

**The Graduate University for Advanced Studies**  
**Doctor Program 2012 (October Admissions)**  
**Applications from Abroad**  
**(Privately-financed International Students)**

## **1. University outline**

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. The characteristic features are as follows:

- 1) SOKENDAI offers a three-year and a five-year doctor program.
- 2) SOKENDAI consists of six schools with 21 departments operated by 18 Inter-University Research Institutes and Independent Administrative Institutions (“parent institutes”).
- 3) Research and education are carried out in close cooperation with the parent institutes.
- 4) A broad and international vision is fostered by enhanced interchange among the departments of our schools and other universities in Japan and abroad.

The parent institutes provide Japanese and foreign scientists with opportunities for high-grade joint research in various branches of science. They are equipped with large-scale research facilities and high-quality approaches and function as centers for advanced studies. At present, they are cooperating in setting up high-grade postgraduate education in SOKENDAI.

## **2. Qualifications**

### **[Qualifications for a three-year doctor-course program]**

Applicants must satisfy one of the following requirements.

1. Completion of a master's course (or expected completion of the course by the day of admission) in a Japanese university.
2. Completion (or expected completion) of a postgraduate course equivalent to the master's course in Japan at an accredited foreign institution within or outside Japan.
3. Completion (or expected completion) of a postgraduate course equivalent to the master's course through a distance education program offered by a foreign university while staying in Japan.
4. Engagement in research at a university or a research institution for at least two years after graduation from a Japanese university, and the approval of Sokendai as one whose achievement in research is equivalent or superior to the academic credentials of those who have completed the master's course.
5. Engagement in research at a university or a research institution for at least two years after 16 years of formal education outside Japan, or completing 16 years of formal education through a distance education program offered by a foreign school while

staying in Japan, and the approval of Sokendai as one whose achievement in research is equivalent or superior to the academic credentials of those who have completed the master's course.

6. Approval of an applicant through Sokendai's individual qualification screening procedure as one whose academic credentials are equivalent or superior to those who have completed the master's course. Such an applicant must be at least 24 years of age.

\* Those who have no Master's degree itself (i.e. have qualified under 4), 5), and 6) above) may be asked by Sokendai to take an extra examination to determine their academic level. This examination is based on the documents of a candidate, and in some cases on an oral examination/interview.

### **[Qualifications for a five-year doctor-course program]**

Applicants must satisfy one of the following requirements.

1. Completion of a bachelor's course (or expected completion of the course by the day of admission) in a Japanese university.
2. Receipt of a Bachelor's degree from the National Institution for Academic Degrees.
3. Completion of 16 years of formal education in an accredited foreign institution within Japan or outside Japan.
4. Completion of 16 years of formal education through a distance education program offered by a foreign school while staying in Japan.
5. Applicants who are designated by the Ministry of Education in Japan.
6. Applicants who have been enrolled in a university in Japan for more than 3 years and were approved as having an outstanding academic record by Sokendai.
7. Applicants who have completed 15 years of formal education outside Japan or have completed 15 years of formal education through a distance education program offered by a foreign school while staying in Japan and were approved as having an outstanding academic record by Sokendai.
8. Applicants who enrolled in a graduate university according to the second paragraph of Article 67 of the School Education Law of Japan and were approved as being eligible to be educated in a graduate university by Sokendai.
9. Approval of an applicant through Sokendai's individual qualification screening procedure as one whose academic credentials are equivalent or superior to those who have completed a master's course. Such an applicant must be at least 22 years of age.

\* Those who have not completed a bachelor's course (i.e. have qualified under 6) - 9) above) may be asked by Sokendai to undergo an extra screening procedure to determine their academic level.

### **3. Doctor's degree**

An enrolled student who obtains the designated number of credits in his/her department will be awarded a Doctor's degree. Requirements for graduation are as follows:

[Requirements for a three-year doctor-course program]

- 1) Study for at least three years. The period may be shortened for those students who have achieved outstanding records.
- 2) Acquisition of required credits in the department.
- 3) Preparation of a dissertation under the guidance of supervisors and a successful defense of the dissertation in a final examination.

[Requirements for a five-year doctor-course program]

- 1) Study for at least five years. The period may be shortened for those students who have achieved outstanding records.
- 2) Acquisition of required credits in the department.
- 3) Preparation of a dissertation under the guidance of supervisors and a successful defense of the dissertation in a final examination.

#### **4. How to apply**

##### **[Number of Successful Applicants]**

The number to be accepted differs depending on each department. Applicants are requested to contact the department to get more information. In general, a small number of applicants will be admitted.

##### **[Required Conditions]**

Applicants are expected to satisfy each of the following conditions.

1. Arrival in Japan: Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan by October, 2012.
2. Health: Applicants must not be mentally or physically challenged in such a way that this would pose a serious obstacle to their ability to study.
3. Language Ability: Applicant should have a good command of English or Japanese.

##### **[Application Period]**

The application period differs depending on each department. Applicants are requested to contact the department for information about its application period.

All required documents including the application form must be submitted through the academic advisor with whom the applicant wishes to study. Application without an academic advisor's acceptance is not acceptable.

##### **[Application Procedure]**

Applicants are requested to submit all the following documents at the same time during the application period.

Documents from applicants:

- 1. Application Form for Admission (Attached) (original)**
- 2. Entrance examination fee of 30,000 yen to be paid**
- 3. Certificate of graduation (original)**
  - Photocopies are not acceptable.
  - Applicants from universities that do not issue certificates of graduation must

submit the original of an attested copy of their graduation diploma with an original official seal or an authorization stamp of the university that issued the diploma.

- Applicants who have not yet graduated from a university (undergraduate or graduate course) must submit a Certificate of Prospective Graduation (document certifying the expected date of graduation) or a certificate of enrollment. Such applicants should, if they successfully pass the entrance examination, submit a Certificate of Graduation to Sokendai no later than September 30, 2012.
- Applicants who apply for the 5-year doctoral course must submit their Bachelor's degree certificate.
- Applicants who apply for the 3-year doctoral course must submit their Bachelor's degree and Master's degree certificates.

**4. Official transcript of the applicant's academic record (original)**

- Photocopies are not acceptable.
- Applicants who apply for the 5-year doctoral course must submit their undergraduate academic records.
- Applicants who apply for the 3-year doctoral course must submit their undergraduate academic records and Master's course level.
- Applicants must submit academic records for each academic year for all universities or graduate schools they have attended.

**5. A recommendation letter from a person who knows the applicant's research/academic activities well (e.g. the applicant's academic supervisor at the current or previously attended university, etc.), addressed to the President of SOKENDAI**

**6. ID photograph:** passport-sized photograph taken within the past six months (6 × 4 cm) is to be attached to the Application Form for Admission. Applicants should write their name and nationality in block letters on the back side of the photograph.

**7. Past research and activities (if applicable)**

**8. Summary of graduation thesis**

- If the applicant has no theses or publications, he/she should submit a summary of a current research project.

**9. Field of Study and Study Program (Attached)**

**10. Proof of Nationality**

- A photocopy of the applicant's passport pages showing the applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number is acceptable.

Note: 1) Submitted documents will not be returned for any reason.

2) Application documents have to be submitted on A4 size paper.

**5. Selection method**

- 1) Examination: Screening is done by examining the application documents.
- 2) Face to face interview or interview through internet/email (Please contact each department.)

## **6. Announcement of acceptance**

Acceptance announcements will be mailed no later than July 2012.

## **7. School fees**

Admission Fee: 282,000 yen

Tuition Fee: 267,900 yen (for the second semester from October to March)

Note: 1) In the event of a revision in the tuition fee, the new fee will be applied from the time the revision has been made.

## **8. Student visa**

Every candidate who is selected as a privately-financed student must apply for a visa in person to enter Japan at the nearest Japanese consulate after receiving the Certificate of Eligibility which will be mailed from SOKENDAI.

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