

Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
[Informatics Program]
Doctoral Program 2026
Special Admissions for Applicants Residing Abroad
(Privately Financed International Students)

1. General Prospectus

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI was founded as a national university in Japan on October 1, 1988. The basic concept of SOKENDAI is to develop a new postgraduate education system 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 between various institutions and universities in Japan and abroad.

The parent institutions provide Japanese and foreign scientists with opportunities to conduct advanced joint research in various scientific branches. They are equipped with extensive research facilities and function as centers for advanced studies. Presently, they cooperate to establish a world-class program for postgraduate education at SOKENDAI.

[Admission Policy]

<What SOKENDAI expects 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 with SOKENDAI. In order to properly judge such abilities, various selections will be made according to the respective fields of specialization.

2. Informatics Program Outline

Informatics is a scientific field that studies many problems related to information extensively and synthetically. Informatics started as a field based on a core of traditional information science, information engineering and information processing. Now informatics is a multidisciplinary science covering computer science, information technology (IT), artificial intelligence (AI), data sciences, human-machine interfaces, and studies of methods for acquiring and handling information in natural science, humanities, social science, and so on.

Informatics serves as a pillar of all scientific and engineering fields by exploring methods about information, that is, extraction, representation, storing, management, processing, communication, utilization, and update of information. Informatics thus greatly contributes to advanced goals in industry and improvement in human life.

The Informatics Program at SOKENDAI consists of six sub-fields: Foundations of Informatics, Information Infrastructure Science, Software Science, Multimedia Information Science, Intelligent Systems Science, and Information Environment Science. It has a unique education system where National Institute of Informatics (NII) provides an excellent education and research environment for Ph.D. students of the program with rich and advanced IT facilities as well as leading IT researchers. Internationality is also one of the notable strengths of the program; more than 80 students including many foreign students from over ten countries are learning together, and many classes and seminars are conducted in English. Through their daily life in the program, students are able to gain valuable experiences in a multicultural, multilingual environment which will likely help in their future global activities.

List of Faculty: <https://www.nii.ac.jp/graduate/en/about/advisor/>

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, earn the necessary credits, receive the 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 timeframe.

[Five-year doctoral program]

Students must be enrolled in SOKENDAI for at least five years, earn the necessary credits, receive the 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 timeframe.

4. Doctoral Programs and Number of Students Accepted

Doctoral Programs	Number of Students Accepted	
	April 2026	October 2026
Three-year doctoral program	Several	Several
Five-year doctoral program	Several	Several

5. Qualifications for Application

[Qualifications for the three-year doctoral program]

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions:

- 1) 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) 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 an age of 24 years by the end of the month preceding enrollment.

Notes:

*The qualifications do not concern 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 above provision (2) 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.

Additionally, those who have completed or are expected to complete a master's course before the enrollment in the doctoral program but are not expected to be granted a master's or professional degree by that time must undergo extra screening procedures before applying. If applicable, please contact the Student Affairs Section via email before May 29, 2025 (First Round) or October 30, 2025 (Second Round).

*Besides the above qualifications (Qualifications 1 and 2), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy the qualification requirements for general admission to SOKENDAI. If you have any questions regarding the 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) Have completed or are expected to complete a 16-year course of school education in a foreign country by the month preceding enrollment;
- 2) Have graduated or are expected to graduate from a Japanese university as specified in Article 83 of the School Education Law by the month preceding enrollment;
- 3) 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 at a foreign university or in a foreign educational institute;
- 4) Have completed a 15-year course of school education in a foreign country by the end of the month preceding enrollment.
- 5) 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 an age of 22 years by the end of the month preceding enrollment.

Notes:

Applicants who intend to apply under Provisions 4) or 5) are required to undergo qualification screening before the application can be submitted. If applicable, please contact the Student Affairs Section via email before May 29, 2025 (First Round) or October 30, 2025 (Second Round).

