

SOKENDAI aims to foster researchers who can play an active role in the international academic community, with the educational goals of “academic expertise”, “broad perspective” and “global competence”. In particular, promoting International Collaborative Degree Programs utilizing joint research networks of IURIs (Inter-University Research Institutes) is a priority for SOKENDAI in order to enhance the international mobility of students.

From the perspective of quality assurance of degrees and education, International Collaborative Degree Programs of SOKENDAI should be operated with “Guidelines for Establishing Joint degree and double degree International Joint Degree Programs between Japanese Universities and Foreign Universities” formulated by the Central Council for Education in November 2014. In 2018, SOKENDAI started a double degree program based on the above-mentioned guidelines.

On the other hand, in the academic community centered on Europe, International Joint Degrees based on the French origin “Cotutelle” (joint supervision of dissertation research by faculty members belonging to multiple institutions of higher education) are the mainstream. In recent years, this trend has spread to Asian countries. In the future, the introduction of the Cotutelle method will be essential for SOKENDAI to expand international mobility with research universities in European and Asian countries. At the same time, for SOKENDAI, which has a diverse and abundant international joint research network and conducts graduate school education for a small number of students, Cotutelle is a method with great advantages.

Based on the above-mentioned viewpoints and the current situation of SOKENDAI, these guidelines present new guidance that should be referred to when implementing International Collaborative Degree Programs at SOKENDAI in the future.

## 1. Purpose of the Program

SOKENDAI implements International Collaborative Degree Programs for the following purposes.

- Cultivate the research abilities of graduate students through overseas research experience.
- By utilizing overseas research environments, SOKENDAI will broaden the scope of students` dissertation research.
- In addition to sending graduate students abroad, SOKENDAI will also accept overseas graduate students and provide opportunities to increase the international mobility of young researchers.
- Expand collaboration and cooperation with overseas educational and research institutions to enhance SOKENDAI` s international presence.

## 2. Definitions

The definitions of International Collaborative Degree Programs in these guidelines are as follows. Terms such as “double degree” and “dual degree” may mean different systems depending on the country or university.

Therefore, when SOKENDAI and an overseas university implement the program below, another name may be used after consultation with the overseas university.

### 1) Double degree

A program in which one graduate student is enrolled in both SOKENDAI and an overseas university at the same time, aiming to complete two degree programs of the same level, and receives joint research guidance from two faculty members belonging to each university. The purpose of the program is to obtain two degrees by moderating the period and amount of study. Students submit dissertations with different topics to each university, and two degrees are awarded through individual thesis defenses.

### 2) Dual Degree (Cotutelle)

A program in which one graduate student is enrolled in both SOKENDAI and an overseas university at the same time, and receives joint research guidance from two faculty members belonging to each university. Dissertation research is conducted under the supervision of two official supervisors based on a framework agreement and an individual agreement between the universities. Students who have fulfilled the completion requirements in advance based on the agreement of both universities will be jointly reviewed for one dissertation and awarded one degree. Under the Cotutelle system implemented by SOKENDAI, two diplomas are issued from each university (1 degree and 2 diplomas system).

### 3) International Joint Supervision

In this program, one graduate student receives joint research guidance by two faculty members belonging to SOKENDAI and an overseas university. The student is enrolled only in his/her home university and belong to the host university as a non-regular (non-degree-seeking) student. One dissertation will be jointly reviewed and one degree will be awarded by the home university upon successful fulfillment of requirements of the home university. In addition, a joint certificate of completion is issued to certify that SOKENDAI and the partner university jointly supervised the thesis.

#### 3. Program establishment requirements

The following requirements must be met for program establishment and implementation.

- From the perspective of quality assurance of degrees and education, the program must comply with relevant laws and regulations and quality assurance guidelines for graduate school education.
- The partner university is positioned as an institution of higher education in the school education system of the country concerned, is an educational institution equivalent to a university in Japan, and has received public quality assurance, such as accreditation etc., required in the country concerned.
- An inter-university academic exchange agreement has been concluded between SOKENDAI and the partner university, and research exchange that forms the basis of the program is being implemented. When establishing a program, it is desirable that there have been systematic research exchange between SOKENDAI and the partner university. At SOKENDAI, the department in charge is responsible for the implementation of the program as an organization.
- The implementation of the program will contribute to the progress and development of the graduate student's dissertation research, the improvement of the quality of SOKENDAI's education and research, and enhancement of SOKENDAI's presence in the international academic community.

