

The Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI  
[Global Environmental Studies Program]  
Doctoral Program 2024  
Special Admissions for Applicants Residing Abroad  
(Privately Financed International Students, First-Round)

## 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. Global Environmental Studies Program Outline

Global Environmental Studies Program is based on research projects promoted by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN). This interdisciplinary research with elements of transdisciplinarity utilizes a problem-solving approach in collaboration with society. The program is designed for students to gain knowledge and methodologies accumulated by the academic fields that constitute Global Environmental Studies and to become independent researchers who will engage in solving global environmental issues with their expertise. In addition, the program will provide research training that avails the research environment for cutting-edge research and the advantages of small-group education.

RIHN is developing comprehensive research that transcends existing academic fields and disciplines through a “Program-Project system” that unites several research projects under a Program. Programs consist of the Research Programs and the Strategic Program, with several research projects under each Program. The research projects are conducted in accordance with the priority issues set for each Program.

The RIHN Center has been established to support overall research activities at RIHN through providing research infrastructure and to promote collaboration with various stakeholders in society toward the establishment of Global Environmental Studies. In addition, the Strategic Planning and Management Department has been established to promote the continuous utilization of diverse research results from Research Programs and Projects and to promote the management of RIHN. The RIHN Center and the Strategic Planning and Management Department are responsible for a wide variety of tasks in cooperation with Research Programs and Projects while conducting research in Global Environmental Studies.

## 3. Doctoral Degree Requirements

A Doctor of Philosophy degree shall be conferred on students who have satisfied the requirements of their respective programs as prescribed below.

[Three-year doctoral program]

Students must be enrolled in SOKENDAI for at least three years in principle; additionally, they must earn the necessary credits, receive necessary research guidance, and pass the examination for a doctoral thesis. Students who are recognized as having achieved significant progress may be able to graduate in a shorter time frame.

#### 4. Doctoral Programs and Number of Students Accepted

Doctoral Programs	Number of Students Accepted
	October 2024
Three-year doctoral program	A few

#### 5. Qualifications for Application

[Qualifications for the three-year doctoral program]

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions;

- 1) Applicants on whom a Master's degree or a degree equivalent to a Professional degree has been conferred or is expected to be conferred by the month preceding enrollment;
- 2) Applicants who have been recognized by SOKENDAI as having academic ability equivalent to, or superior to those who have a Master's degree or a professional degree by the individual screening of the Admission Qualifications of SOKENDAI, and have attained the age of 24 years by the end of the month preceding enrollment. (Note)

Notes:

\*The qualifications concern not the date of completion of the master's course of study, but the date of conferral of a master's or equivalent professional degree.

\*Applicants who intend to apply under the provision (2) above are required to have a qualification screening to confirm "having academic ability equivalent to those who have a Master's degree or a professional degree" before the application can be submitted.

Also, those who have completed or are expected to complete a master's course before the time of enrollment in the program, but are not expected to be granted a master's or professional degree by that time must take extra screening procedures before the application. If applicable, please contact the Student Affairs Section by email before October 30, 2023.

\*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 before October 30, 2023.

#### 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]

November 30 to December 6, 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. Please see the following URL for the list of faculty members.

[https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application\\_info/ges/file/1-3\\_ListofFacultyMembers\\_230728final.pdf](https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/ges/file/1-3_ListofFacultyMembers_230728final.pdf)

[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, December 6, 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 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](mailto:gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp) (Student Affairs Section, SOKENDAI)

Notes: If the applicant will be accepted enrollment, the applicant must submit the original of official transcript and certification of graduation.

## 8. Application Documents

Please read "Application checklist" on our website.

### 1) Application Form (Attached)

Please attach a photograph (sized 4.5cm × 3.5 cm taken within the past six months, upper body, full-faced with no hat) on the Application Form. 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) Your 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 your current research project.
    - The summary of your graduation thesis or current research project should be written in approximately 2000 words in English.
  - 9) Field of study and Research Plan (Attached)
    - The item, "3 Study program in Japan," on the form should be written in approximately 1000 words in English and can include diagrams and/or tables as supplementary information.
  - 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

Screening of application materials and an interview (if necessary) with the applicant which will be conducted online on January 24, 2024 (JST) or January 25, 2024 (JST). Applicants will be separately informed of additional selection details after their documents have been submitted.

## 10. Announcement of Result

The result will be announced to all applicants in February 2024 via email.

## 11. Admission Procedures

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

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](mailto:gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp)