

Department of Genetics, School of Life Science
SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)
Doctoral Program 2019
Special Admissions for Applicants Residing Abroad
(Privately Financed International Students)

1. General Prospectus

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

- 1) SOKENDAI offers both three-year and five-year doctoral programs.
- 2) SOKENDAI consists of six schools with 20 departments operated by 17 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) Through promoting extensive cooperation and interchange among all departments and with other universities in Japan and abroad, SOKENDAI encourages a broader, global approach to science.

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. Department Outline

The Department of Genetics offers education and research opportunities in a variety of cutting-edge disciplines with the goal of investigating biological phenomena based on genetic information. Study and research fields include molecular, cellular, developmental, behavioral, population, and evolutionary genetics, as well as genome biology and bioinformatics. Students can take advantage of a wide range of databases and genetic resources hosted by the National Institute of Genetics (NIG). To nurture independent researchers, the Department of Genetics adopts an educational philosophy by which the academic guidance of each individual student is carried out by the entire faculty. For example, graduate students meet with their thesis committee twice a year to receive advice from faculty members outside their host labs. Other features of the Department include the Scientific Presentation/Writing Program and ample financial assistance opportunities.

Faculty list (<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/faculty>)

3. Doctoral Degree Requirements

Doctor of Philosophy shall be conferred to students who have satisfied the requirements of their respective program as prescribed below.

[Five-year doctoral program]

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

4. Programs and Number of Students Accepted

Program	Number of Students Accepted	
	April 2019	October 2019
Three-year doctoral program	-	-
Five-year doctoral program	-	a few

5. Qualifications for Application

[Qualifications for the five-year doctoral program]

Applicants who fulfill one of the following conditions are qualified;

(1) Applicants:

Financial support is offered to new foreign students who have earned a bachelor's degree or have academic ability equal or superior to that of a Japanese university graduate and achieved a minimum GPA of 2.3 on a 3.0 scale as calculated by the Japanese government official formula. The applicant is expected to maintain a GPA of 2.3 or higher for the entire duration of the 5-year Ph.D. program.

(2) Age:

The applicant must be under 35 years old as of April 1, 2019 (that is, born on or after April 2, 1984).

(3) Academic Background:

The applicant must have completed a total of 16 years of study at educational institutions or expect to have completed a total of 16 years by September 30, 2019.

*Those with questions or concerns regarding the qualifications are advised to contact the Department of Genetics <info-soken@nig.ac.jp> well ahead of the application deadline.

(4) Study Area:

The study area must be in the same field that the applicant has already studied or in a related one. The field of study must be one that is available at the Department of Genetics.

(5) Health:

The applicant must be physically and mentally healthy enough to take graduate studies at the Department of Genetics.

(6) Arrival in Japan:

The applicant must be able to arrive in Japan in the period between the middle of September and the beginning of October, 2019. Any 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.

(7) Visa Requirement:

If selected, the applicant will be required to acquire a "Student" 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, 2019. Any applicant who comes to Japan with a visa or resident status other than that of "Student" does NOT qualify. Also, please note that an applicant who changes his/her resident status to any status other than "Student" after entry into Japan will forfeit all financial support.

(8) Other:

Students to which any of the following restrictions apply will NOT be considered as candidates.

[1] Military personnel or military civilian employees registered on the active list.

[2] Applicants who are not able to arrive in Japan on the appointed dates.

[3] Applicants who have received the MEXT scholarship within the past three years. (This restriction does not apply, however, to students who were enrolled as a scholarship student in a Japanese language and culture program or as a scholarship student in the Japan-Korea Joint Undergraduate Course for Science and Engineering.)

[4] Applicants who have already won a scholarship from another institution (including scholarships from the government of their home country).

[5] Applicants who have applied for the MEXT scholarship through another university or for the support system for foreign students by MEXT and JASSO simultaneously. (This restriction also applies to students who have been selected and are to be registered continuously through 2019 with the support system for foreign students conducted by MEXT and JASSO.)

6. Required Conditions and Notes

Applicants are expected to satisfy the following conditions.

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 Student Affairs Section of SOKENDAI for further details.