*Besides the above qualifications 1)–5), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy the qualification requirements for general admission to SOKENDAI. If you have any questions regarding the qualifications 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) Are foreign nationals currently residing overseas.
- 2) Arrival in Japan: Are able to arrive in Japan in time for the semester that begins in April 2026 or October 2026.
- 3) Health: Are physically and mentally healthy enough to complete graduate studies at a university in Japan.
- 4) Language Ability: 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 (April 2026 Admission)	June 12 to 25, 2025, 5:00 pm JST*
Second Round (October 2026 Admission)	November 20 to December 3, 2025, 5:00 pm JST*

*The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period, without failure.

[Contact the prospective supervisor]

Before applying, the applicant must contact the prospective supervisor and confirm whether he/she can accept the applicant if the applicant passes the examination.

[Application Method]

The applicant must submit a complete set of application documents either by mail or email. For details, please confirm the following points 1) and 2). The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the application deadline of June 25, 2025 at 5:00 pm JST (First Round) or December 3, 2025 at 5:00 pm JST (Second Round).

1) Mail

The complete set of application documents must be submitted by registered express mail or a similar service. If there are any problems with the submitted documents, SOKENDAI will contact the applicant via email.

Mailing address;

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

2) Email

The complete set of application documents must be submitted via email. If the attached files contain more than 10 megabytes, please send them separately, and number each email subject. Additionally, when sending files, please attach them to your email directly without using

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 of submitting the documents, please contact us.

Email address; gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp (Student Affairs Section, SOKENDAI)

Notes:

If the applicant is accepted for 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 4.5 cm×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) Official Transcripts

- Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcripts of each academic year from both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- Applicants applying for the five-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcripts of each academic year from their undergraduate school.

3) Certificate of Graduation or Expected Graduation (originals or certified copies)

- Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit Certificates of Graduation for both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- Applicants applying for the five-year doctoral program must submit a Certificate of Graduation for undergraduate school.
- Applicants who have not yet graduated from a university must submit an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate before entering the doctoral program.

4) Certified copy of degree diploma

Applicants who have already graduated from a university must submit certified copies of degree diplomas, as follows:

- Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit certified copies of their bachelor's and master's degree diplomas.
- Applicants applying for the five-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of their bachelor's degree diploma.

- 5) 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 that the applicant previously attended). addressed to the President of SOKENDAI. (Original, free format)
- 6) Your past research work and activities (if applicable)
- 7) Summary of your graduation thesis
If the applicant has no theses or publications, please submit a summary of his/her current research project.
- 8) Field of Study and Research Plan (Attached)
- 9) Photocopy of the applicant's passport pages showing the applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number.
- 10) Proof of English Skill (also see Note in below)
Only TOEFL or TOEIC scores taken within the past five years, or IELTS score taken within the past two years are acceptable. Submit one of the following:
 - TOEFL: "Official Score Report" or "Test Taker Score Report (Examinee Score Report)" (a copy may be submitted)
 - TOEIC: "Official Score Certificate" or "TOEIC Listening & Reading Official Score Certificate" (a copy will not be accepted)
 - IELTS: "Academic Module Test Report Form" (a copy will not be accepted)
 - * TOEFL ID code for SOKENDAI is: 7564.
 - * Group tests (TOEFL-ITP test and TOEIC-IP test) are not applicable.
 - * The IELTS General Training Module test is not applicable.

Notes:

- The application documents must be prepared in Japanese or English. If the documents are prepared in languages other than Japanese or English, an official English translation must be included.
- The application documents mentioned 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.
- If the applicant is a native English speaker or has earned either a Bachelor's degree or a Master's degree (whose course must be a program for two years or longer) from an institution in which English was the primary institutional language of instruction, submission of Proof of English skill is optional. In that case, the applicant may be asked to submit additional documents which prove that the applicant satisfies the above condition.

9. Selection Schedule and Method

[Schedule]

First Round	August 20, 2025 (scheduled)	Online interview and document screening
Second Round	January 19, 2026 (scheduled)	

*Interview dates are subject to change.

*The selection method may change depending on the spread of novel coronavirus.

