

Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI  
[Molecular Science Program]  
Doctoral Program 2024  
Special Admissions for Applicants Residing Abroad  
(Privately Financed International Students)

## 1. General Prospectus

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI was founded on October 1, 1988 as one of the national universities of Japan. The basic idea of SOKENDAI is to develop a new system of postgraduate education in Japan. Its key features are as follows;

- 1) SOKENDAI offers both three-year and five-year doctoral programs.
- 2) SOKENDAI consists of 20 programs under one institute operated by 20 Inter-University Research Institutes and Independent Administrative Institutions (“parent institutions”)
- 3) Research and education are carried out in close cooperation with the parent institutions.
- 4) Broad and international visions are fostered by enhanced interchange among various institutions and other universities in Japan and abroad.

The parent institutions provide Japanese and foreign scientists with opportunities to conduct advanced joint research in various branches of science. They are equipped with extensive research facilities and function as centers for advanced studies. At present, they are cooperating in establishing a world-class program of postgraduate education in SOKENDAI.

### [Admission Policy]

<What SOKENDAI expects of our grad students>

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

<Basic policy for the selection of our grad students>

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

## 2. Molecular Science Program Outline

This program, offered by the Institute for Molecular Science (Okazaki City), fosters a future generation of researchers who will establish a systematic understanding of molecules—which are the basic constituent units of matter—and elucidate the diverse phenomena that matter presents. We aim to produce graduates who can conduct advanced research (experiments, measurements, theories, etc.), rationally understand the results of their research, challenge unexplored problems with creative ideas, create new intellectual values and universal truths, and contribute to the development of humanity based on molecular science.

URL: <https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/>

## 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 the 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]

Program	First round	Second round
Three-year doctoral program (April 2024 admission)	From Thursday, June 8 to Wednesday, July 5, 2023*	
Three-year doctoral program (October 2024 admission)	From Thursday, June 8 to Wednesday, July 5, 2023*	From Thursday, November 9 to Wednesday, December 6, 2023*
Five-year doctoral program (April 2024 admission)	From Thursday, August 3 to Wednesday, August 30, 2023*	
Five-year doctoral program (October 2024 admission)	From Thursday, August 3 to Wednesday, August 30, 2023*	From Thursday, November 9 to Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

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

[Contact the prospective supervisor]

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

[Application Method]

The applicant must submit the complete set of application documents either by mail or email. For the details, please confirm the following 1) and 2). The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the application deadline.

### 1) mail (air/surface)

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 containing more than 10 megabytes, please send them separately and indicate their numerical order at the subject line in the email. 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 an email from SOKENDAI within a week after submitting documents, please contact the address below.

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

Notes: If the applicant passes the selection process, 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) Past research work and activities (if applicable)
- 8) Summary of your graduation thesis  
If the applicant has no thesis or publications, please submit a summary of his/her current research project.
- 9) Field of study and Research Plan (Attached)
- 10) Photocopy of the applicant's passport pages showing the applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number
- 11) TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score (Only applicants for the Five-year doctoral program)  
In principle, applicants must submit the TOEIC, TOEFL or IELTS score record within the application period. If the applicant who apply for the examination of the second round cannot submit the TOEIC, TOEFL or IELTS score record within the application period, applicants need to submit Attached Form when applicants apply and submit the English score (original) by December 28, Wednesday. (Not e-mail)  
For the detail about the required TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score, please find "9. Selection schedule and Method".
- 12) Elective Registration Form for Specialized Subjects for the Written Examination. (Only applicants for the Five-year doctoral program)  
Applicants must choose two subjects they wish to answer from the following six subjects when applying. Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Biological Chemistry, Physics A (classical mechanics, electromagnetism), Physics B (quantum mechanics, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics).

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

### 1. A Three-year Doctoral Program

#### [Selection Method]

Selection will be done based on submitted application documents and interviews. In the interview, applicants are requested to present the details of their previous research (Master thesis or equivalence) for 15 minutes and future plan that they wish to conduct as their PhD works for 5 minutes. The presentation will be followed by the 10 minutes discussion. English or Japanese will be used.

The interview will be conducted remotely via Zoom web. Applicants will be informed of additional details of the selection process after their documents have been received by SOKENDAI.

In the interview, applicant's scholastic and research abilities, motivation for research, originality, future potential, etc. will comprehensively be evaluated. Total scores of the interview, previous research and academic records will consequently be judged.

#### Notes:

We will provide financial supports as Research Assistant program. We will also provide IMS SRA Supports to outstanding students. For details of application to IMS SRA Supports, see the website:

<https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/sra.html>

Those who are applying for IMS SRA Supports, interview will be conducted as stated in selection method for IMS SRA Supports.

#### [Selection Schedule]

	First round	Second round
April 2024 admission	From Monday, August 21 to Tuesday, August 22, 2023	
October 2024 admission	From Monday, August 21 to Tuesday, August 22, 2023	From Monday, January 29 to Tuesday January 30, 2024

### 2. A Five-year Doctoral Program

#### [Selection Method]

Selection will be done based on submitted application documents, written examinations and interviews.



Applicants are required to obtain the below-mentioned TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score. Please make sure that applicants are not allowed to take main entrance examination unless he or she is qualified by required TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS scores.

Required TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score:

TOEFL: Official Score Report or Examinee's Score Report. The score must be PBT500, iBT61, or higher.

TOEIC: Official Score Certificate of TOEIC test or IP test. The score must be 586 or higher.

IELTS: IELTS (Academic Module) Test Report Form. The score must be 5.0 or higher.

\* We also accept expired scores.

\* English test scores may not be necessary for the applicants who are native speaker of English or graduated universities in the countries where English is a native language and education is made in English.

The evaluation proceeds as follows.

- 1) Examination of application documents: done by referring to submitted transcripts etc.
- 2) Written examination:

Specialized subjects: Applicants must choose two subjects they wish to answer from the following six subjects when applying: (a) physical chemistry, (b) organic chemistry, (c) inorganic chemistry, (d) biological chemistry, (e) physics A (classical mechanics & electromagnetism), and (f) physics B (quantum mechanics, thermodynamics & statistical mechanics). The test duration is 40 minutes, and the answer collection etc. will take about 20 minutes, for a total of 60 minutes per subject. The written examination will be conducted remotely via Zoom web and e-mail. Guidance for Examinees will be held via Zoom web on the following date (first round: around the middle of September, 2023, second round: around the middle of January, 2024 (tentative date)). The detail of the schedule will be announced at a later date. (Please be sure to attend it because this guidance is an important opportunity to check the connection etc.)

- 3) Interview: 15-minutes oral examination will be carried out to evaluate the applicant's fundamental scientific knowledge, research ability and motivation for research etc. The interview will be conducted remotely via Zoom web.

Applicants will be separately informed of additional selection details after their documents have been received.

[Selection Schedule]

	First round	Second round
April 2024 admission	From Monday, September 25 to Tuesday, September 26, 2023	
October 2024 admission	From Monday, September 25 to Tuesday, September 26, 2023	From Monday, January 29 to Tuesday January 30, 2024 (Spare date: Thursday, February 1, 2024)

## 10. Announcement of Result

Program	First round	Second round
Three-year doctoral program (April 2024 admission)	Late September, 2023	
Three-year doctoral program (October 2024 admission)	Late September, 2023	Late February, 2024
Five-year doctoral program (April 2024 admission)	Late October, 2023	
Five-year doctoral program (October 2024 admission)	Late October, 2023	Late February, 2024

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