7. Application Procedure

First of all, you need to choose your prospective mentor(s). You should be in touch with your prospective mentor(s) and discuss your future studies at the Department of Genetics. Subsequently, send the application documents including your CV (use the prescribed form) and an essay describing why and what you want to study in the Department of Genetics. You also need to send your latest academic transcripts (with GPA) issued by the college or university you attend/attended, and tell us its grading scale/system (including GPA calculation method). The documents should reach the Department of Genetics (info-soken@nig.ac.jp) by November 6 (Tue) 2018 noon (Japan Standard Time). If you pass the primary screening, you will be asked to take a written exam via email. The deadline to return the answer sheet is November 15 (noon JST). The applicants to be invited to take the on-site exam will be announced by November 30. The invited candidates will be asked to prepare other application documents for the on-site exam. Scanned application documents should reach the Department of Genetics via e-mail (info-soken@nig.ac.jp) by January 7, 2019, and the original, printed documents should be submitted to the Education Team before taking the on-site exam at NIG.

For primary screening, please prepare the documents indicated in 'Primary screening' in the instructions on the website of the Department of Genetics and send them as e-mail attachments to <info-soken@nig.ac.jp>.

the Department's website:

[https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/pdf/phd_program/admissions/NIGGS_instruction\(FAQ\)\(2019\).pdf](https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/pdf/phd_program/admissions/NIGGS_instruction(FAQ)(2019).pdf)

8. Application Documents

Please read "Application checklist" on our website.

1) Application Form (original)

Please affix a photograph (4.5cm×3.5 cm) taken within the past six months, full head from top of hair to shoulders, full-faced with no hat to the Application Form. Your signature is required on the Application Form.

2) Official Academic Transcript (originals or certified copies)

- Applicants must submit the Official Academic Transcript from the undergraduate school.
- Submit Official Academic Transcript of each academic year of all the universities or

graduate schools you have attended.

- 3) Certificate of Graduation or Expected Graduation (originals or certified copies)
 - Applicants must submit the Certificate of Graduation from 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.
- 4) Certified copy of degree diploma
Applicants who have already graduated from a university must submit a certified copy of their Bachelor's degree diploma.
- 5) A recommendation letter from the last university attended, addressed to the President of SOKENDAI. (original, free format)
- 6) Your past research work and activities (if applicable)
- 7) A summary of your graduation thesis
- 8) Field of study and study program
- 9) A photocopy of applicant's passport pages showing applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number.
- 10) Examinee's Score Record for TOEFL-iBT or Test Report Form for IELTS (Academic Module) which was taken no longer than two years prior to the on-site exam day.
- 11) Career plan

Note

- 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.
- Application documents above must be prepared using word-processing software. Print all required documents on A4 size paper (if possible).
- 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.
- 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.
- Admission may be withdrawn at any time, even after enrollment, if the application documents are found to be invalid or contain false information.

9. Selection Schedule and Method

Please assemble all the required documents for Primary Screening in one file for each category (.doc, .txt, or .pdf) and send it as an e-mail attachment to <info-soken@nig.ac.jp> by noon on November 6, 2018 (Japan Standard Time). After the primary screening based on the initial application documents, the applicants who pass the primary screening will be asked to take a written exam via e-mail. (The deadline to return the answer is noon on November 15.) The candidates to be invited to the on-site visit will be announced by November 30. The invitees will be asked to start preparing the application documents listed in Application Documents.

The invitees will visit the Department of Genetics/NIG (Mishima, Japan) from January 25 to February 2, 2019 and take the on-site exam on January 30 and January 31, 2019. Preliminary admission will be notified via e-mail by February 15. Applicants who have received an offer must make a decision regarding enrollment by the end of February.

Please see the Department's website for detailed information:

<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions/nig-gs>

10. Announcement of Result

All applicants will be notified of results no later than June, 2019.

11. Admission Procedures

(1) Admission procedures period is scheduled as below:

Late September 2019 for the enrollment of October 2019

Successful candidates must complete the admission procedures during the prescribed period. Further details will be notified to successful candidates separately.

(2) Fees required for admission are as follows.

Entrance Fee: JPY 282,000

Tuition Fee for six months: JPY 267,900

*If the entrance or tuition fees are revised at the time of or during enrollment, the revised fees shall be applied from the date of revision.

12. Student Visa

Each candidate who is selected as a privately financed student must apply for a visa in person at the nearest Japanese consulate in order to enter Japan after receiving the Certificate of

Eligibility which will be mailed from SOKENDAI.

13. Contact details for inquiries

Initial applications must be submitted to / Inquiries must be directed to:

Education Team, National Institute of Genetics (Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI)

Email: info-soken@nig.ac.jp

Please see the Department's website for detailed information:

<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions>

Other inquiries must be directed to:

Student Affairs Section, Division of Academic and Student Affairs

SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)

E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp