

Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
The Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies
[Space and Astronautical 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 which are for graduates with academic abilities equivalent to master's degree and a bachelor's degree, respectively.
- 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. Space and Astronautical Science Program Outline

Space and Astronautical Science Program provides students with comprehensive research guidance in space science (mainly astrophysics and solar system sciences) using space vehicles as well as in astronautical engineering, where research and development are being conducted on advanced space technologies that will lead to practical space environment. A distinctive characteristic of this department is that students become involved in the world's most advanced large-scale projects to acquire not only a rich knowledge of space science, but also the ability to plan and design spacecraft development projects.

[Research Fields and Advisers]

<https://www.isas.jaxa.jp/sokendai/e/>

3. Doctoral Degree Requirements

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

[Three-year doctoral program]

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

[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
	October 2024
Three-year doctoral program	A few students
Five-year doctoral program	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 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 September 1, 2023.

*Other than the above qualifications (Qualification 1 and 2), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy the qualification requirements for general admission to SOKENDAI. If 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 3) or 4) are required to have qualification screening before the application can be submitted. If applicable, please contact the Student Affairs Section by email before September 1, 2023.

*Other than the above qualifications 1) to 4), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy the qualification requirements for general admission to SOKENDAI. If 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 October, 2024.
- 3) Health: The applicant must be in health conditions to be able to carry out his/her graduate studies 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]

October 1 to October 31, 2023 5:00pm JST*

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

[Contact the prospective supervisor]

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

[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, October 31, 2023 5:00pm JST

1) mail

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

Mailing address;

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

2) email

The complete set of application documents must be submitted by email. If the applicant attached files contain more than 10 megabytes, please send them separately and number each email subject. Also, when sending files, please attach them to your email directly, not using the uploaders.

After receiving the applicant's email, SOKENDAI will send the applicant a confirmation email. If the applicant does not receive our email within a week after submitting the documents, please contact us.

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

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

8. Application Documents

Please read "Application checklist" on our website.

1) Application Form (Attached)

Please attach a photograph (sized 4.5cm × 3.5 cm taken within the past six months, upper body, full-faced with no hat) on the Application Form. Applicant's 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 that 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) Qualifications that prove the applicant's language skill
- A copy of Official Score Certificate, Official Score Report, or Examinee's Score report, such as TOEFL, IELTS or TOEIC L&R and S&W must be enclosed with application documents.
 - English test scores may not be necessary for the applicants who are studying or

graduate from the universities in the countries where English is a native language and submit academic transcript from those universities.

12) GRE Subject Test (Physics) Score Report (five-year doctoral program only)

- Note that the minimum GRE Subject Test (Physics) score in the paper screening is 700.
- Applicants are strongly recommended to take GRE Subject Test (Physics) in or before September, 2023. The applicants who will take the GRE test in October, 2023, must follow the directions below; (i) include a copy of registration confirmation e-mail from ETS to the application documents, (ii) send a screenshot of online record to sokendai@ml.jaxa.jp (Student Affairs Section of the Space and Astronautical Science Program) by e-mail before the end of November, 2023 and (iii) arrange the official records to be sent to SOKENDAI.

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).
- The 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

We will carry out the selection in three steps. The first step is a paper screening (including a test of English), and the second step is an Internet interview. Only the applicants who passed the first and second steps can proceed to the final interview (the third step).

[Three-year doctoral program]

1) Paper screening

We examine contents of the transcripts from Master course, application forms, TOEFL, IELTS or TOEIC score, Master's thesis and its supplemental materials. English test scores may not be necessary for the applicants who are studying or graduated from the universities in the countries where English is a native language. If applicant is a prospective graduate of Master course and cannot submit Master's thesis at the time of applying, please submit it when it is ready, after having sent other application documents.

2) First interview

First interview is conducted through Internet soon after we receive the application documents. At the first interview, applicants are asked to have a presentation on their past study first, and then, an oral examination follows to examine the applicant's research plans and other general matters. Applicant is requested to send his/her presentation material prior to the first interview.

3) Final interview

Final interview will be held on a day in December 2023 for selected applicants. At the final interview, 20 minutes are allocated for presentation while another 20 minutes are for question and answer session. Presentation is expected to focus on applicant's motivation for future research, as well as his or her plans and goals, while contents of Master's thesis or its equivalent need to be included also. Applicant is requested to send his/her presentation material prior to the final interview. Question and answer session is conducted based on contents of the presentation and submitted documents.

[Five-year doctoral program]

1) Paper screening

We examine contents of the transcripts from the undergraduate school, application forms, and TOEFL, IELTS or TOEIC score. English test scores may not be necessary for the applicants who are studying or graduated from the universities in the countries where English is a native language and submit academic transcript from those universities.

2) First interview

First interview is conducted through Internet soon after we receive the application documents. At the first interview, applicants are asked to have a presentation on their academic background, research that the applicant wishes to conduct and other general matters. Applicant is requested to send his/her presentation material prior to the first interview.

3) Final interview

Final interview will be held on a day in December 2023 for selected applicants. At the final interview, 10 minutes are allocated for presentation while another 10 minutes are for question and answer session. Presentation is expected to focus on applicant's motivation for future research, as well as his or her plans and goals. Applicant is requested to send his/her presentation material prior to the final interview. Question and answer session is conducted based on contents of the presentation and submitted documents.

10. Announcement of Result

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

11. Admission Procedures

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

Late September 2024 for the enrollment of October 2024

Successful applicants must complete admission procedures during the prescribed period.

Further details will be notified to successful applicants separately.

(2) Fees required for admission are as follows.

Entrance Fee: JPY 282,000

Tuition Fee for six months: JPY 267,900

Student Insurance Fee (Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research): JPY 5,750 (Five-year doctoral program),

JPY 3,620 (Three-year doctoral program)

*If the entrance, tuition, or student insurance 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