) Submitted documents shall not be returned. No changes or alternations to the submitted documents will be accepted after filing.
- (3) Admission might be revoked in case of any false entry or act of dishonesty on application documents and other documents.
- (4) Applicants who wish to transfer to SOKENDAI from other graduate schools must contact Student Affairs Section before the last day of the application period.
- (5) Applicants with disabilities who require special consideration at the examination and after enrollment are advised to inform SOKENDAI three months prior to the application period.
- (6) Applicants should inform the Student Affairs Section if they wish to withdraw their application.
- (7) In case the applicant has changed the mailing address after submitting the application documents, please inform the Student Affairs Section of the change.

E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp, or Fax: +81-46-858-1632

- (8) Students are not allowed to simultaneously register at other universities while studying at SOKENDAI.
- (9) For applicants with foreign nationality, if your name contains characters from your native language, these characters may be replaced with the Roman alphabet for administrative purposes.
- (10) Please be sure to check our website for any changes in the method of admission selection due to the impact of new coronavirus infection or other factors.

11 Security Export Control

Based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (*), SOKENDAI has established regulations and conducts examinations for the provision of technology and the acceptance of researchers and students. For this reason, if it is deemed that there is a risk of falling under regulations, you may be required to change your desired education or research content. Security Export Control regulations has nothing to do with passing or failing the entrance examination. Please consult the program office for further details.

* <https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/englishpage.html>

12 Privacy Policy

- (1) Any personal information including the applicant's name and address submitted to SOKENDAI as part of the application documents shall be used during the application process such as applicant/examination procedures, notification of results, and admission procedures. After enrollment, personal information shall also be used for student affairs (school register and course registration), student services (health care, tuition exemption, scholarship application, and career support), and administrative purposes of processing payments for entrance and tuition fees.
- (2) Personal information obtained in the screening process such as examination results, shall be used for aggregate analyses of examination results and research for use in the screening process.

Important Notes for Applicants to Astronomical Science Program (Three-year Doctoral Program)

Astronomical Science Program offers, by exploiting one of the most advanced set of research facilities it has access to, including optical and radio telescopes and a supercomputer, an environment in which students can be involved in theoretical, observational or instrumentation researches at the highest levels, and aims to train researchers in the forefront of the international stage of research, leading experts in advancement of technology, or education and public outreach professionals with advanced knowledge.

Astronomical Science Program seeks students with interests in astronomy, motivated to tackle scientific questions by theoretical or observational researches or through developing instruments, and equipped not only with basic academic skills but also with the ability to think logically and creatively, which are all crucial for the pursuit.

1. Research field

When deciding on research theme etc., please discuss well with a supervisor you intend to work with in advance. Applicants are strongly recommended to have a seminar presentation at the appropriate research group in the program. In the application form, indicate the names of the supervisor of the first and the second choice. The list of all the potential supervisors can be found at the URL:

<https://www.guas-astronomy.jp/Supervisors/index.html>.

Please indicate the name of your first and second choice of potential supervisor on the application form.

In Astronomical Science program, applicants may choose professor, associate professor, or assistant professor as their potential supervisor. In addition, faculty members of the Astrobiology Center of the NINS are also involved in the education of Astronomical Science Program, and applicants may choose a faculty member of the Astrobiology Center as their potential supervisor as well. You may apply for up to two programs at the same time if both programs have the same application period, course of study, and admission date. However, since the selection process is conducted for each program, please be aware of the examination schedules and venues when applying for two programs.

Astronomical Science Program : <https://guas-astronomy.jp/Intro/outline.html>

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan : <https://www.nao.ac.jp/en/>

2. Three-year doctoral program

The program is for those who are with basic trainings in astronomy or related fields, typically with 2-year education in a graduate course and a master thesis describing the research he/she has done, or an equivalent. If you are not sure about your qualification, you are recommended to apply for Five-year doctoral program.

3. Selection Method

Paper screening and interview are carried out.

(1) At interview, applicants are first asked to have a presentation on their study. Then, an oral examination follows. At the oral examination, applicants are first provided with a text about basic physics and mathematics in English. Then they are asked to answer questions related to the content of the text either in Japanese or English. Following that, an interview is carried out to examine the applicant's future plans and other general matters. For presentation, a PC projector will be provided.

(2) On the day of interview, there is also an English test (30 minutes. A dictionary cannot be used.).

4. Submitting Master's Thesis

Applicants who are unable to submit a copy of Master's thesis by the application deadline of the second round, may apply only if the copy of Master's thesis can be submitted by 17:00, Friday, January 16, 2026. If you wish to do so, submit the appended **Form 16** when applying, and afterward, submit two copies of your Master's thesis to Astronomical Science Program (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan).

5. Criteria for grading, evaluation and admission decision

Grading is conducted by the submitted documents and results of interview. Applicants are evaluated by contents of submitted transcripts, Master's thesis, research plan, presentation at the interview, question and answer session, answer at the oral examination, and English ability. At interview, the applicant's motivation for applying and willingness are highly considered.

To make an admission decision, we comprehensively consider the followings: 1) Being aligned with objectives of Astronomical Science Program, the applicant must have the ability to become a "world-class researcher," "professional to lead improvement of advanced technology," or "education and public outreach professional with advanced knowledge" in the field of astronomy or related area; 2) the applicant must have a strong awareness of the issues in the field and motivation and is able to obtain a doctoral degree within the prescribed period of attendance; 3) the applicant must also have basic knowledge and understanding of physics and astronomy, expressive ability to render his or her ideas, solid motivation for research, future potential and English ability. Application of students from other academic fields is welcome if we find his or her experience would contribute to researches in the field of astronomy or its related area.

6. Languages used in the entrance examination

For applicants who are unable to read or write in Japanese, an examination in English is available. Research presentation and question-and-answer session can be done either in Japanese or English.

7. Financial support

There is an "Assistant Researcher" system that provides a certain amount of monthly allowance to reward the students' contribution to researches. Please contact us for further information.

In addition, the program offers the NAOJ Junior Fellow system whereby students demonstrating exceptional research abilities and displaying motivations for pursuing a career in research are selected and granted scholarships.

8. Contact details for inquiries

Graduate Student Affairs Unit,
Research Promotion Division, Administration Department,
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan
2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka-city Tokyo 181-8588
TEL +81-422-34-3659
E-mail daigakuin@nao.ac.jp

IV. List of the Faculty Members

Please see the websites below for the list of faculty members.

Program: Astronomical Science

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