

SOKENDAI International Priority Graduate Program in Life and Information Sciences, “SOKENDAI-PGP”
SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)
Department of Physiological Sciences, School of Life Science
Application Guidelines 2018 (SOKENDAI Recommendation)
(Monbukagakusho: MEXT Scholarship Student)

Admission Date: October 1, 2018

Types of Programs: five-year and three-year doctoral programs

Number of Scholarships Available: there are nine scholarships in total: six for the five-year doctoral program and three for the three-year doctoral program.

SOKENDAI-PGP at SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies) is inviting applications for Japanese Government Scholarships (MEXT Scholarships) to provide outstanding international students with an opportunity to pursue doctoral degrees in our program.

1. General Prospectus

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

- 1) SOKENDAI offers both three-year and five-year doctoral programs.
- 2) SOKENDAI consists of six schools with 20 departments operated by 18 Inter-University Research Institutions and Independent Administrative Institution (“parent institutions”).
- 3) Research and education are carried out in close cooperation with the parent institutions.
- 4) A broad international vision is fostered by enhanced interchange among all departments 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.

2. Program Outline

This program aims to foster the next generation of scientists by providing an interdisciplinary education in both life and information sciences, two academic fields that create “fusional reactions of intelligence”. Given the benefits conferred by its high faculty-student ratio, the program provides the ultimate tailor-made education and career supports well-suited to each student's ability and professional goals. The language of instruction is English, enabling Japanese and international students to cooperate and learn together.

3. Department Outline

Physiology clarifies the mechanisms of living bodies from elements (cells and molecules) and systems; therefore, it provides important basic knowledge necessary for understanding pathological conditions. The importance of physiology has increased with the clarification of genome structures. In this **department**, students can learn the function of intact organisms at multiple levels from molecular and cellular levels as basic units of living

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organisms to whole body levels as systems which integrate the basic units. Moreover, students are expected to become pioneering researchers in medicine and bioscience.

4. Monbukagakusho: MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan) Scholarship

The MEXT scholarship provides one round-trip airfare to Japan, and a monthly stipend, in accordance with the regulations of MEXT. MEXT scholarship recipients are not expected to pay any entrance examination, admission, or tuition fees.

For details of the qualifications required and scholarship benefits, please refer to the “Application Guidelines for a Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Foreign Research Student Scholarship 2018 (SOKENDAI Recommendation)” of each department.

5. How to Apply

Make sure to contact a faculty member of the Department whom you'd like to be your academic advisor before preparing the application documents. A complete set of application documents must be sent to the International Affairs Section, SOKENDAI, within the application period indicated below via registered mail, courier service or similar service.

First round	From June 16 (Fri.) to July 13 (Thu.), 2017
Second round	From November 10 (Fri.) to December 14 (Thu.), 2017

Please be advised that incomplete applications will not be accepted, that any changes or alternations to the submitted documents will not be allowed after filing, and that the submitted documents will not be returned under any conditions. Please note that application documents will not be accepted by any Parent Institute or department office.

6. Method of Selection

<Schedule>

First round	August 15 (Tue.) to August 16 (Wed.), 2017
Second round	January 16 (Tue.) to January 17 (Wed.), 2018

<Method>

Three-year doctoral course:

Document screening and Interview will be conducted.

(a) Document screening: Screening will be conducted regarding the content of each applicant's transcript, Master's thesis, and associated materials.

(b) Interview: A thirty-minute interview will be conducted, mainly regarding the research performed by the applicant to date and the content of his or her anticipated future research.

Five-year doctoral course:

(a) Document screening

(b) Written examination (essay; ninety minutes)

(c) Interview (see next paragraph)

The face-to face interview is to be conducted at National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS).

We don't give you any support about obtaining VISA and air tickets, and arranging accommodations when visiting Japan for the entrance examination. If applicants of foreign nationality who live abroad have the entrance examination, please prepare the necessary

procedures for visiting Japan by themselves.

For details, please contact the Department of Physiological Sciences.

7. Announcement of Acceptance

Preliminary admission and scholarship announcements will be mailed in March 2018. Final announcements will be mailed in July 2018.

8. Application Submissions and Contact Address

Applications must be submitted to/General inquiries regarding application and scholarships must be directed to:

International Affairs Section
SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)
Shonan Village, Hayama, Kanagawa, 240-0193 Japan
Tel: 81-46-858-1519/1527
Fax: 81-46-858-1541
E-mail: kokusai@ml.soken.ac.jp
URL: <http://www.soken.ac.jp/>

Application Guidelines for Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Foreign Research Student Scholarship 2018 (SOKENDAI Recommendation)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) offers a Japanese government scholarship to foreign students who wish to study at SOKENDAI by its recommendation as follows.

Memorandum

1. Qualifications and Conditions

(1) Applicants:

The scholarship is offered to new foreign students who have earned the equivalent level of a graduate with outstanding academic performance. The applicant must have a minimum GPA 2.3 or higher and are expected to maintain the equivalent level during the scholarship period.

The applicant to Five-year doctoral course are required to have obtained the following score(s) by the time of application. The original copy of score sheet must be submitted on the date of the examination.

- TOEFL PBT: 550 or higher
- TOEFL iBT: 80 or higher
- TOEIC: 730 or higher
- IELTS: 6.0 or higher

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

(2) Nationality:

The applicant must hold a nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government. The applicant who holds Japanese citizenship at the time of application is not eligible.

(3) Age:

The applicant must be under 35 years old as of April 1, 2018 (that is, born on or after April 2, 1983).

(4) Academic Background:

Applicants for a five-year doctoral program must have completed a 16-year course of study in the educational institutions of a foreign country or expect to complete such a course of study by September 30, 2018.

Applicants for a three-year doctoral program must have been granted or be scheduled to be granted a master's degree or a professional degree by September 30, 2018.

* Other than those above, eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy qualification requirements for admission to SOKENDAI. Those with questions or concerns regarding the qualification are advised to contact their prospective academic advisors well ahead of the application deadline.

* 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. Those who have completed or are scheduled to complete a master's course before the time of enrollment in the program, but are not scheduled to be granted a master's or professional degree by that time should take extra screening procedures before the application.

(5) Study Area:

The study area must be in the same field as the applicant has studied or in a related one. The field of study must be the one available at SOKENDAI.

(6) Health:

Applicants must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at universities in Japan.

(7) Arrival in Japan:

The applicant must be able to arrive in Japan on the date(s) designated by SOKENDAI in the period between the middle of September and the beginning of October, 2018 (the applicant who cannot arrive in Japan within the designated period should decline the acceptance. Those who arrive in Japan before the designated date for personal reasons will NOT be provided traveling expenses to Japan).

(8) Visa Requirement:

If selected, the applicant will be required to acquire a "Student (ryuugaku)" visa prior to coming to Japan. Accepted applicants who are already in Japan under a different resident status must change their resident status to "Student" by the end of September, 2018 (an applicant who comes to Japan with a visa or resident status other than that of "Student" will NOT qualify for the Japanese government scholarship. Also, please note that an applicant who changes his/her resident status to any status other than "Student" after entry into Japan will lose his/her status of a Japanese government scholarship student.)

(9) Other:

Students under the conditions stated below will NOT be considered as a candidate.

- [1] Military personnel and military civilian employees registered on the active list are excluded.
- [2] Applicants who are not able to arrive in Japan on the appointed dates are excluded.
- [3] Applicants who have received the MEXT scholarship within the past three years are excluded (this restriction does not apply, however, to students who were enrolled as a scholarship student in Japanese language and culture program or as a scholarship student in the Japan-Korea Joint Undergraduate Course for Science and Engineering).
- [4] Applications will not be accepted from those who have already won a scholarship from another institution (including the government of their home country) other than MEXT.
- [5] Applicants who have applied for the MEXT scholarship through another university or for the support system for foreign students by the MEXT and JASSO simultaneously are excluded (this restriction also applies to students who have been selected and are to be registered continuously through 2018 with the support system for foreign students conducted by MEXT and JASSO).
- [6] Applicants will not be eligible for this scholarship if they will be enrolled in a Japanese university as a privately-financed foreign student and are on the register continuously from October in 2018.

2. Term of Scholarship

The term of scholarship will differ as follows, depending on the program a grantee takes in Japan.

(1) If a grantee will directly enroll in a three-year doctoral program after coming to Japan, the scholarship will be payable for three years (standard program term) (starting October 2018 and finishing September 2021).

(2) If a grantee will directly enroll in a five-year doctoral program after coming to Japan, the scholarship will be payable for two years (the first two years of the standard program term) (starting October 2018 and finishing September 2020). In order for the term of his/her scholarship to be extended till the end of the standard program term (that is, till September 2023), he/she should make an application for the extension of the scholarship and approved by MEXT.

3. Scholarship Benefits

(1) Scholarship amount:

The scholarship amount for 2018 has not been fixed yet.

For reference, the scholarship amount for 2017 was as follows.

Enrolled Program	Amount of Stipends per month
1 and 2-year student of 5-year doctoral program	144,000 yen
3 to 5-year student of 5-year doctoral program	145,000 yen

Amounts for 2018 may change depending on the budget conditions.

The scholarship will NOT be paid to a grantee who takes a leave of absence from the university or does not attend classes for an extended period of time.

(2) Transportation to Japan:

The grantee will be provided, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, an economy class air ticket from the international airport nearest to his/her home address to Narita airport or the international airport in Japan nearest to the campus of SOKENDAI where the grantee is placed. Other expenses, such as inland transportation from his/her place of residence to the international airport, airport tax, and any special taxes on overseas travel, will NOT be provided (the address stated in the application is considered as “home address of the grantee”).

* No air ticket will be issued to a grantee for a route from any country other than the country of his/her nationality.

(3) Transportation from Japan:

For a grantee who returns to his/her home country by a specified date after the period of his/her scholarship has ended, MEXT will pay for an economy class air ticket from Narita airport or the international airport in Japan nearest to the campus of SOKENDAI where the grantee is placed to the international airport nearest to his/her home address.

* The grantee should buy air travel insurance at his/her own expense.

* The airports for departure and return should be in the country of the grantee’s nationality.

(4) Tuition: SOKENDAI will provide all the tuition.

4. Recommendation and Selection

(1) Scholarship Recommendation:

The president of SOKENDAI, after screening in SOKENDAI, recommends an applicant or applicants who have shown academic excellence and need the scholarship, to the Minister of MEXT.

(2) Scholarship Selection:

Candidates are screened and selected by the selection committee from a pool of applicants recommended by president of all universities in Japan, and, based on the result of screening and selection by the committee, MEXT selects grantees and their term of scholarship.

(3) Documents to be submitted

	(Original)	(Copy)
a. Application for Japanese Government (MEXT) Foreign Research Student Scholarship 2018 (Double-side printing)	1	
b. Field of Study and Study Program	1	
c. Proof of nationality (A copy of the applicant's passport is most preferable)		1
d. Dean's recommendation letter from the home institution, addressed to the president of SOKENDAI	1	
e. Passport photographs or digital images (size 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm) taken within the past six months (Full-faced photograph from the waist up. When photographed, the applicant must not wear a hat or cap hiding a part of his/her face or head. The applicant must write his/her name and nationality on the back of each photograph and paste them on the application forms.)	1	
f. Certified academic records of each academic year of all universities attended (issued by the university attended)	1	
g. Diploma or degree certificate of all universities attended (or an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate from the university by September 2018, where applicable)	1	
h. Proof of the applicant's academic level, such as the academic ranking in his/her previous university (GPA, ABC grading, ranking of academic achievement, etc.)	1	
i. Abstracts of theses		1
j. Qualifications that prove the applicant's language skill (such as TOEFL, TOEIC). * English test scores are not necessary for the applicants who graduated universities in the countries where English is a native language and education is made in English.	1	
k. Proof of the applicant's specific knowledge and capability in his/her field, such as a commendation for research achievement (Optional)	1	
l. Career Plan	1	

(4) Additional considerations

- 1) The documents above must be prepared in Japanese or English using word-processing software (if possible). Print all required documents on A4 size paper (for documents prepared in languages other than Japanese or English, attach a Japanese or English translation to each document).
- 2) Prepare and attach abstracts summarizing the contents of these.
- 3) All required documents must be prepared completely and correctly and a complete set of attachments must be submitted in order for the application to be considered.
- 4) SOKENDAI cannot respond to inquiries regarding the receipt of individual application documents. The applicant is responsible for the tracking and receipt of all materials. SOKENDAI strongly encourages sending the documents by registered mail, courier service or a similar service that provides tracking numbers and receipt verification services.
- 5) SOKENDAI will not return the submitted documents, nor provide photocopies of the submitted documents under any circumstances. Please keep a copy of all documents for personal reference. In the case that a document is not re-issuable, please submit an attested (notarized) copy instead.
- 6) Admission may be canceled at any time, even after enrollment, if the application documents are found to be invalid or contain false information.

5. Notes

(1) A recipient of the MEXT scholarship may have his/her scholarships revoked in the following cases. In case a recipient wrongly receives the scholarship under the following circumstances, he/she may be required to return the scholarship for the period.

- [1] When the recipient has made false statements on the application.
- [2] When the recipient violates his/her contractual agreement with MEXT.
- [3] When it becomes definitive that the recipient will not be able to graduate (or complete the program) within the standard program term because of his/her poor academic achievement or suspension.
- [4] When the recipient has been the subject of disciplinary action at SOKENDAI.
- [5] When the recipient withdraws from SOKENDAI or transfers to a different graduate school.
- [6] When the recipient changes his/her "Student" visa status to some other status of residence.
- [7] When the recipient gets other scholarship (excluding grants for specific research projects).
- [8] When the recipient proceed to the higher courses without the approval for the extension of scholarship by MEXT.

(2) If a recipient takes a leave of absence from SOKENDAI or does not attend classes for an extended period of time, he/she will NOT receive scholarship payments during the period.

(3) Security Export Control: Depending on the specifics of the education and research instructions they wish to receive upon entering the 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 International Affairs Section for further details.