

October 2026  
April 2027

# For reference

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

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The following Application Guidelines in English are provided for the purpose of non-Japanese Applicants' convenience only. In the event of any inconsistency between the Japanese Application Guidelines and the English version, the Japanese version shall prevail.

**Applicants have to require to obtain a booklet of Application Forms.** 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](mailto: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 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 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 the 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 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](mailto: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)

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

(c) Other documents required by this program. For details, please contact to Program office.

(a), (b) and (c) above must be submitted all together.

(2) Application Period for Qualification Screening

Application Period		
First round	April 2027 Admission	<p><b>Those who apply only for molecular science or those who apply in conjunction with other programs:</b> June 1 (Monday) to June 4 (Thursday), 2026</p> <p><b>Those who apply only for molecular science:</b> July 21 (Tuesday) to July 23 (Thursday), 2026</p> <p>(Please submit the application documents in either application period.)</p>
Second round	April 2027 Admission	<p><b>Those who apply only for molecular science or those who apply in conjunction with other programs,</b> November 4 (Wednesday) to November 6 (Friday), 2026</p>

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

It must be received during 09:00~12:00, 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 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 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		
First round	April 2027 Admission	<b>Those who apply only for molecular science or those who apply in conjunction with other programs:</b> June 25 (Thursday) to July 1 (Wednesday), 2026 <b>Those who apply only for molecular science:</b> August 24 (Monday) to August 28 (Friday), 2026 (Please submit the application documents in either application period.)
Second round	April 2027 Admission	<b>Those who apply only for molecular science or those who apply in conjunction with other programs:</b> December 3 (Thursday) to December 9 (Wednesday), 2026

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

It must be received during 09:00~12:00, 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 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-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 (original)

(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 transferred 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 school-certificate, 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 a second-choice program must copy and prepare the form 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](mailto: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](mailto:kenkyo@ml.soken.ac.jp)]  
\* <https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/file/tokuteiruiki-E.pdf>
- (8) Application for language request for the examination of major subjects (**Form 11**)
- (9) Elective Registration Form for Specialized Subjects (**Form 12**)  
Refer to "Important Notes for Applicants".
- (10) TOEFL/TOEIC/IELTS score  
Please select how to submit your English score on **Form 13-1**. Refer to "Important Notes for Applicants".
- (11) 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](mailto:gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp)]
- (12) Curriculum Vitae (**Form 1-2**)  
Only for international applicants and Japanese applicants who have received their education outside Japan
- (13) 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 copy of the documents for the second-choice program separately.
- (14) 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.
- (15) 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 1-2 and Form 2** is also downloadable at our website.

[https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application\\_info/ms/](https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/ms/)

- 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 academic tests. 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		
First round	April 2027 Admission	September 28 (Monday) and September 29 (Tuesday), 2026
Second round	April 2027 Admission	January 25 (Monday) and January 26 (Tuesday), 2027

Note: Detailed information about the time and place of the examination will be provided with the admission ticket for the exam. 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/ms/](https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/ms/)

### Venue of the examination

Program	Location and Directions
Molecular Science	Institute for Molecular Science 38 Nishigo-Naka, Myodaiji, Okazaki, Aichi 444-8585 Seven-minute walk from Higashi-Okazaki Station (Nagoya Railway, Meitetsu) <a href="https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/about/campus/access.html">https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/about/campus/access.html</a>

## 7 Announcement of Results

Notification		
First round	April 2027 Admission	Mid-October 2026
Second round	April 2027 Admission	Mid-February 2027

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](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 2027 for the enrollment of April 2027

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, 2027 for the enrollment of April 2027

- (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](mailto: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 school 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](mailto: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 determined that your intended education or research activities fall under, or are likely to fall under, the regulations, you may be asked to modify your proposed education or research content. Additionally, admission may not be granted, regardless of the entrance examination results. 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 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 Molecular Science Program (Five-year Doctoral Program)**

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.

### **1. Application**

Read throughout the Application Guidelines and our website for admission information in preparing application documents: <https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/boshu.html>

For details of faculty members, see “IV. List of Faculty Members”.

Applicants are advised to contact their expected academic advisors in advance directly by e-mail and discuss future research themes following admission. The website of Institute for Molecular Science, where educations and researches take place, and of the program, are as follows:

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

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

Applicants can apply to the second-choice program from Astronomical Science, Fusion Science, Space and Astronautical Science, Materials Structure Science, Basic Biology, Physiological Sciences or Integrative Evolutionary Science, if the application period, doctoral program, and enrollment period are the same. Please note that screening of each program is conducted individually, and the date or venue may differ depending on the screening of the program.

### **2. Selection Method**

Selection will be made based on examining submitted application documents, written examinations and face-to-face interviews.

- 1) Examination of application documents: conducted by referring to submitted transcripts etc.
- 2) Written examination:  
Specialized subjects (120 minutes): Applicants must choose two subjects they will answer from the following six subjects when applying (according to **Form 12**): (i) physical chemistry, (ii) organic chemistry, (iii) inorganic chemistry, (iv) biological chemistry, (v) physics A (classical mechanics, electromagnetism), and (vi) physics B (quantum mechanics, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics). Each subject has two questions, and applicants select any three questions out of four questions from the subjects of their choice.
- 3) Face-to-face Interview:  
15-minute question session is to be conducted to examine the applicant's fundamental scientific knowledge, research ability and motivation for researches etc.

#### 4) English:

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 has the required TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS score. If it is impossible to obtain the score record (original) by the application period, applicants need to submit **Form 13-1** when applicants apply and submit the English score (original) by the deadline (first round: Friday, August 28, 2026, second round: Friday, December 25, 2026). (Not e-mail)  
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.

#### Note:

Dates and venues for these English tests are limited. If you intend to apply to Molecular Science Program, we recommend that you take one of the English tests ahead of time.

\*Written examination and the interview will take place at Institute for Molecular Science in Aichi, Japan. Please note that the department office will NOT make an arrangement for applicants to obtain a short-term stay visa for entrance examination, air tickets and/or accommodation.

### 3. Financial Supports

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

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

### 4. Contact details for inquiries

If you have questions regarding this section, contact the following office.

Graduate Student Affairs Section

International Relations & Research Cooperation Div.

Institute for Molecular Science,

National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS)

TEL: +81-564-55-7139      FAX: +81-564-55-7119

E-mail: [r7139@orion.ac.jp](mailto:r7139@orion.ac.jp)

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

### III. Three-year Doctoral Program 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](mailto: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 Program office for details.

( i )( ii ) and ( iii ) above should be submitted all together.

(b) Application Period for Qualification Screening

Application Period		
First round	October 2026 Admission April 2027 Admission	June 1 (Monday) to June 4 (Thursday), 2026
Second round	April 2027 Admission	November 4 (Wednesday) to November 6 (Friday), 2026

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

It must be received during 09:00~12:00, 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 2026 Admission April 2027 Admission	June 25 (Thursday) to July 1 (Wednesday), 2026
Second round	April 2027 Admission	December 3 (Thursday) to December 9 (Wednesday), 2026

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

It must be received during 09:00~12:00, 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.

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

#### 5 Application Documents

Prior contact with the prospective supervisor of your choice is required in order to apply.

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 (original)

- (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 transferred 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**)
- (5) List of Research Presentations and Publications (**Form 4**)
- (6) Research Proposal (**Form 5**)
- Applicants who apply to a second-choice program must copy and prepare the form 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.
- (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](mailto: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 (**Form 10**)
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 the second-choice program must submit another set of copy of the Master’s thesis for the second-choice program separately.

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

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

(14) 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.

(15) 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)

(16) How to take the exam (**Form 19**)

Applicants residing abroad are required to submit How to take the exam (**Form 19**).

#### 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 1-2, Form 3, 4 and 5** are also downloadable at our website.  
[https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application\\_info/ms/](https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/ms/)
- 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 academic tests. 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 2026 Admission April 2027 Admission	August 24 (Monday) to August 25 (Tuesday), 2026
Second round	April 2027 Admission	January 25 (Monday) to January 26 (Tuesday), 2027

Detailed information about the time and place of the examination will be provided with the admission ticket for the exam. 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/ms/](https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/application_info/ms/))

## Venue of the examination

Program	Location and Directions
Molecular Science	<p>• <b>The entrance examination will be conducted at the venue below or through the Internet remotely.</b></p> <p>Institute for Molecular Science 38 Nishigo-Naka, Myodaiji, Okazaki, Aichi 444-8585 Seven-minute walk from Higashi-Okazaki Station (Nagoya Railway, Meitetsu) <a href="https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/about/campus/access.html">https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/about/campus/access.html</a></p>

## 7 Announcement of Results

Notification		
First round	October 2026 Admission April 2027 Admission	Early September 2026
Second round	April 2027 Admission	Mid-February 2027

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](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 2026 for the enrollment of October 2026

Early to mid-March 2027 for the enrollment of April 2027

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 blow:

September 30, 2026 for the enrollment of October 2026

March 31, 2027 for the enrollment of April 2027

- (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](mailto: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 school 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](mailto: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 determined that your intended education or research activities fall under, or are likely to fall under, the regulations, you may be asked to modify your proposed education or research content. Additionally, admission may not be granted, regardless of the entrance examination results. 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 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 Molecular Science Program (Three-year Doctoral Program)**

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.

### **1. Application**

Read throughout the Application Guidelines and our website for admission information in preparing Application documents: <https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/boshu.html>

Applicants must contact their prospective academic advisors to discuss future research themes following admission prior to the submission of the application documents, and obtain in advance his/her agreement to their supervision for the PhD research work. It is also recommended for applicants to consider second choice of the academic advisor and contact him/her as well.

For details of faculty members, see “IV. List of Faculty Members”.

Applicants can also contact their expected academic advisors directly by e-mail. The website of Institute for Molecular Science, where educations and researches take place, and that of education program, are as follows:

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

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

Applicants can apply to the second-choice program from Astronomical Science, Fusion Science, Space and Astronautical Science, Materials Structure Science, Global Environmental Studies, Basic Biology, Physiological Sciences or Integrative Evolutionary Science, if the application period, doctoral program, and enrollment period are the same. Please note that screening of each program is conducted individually, and the date or venue may differ depending on the screening of the program.

### **2. Selection Method**

Selections will be done based on examining submitted application documents and interview. In the interview, applicants shall present details of their previous researches (Master’s thesis or equivalence) for 15 minutes, a research plan for PhD for 5 minutes, and subsequently questions and answers for 10 minutes. The interview is conducted either in Japanese or in English.

(Residents in Japan)

The interview will take place at Institute for Molecular Science in Aichi, Japan. A PC projector is available.

(Residents abroad)

Applicants can choose to take the exam either at the venue or through the Internet remotely (according to **Form 19**).

If applicants choose to take the exam at the venue, the interview will take place at Institute for Molecular Science

in Aichi, Japan. A PC projector is available. Please note that the department office will NOT make arrangement for applicants to obtain a short-term stay visa for entrance examination, air tickets and/or accommodation. If applicants choose to take the exam through the Internet remotely, the interview will be conducted via Zoom.

### **3. Criteria for grading and evaluation**

In the interview, applicant's academic ability, research ability, motivation for researches, creativity and potential shall be comprehensively evaluated. In addition to the interview results, applicant's previous researches and academic transcripts are taken into consideration for judgment.

### **4. Financial Supports**

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.

### **5. Admission Procedures for foreign nationals**

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/>

If foreign nationals are residing abroad, it will take 2 or 3 months to obtain a visa, so please confirm the application period and enrollment period carefully.

### **6. Contact details for inquiries**

If you have questions regarding this section, contact the following office.

Graduate Student Affairs Section

International Relations & Research Cooperation Div.

Institute for Molecular Science,

National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS)

TEL: +81-564-55-7139      FAX: +81-564-55-7119

E-mail: [r7139@orion.ac.jp](mailto:r7139@orion.ac.jp)

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

#### IV. List of Faculty Members

Please see the websites below for course subjects and the faculty members.

##### Program: Molecular Science

The faculty members who accept students for the entrance examination conducted in AY2026 are as follows.

Division	Professor	Associate Professor
Theoretical Molecular Science I	SAITO, Shinji *1	
Computational Molecular Science	EHARA, Masahiro *1	
		OKUMURA, Hisashi
		OKAZAKI, Kei-ichi
Photo-Molecular Science III	KERA, Satoshi	
Electronic Structure		SUGIMOTO, Toshiki
Electronic Properties	SHIMIZU, Ryota	SHINOKITA, Keisuke
Molecular Functions		NISHIMURA, Katsuyuki
Biomolecular Functions	KATO, Koichi *2	
	IINO, Ryota	
Complex Catalysis		MOMIYAMA, Norie
Functional Coordination Chemistry		SEGAWA, Yasutomo
Trans-Hierarchical Molecular Systems	AKIYAMA, Shuji	
		OKAMOTO, Yasunori
Functional Molecular Systems	YAMAMOTO, Hiroshi	
Broadband Multiscale Analysis		KUMAGAI, Takashi
Advanced Accelerator Research	KANEYASU, Tatsuo	
Beam Physics and Diagnostics Research		TAIRA, Yoshitaka
Advanced Solid State Physics	MATSUI, Fumihiko	
		TANAKA, Kiyohisa

\*1 The supervisor who will retire before the minimum duration of study for the 5-year doctoral program (5 years)

\*2 The supervisor who will retire before the minimum duration of study for the 3-year doctoral program (3 years)

For details of research subjects of faculty members, see the websites:

[https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/group\\_list.html](https://www.ims.ac.jp/en/education/group_list.html)

**Contact:**

Graduate Student Affairs Section  
International Relations & Research Cooperation Div.  
Institute for Molecular Science,  
National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS)  
TEL: +81-564-55-7139      FAX: +81-564-55-7119  
E-mail: r7139@orion.ac.jp