[Preliminary consultation]

The Informatics Program offers all program applicants preliminary consultations with faculty members from whom they wish to receive supervision. This is to allow applicants to select a supervisor of their choice and obtain advice in advance on the content of research to be conducted after admission. Please note that if the supervisor you request is unable to accept you and there is no other suitable supervisor available, you will not be able to participate in the admission selection process. For this reason, please refer to the “Preliminary Consultation” information provided on the program’s website and be sure to select your supervisor through a preliminary consultation.

List of Faculty: <https://www.nii.ac.jp/graduate/en/about/advisor/>

Notes:

*In the Informatics Program, we have introduced a multiple-teaching system in which multiple faculty members work together to provide guidance to students. Under this system, a professor or associate professor joins as a faculty advisor even if the student wishes to receive instruction by an assistant professor, and a system is in place for the student to receive high-quality instruction under a multiple-teaching system that includes assistant professors.

pp*Please note that some faculty members are not accepting new students due to reasons such as their impending retirement.

[Important notes concerning interviews]

➤ Three-year doctoral program

The academic test for admission screening will be conducted by interview. The interview will take 40 minutes. It will consist of a presentation by the applicant and a question-and-answer session regarding the presentation, as well as a question-and-answer session regarding general matters related to technical knowledge and the contents of the submitted documents.

Your presentation should be no more than 20 minutes in length and should include a description of the research that you have conducted thus far* and the research that you would like to conduct in the program. Prepare materials in English for one research topic (for a presentation of at least 5 minutes) and present them in English. A question-and-answer session will be held in English concerning your presentation in English. You must submit your presentation materials in advance. The due date, which will be about one week prior to the interview day, will be specified at a later date.

Please prepare your materials in PowerPoint or PDF format with a maximum of 20 pages (slides).

*Research you conducted for the preparation of your Master's thesis or similar research you have conducted recently.

➤ Five-year doctoral program

The academic test for admission screening will be conducted by interview. The interview will take 40 minutes. It will consist of a presentation by the applicant and a question-and-answer session regarding the presentation, as well as a question-and-answer session regarding general matters related to basic technical knowledge and the contents of the submitted documents.

Your presentation must present your research plan after admission. In addition, you will be asked to choose an appropriate theme and discuss it for no more than 10 minutes. Examples of themes include the content of research you have conducted thus far, a recent academic paper or lecture that left a deep impression on you, the content of your Statement of Purpose, and the reason why you want to study in the Informatics Program.

You must submit your presentation materials in advance. The due date, which will be about one week prior to the interview day, will be specified at a later date. Please prepare your materials in PowerPoint or PDF format with a maximum of 10 pages (slides).

["Criteria for grading, evaluation" and "admission decision"]

Your submitted documents and the results of your interview will be comprehensively evaluated to determine the acceptability of your application. Particular attention will be given to the following:

➤ Three-year doctoral program

- Willingness to engage in research
- Possession of a vigorous and flexible spirit of inquiry
- Possession of an independent outlook with respect to research
- Possession of sufficient ability to carry out research based on past research

achievements

- Possession of the basic academic skills and language ability necessary to carry out research
- Five-year doctoral program
 - Willingness to engage in research
 - Degree of awareness of the issues involved in research (theme-specific and ingeneral)
 - Possession of the basic academic skills necessary to carry out research
 - Possession of the communication skills necessary to carry out research

10. Announcement of Result

First round: The result will be announced to all applicants in September 2025 via email.

Second round: The result will be announced to all applicants in February 2026 via email.

11. Admission Procedures

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

The middle of March 2026 for the enrollment of April 2026

Late September 2026 for the enrollment of October 2026

Successful applicants must complete the admission procedures during the prescribed period.

Further details will be provided separately to successful applicants.

(2) Fees required for admission are as follows:

Entrance Fee: JPY 282,000

Tuition Fee for six months: JPY 267,900

*If entrance or tuition fees are revised at the time of or during enrollment, the revised fees shall be applied from the date of the 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 to enter Japan after receiving the Certificate of Eligibility which is 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