

Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
[Basic Biology 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. Basic Biology Program Outline

In the Basic Biology program, students will investigate the commonality and diversity that characterize living organisms, the universal mechanisms and the structure that maintain them, and the mechanisms of change that produce diversity. This program aims to train researchers who can discover more fundamental and important problems in biological sciences, and challenge themselves to solve these by cultivating the advanced research skills and rich academic knowledge necessary to conduct independent research activities as a researcher in this field.

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	
	April 2024	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. (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 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 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 the 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 the 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 the applicant has 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 or Japanese.
- 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]

	First round	Second round
April 2024 admission	From Thursday, October 12 to Wednesday, November 8, 2023*	
October 2024 admission	From Thursday, October 12 to Wednesday, November 8, 2023*	From Thursday, April 11 to Wednesday, May 8, 2024*

*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 to confirm whether the

supervisor will 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 confirm the 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 with 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 original 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. Your 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 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

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).

- 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

[Schedule]

	First round	Second round
April 2024 admission	Monday, December 11, 2023	
October 2024 admission	Monday, December 11, 2023	Thursday, June 13, 2024

[Method]

1. Three-year doctoral program

Document review and an interview will be conducted.

(a) Document review: Review will be conducted regarding the contents of the application, including academic transcripts and related materials.

(b) Interview: The interview will be conducted remotely using Zoom meeting, and the applicants will participate from their home or in some other appropriate place. The interview will take about 30 minutes. The first 15 minutes will be spent exploring the applicant's past research and future research aspirations. During the interview, the applicants will be allowed to use Whiteboard on Zoom, or a handwritten document pre-submitted as an electronic file by the day before the exam. The remaining 15 minutes will be used for a question-and-answer session covering the content of the applicant's presentation and submitted documents.

2. Five-year doctoral program

Document review, written examination, and an interview will be conducted.

(a) Document review: Review will be conducted regarding the contents of the application, including academic transcripts and related materials.

(b) Written examination: The applicants will take the written exam (a short essay) at their home or in some other appropriate place. A question sheet (an electronic file; password-protected) will be emailed to applicants on the day before the exam. The following day, applicants will receive the password to open the question sheet and begin the written exam. The written exam will take an hour. At the end of the exam, the answer sheet(s) should be converted to an electronic file and submitted via email.

(c) Interview: The interview will be conducted remotely using Zoom meeting, and the

applicants will participate from their home or in some other appropriate place. The interview will take about 30 minutes. The first 15 minutes will be spent exploring the applicant's past research and future research aspirations. During the interview, the applicants will be allowed to use Whiteboard on Zoom, or a handwritten document pre-submitted as an electronic file by the day before the exam. The remaining 15 minutes will be used for a question-and-answer session covering the content of the applicant's presentation and submitted documents.

For details, please contact the Basic Biology Program.

10. Announcement of Result

First round: The result will be mailed to all applicants in January 2024 via email.

Second round: The result will be mailed to all applicants in July 2024 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. 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