#### 4. Establishment and Implementation of Programs

After confirming that the requirements in the preceding paragraph are met, the department that establishes the program concludes a framework agreement regarding the content of the program implementation with the partner university. At SOKENDAI, establishment of the program shall be approved when the conclusion of the framework agreement is approved by the internal committees concerned.

In implementing the double degree program, the joint steering committee will be established for each student. At SOKENDAI, the implementation of the program shall be approved when the teaching plan formulated by the joint steering committee is approved by the department committee to which the student belongs.

The implementation of the dual degree program and the international joint supervision program is approved when the individual agreement that stipulates the details of program implementation is concluded after full consultation between the supervisors and the student. At SOKENDAI, implementation of the program shall be approved when the conclusion of individual agreements is approved by the internal committees concerned.

Please refer to the guidelines for each program for the details of the items to be included in each agreement and the requirements and procedures to be followed when implementing the program.

#### 5. Check and Evaluation

The department implementing the program shall review the status of the program and evaluate it on a regular basis.

## 6. Disclosure of Information

Results and educational outcomes of the programs will be published on the website.

### [Notes]

- This English translation is for reference purposes only.

In the event of any differences in meaning between the original Japanese version and this English translation, the original Japanese version takes precedence.

- In these guidelines, "programs" that are internal organizations of SOKENDAI (e.g., Molecular Science Program) are referred to as "departments" for convenience.

### [Attachment]

1. Type of International Collaborative Degree Programs at SOKENDAI
2. Academic Exchange Agreement Memorandum Template

【Attachment 1】 Types of international collaborative program at SOKENDAI

Types of program	Requirements for the universities	Status at the host university	Fees	Period of program	Completion requirements	Number of Doctoral Thesis	Defense	Doctoral Degree	Diploma
Double Degree	Both universities shall be higher education institutions that have officially been granted authority of awarding degree in the country or region.	Regular Student	Mutual exemption (pay only for home university)	3 years or more (must include 1 year minimum at SOKENDAI)	Completion requirements set by each university must be met.	2	2 defenses (At each university)	2 degrees (Each university grants a degree individually.)	2 diplomas (Each university issues a diploma individually.)
Cotutelle (Dual Degree)	Both universities shall be higher education institutions that have officially been granted authority of awarding degree in the country or region.	Regular Student	Mutual exemption (pay only for home university)	3 years (must include 1 year minimum at SOKENDAI)	Completion requirements set by each university must be met.	1	1 defense (Joint defense by both universities)	1 degree (Both universities jointly award a single degree.)	2 diplomas (Each university issues a diploma that bears the name of the other university.)
Joint Supervision		Non-regular student	Mutual exemption (pay only for home university)	3 years (must include 1 year minimum at SOKENDAI)	Completion requirements set by home university must be met.	1	1 defense (Joint defense by both universities)	1 degree (Home university award a degree.)	1 diploma (Home university issues a diploma that bears the name of the host university. Or both universities jointly issue a certificate with joint signature besides a diploma issued by each own.)

**【Attachment 2】 Academic Exchange Agreement Memorandum Template**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON ACADEMIC EXCHANGE**

Between

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI (JAPAN)

And

\_\_\_\_\_ (NAME OF PARTNER INSTITUTION) (COUNTRY)

This agreement is entered into between the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI (hereinafter referred to as SOKENDAI), Japan, one party, and \_\_\_\_\_ (herein after referred to as \_\_\_\_\_), the other party, both institutions being convinced that academic exchange and cooperation will promote the development of research and other academic activities in each institution.

Article 1. The parties hereto agree to promote cooperation in academic fields of mutual interests through the followings.

1. Exchange of faculty members, researchers, and staffs
2. Exchange of graduate students
3. Conducting joint supervision of thesis
4. Conducting joint research activities
5. Holding lectures and symposia
6. Exchange of information and academic publications

Article 2. Matters pertaining to the implementation of the above mentioned in Article 1 shall be negotiated and agreed upon between both parties.

Article 3. Works results (intellectual property) arising from collaborative research activities under this MoU, and which is rightfully acquired by the institutions, shall in principle be shared between both institutions, and they shall seek an equitable and fair understanding as to ownership and other property interests that may arise.

Article 4. This MoU remains effective for a period of five years starting from the later date of the signing indicated below by the parties hereto. Its period of validity may be extended by mutual agreement. Either party may, by giving six months written notice to the other party, terminate this MoU during its period of validity.

Article 5. This MoU is prepared in English (two identical copies). Each party holds one original copy duly signed by the President of SOKENDAI and the President of \_\_\_\_\_.

The parties hereto establish this MoU by duly signing as of the respective dates written below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr.  
President  
The Graduate University  
for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr.  
President  
  
Date: