

Comparison between EA-MEXT and IGP

International students enrolled through EA-MEXT and IGP paths both receive financial support. This document focuses on differences and similarities for students for the two admission paths. Please note that one cannot apply to both EA-MEXT and IGP.

	EA-MEXT	IGP
Target applicants/ Admissions deadlines	Applicants who consider SOKENDAI Department of Genetics their top choice for graduate studies. Application deadline: November 14th, 2016 Decision date for accepted applicants: Feb. 28, 2017	Applicants interested in experiencing laboratory rotations before choosing a PhD advisor. Application deadline: December 9th, 2016 Decision date for accepted applicants: April 15, 2017
Eligibility requirements and application/ entrance processes	<u>EA-MEXT application instructions & FAQ</u> note: English proficiency test score (TOEFL, TOIEC, or IELTS) is required. This requirement can be fulfilled at the on-site exam.	<u>IGP application instructions & FAQ</u> note: GRE scores are strongly recommended, but there is no requirement for English proficiency test scores
	The above two documents, in combination with the present table, are designed to provide full information on the EA-MEXT and IGP application paths and post-enrollment arrangements. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us info-soken@nig.ac.jp	
Laboratory rotations and advisor choice	EA-MEXT applicants specify a PhD lab in their application.	IGP students usually spend the first six months of their first year pursuing independent research in three laboratories (laboratory rotations). Students use this opportunity to broaden their scientific education and to choose their thesis advisor(s). The system is designed to maximize flexibility for students to explore research topics. IGP students submit their rotations choices a few weeks before each rotation (the second and third rotation labs can be decided after enrolling) and students are asked to choose their primary lab(s) for PhD research at the end of the third rotation. Two-month rotations are standard because they allow students to pursue independent projects but our IGP rotation adviser can help to customize this program to suit each student's interests.
Funding	Students admitted through EA-MEXT exam receive Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) Scholarship. http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/toj/toj0302e.html The scholarship amount for 2017 has not been fixed yet. For reference, monthly stipends (per month) for 2016 were: 1st and 2nd year: 144,000 JPY 3rd to 5th year: 145,000 JPY Amounts for 2017 may change depending on the budget conditions. The scholarship will be payable for 5 years. As a rule, students apply for an extension after the 2nd year. The application must be approved by the Japanese Government in order to receive the remaining three years of fellowship. In our department, all students have been approved since the start of this system in 2004. Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation, and tuition will be paid by the Japanese government.	Students admitted to the International Graduate Program receive full financial support for 5 years of graduate study. Each student will be provided with a monthly stipend in addition to funds to cover tuition and registration fees. The financial support is provided by the National Institute of Genetics (NIG). Support from NIG is provided through research assistantships and the tuition waiver program. Monthly stipends for IGP students are currently 170,000 JPY per month. The stipend level is guaranteed for five years as long as a student remains in good standing in our department.
Selection criteria and acceptance rates	The selection criteria are described within "Admission policy" 2017 will be the second year of the EA-MEXT admission path. In 2016, the acceptance rate was 33%.	IGP selection is more challenging than EA-MEXT. Criteria are described within "Admission policy" with additional criteria of "potential to become an outstanding researcher and to enhance internationalization at NIG". The IGP has accepted about 20% of applicants over the last five years.
	Acceptance rates will be strongly dependent on the applicant pools; we suggest that prospective students base their application choice on the program and application schedule that best suits their interests and needs.	
Degree requirements	Degree requirements (for both courses and research) are identical for the programs http://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/courses-top/courses	
Other	Costs of transportation to and from Japan are covered for matriculation and after graduation. Students from both programs are eligible for supplemental funding for research expenses, travel, etc. Such funds are allocated and announced on a year-by-year basis. All international graduate students are provided free Japanese lessons (usually two hours/month). English is the working language for education and research at Department of Genetics/NIG but some knowledge of basic Japanese can be useful in daily life. The NIG administration has a number of staff that are fluent in English. We also have an English Help Desk that can assist with visas, medical issues, etc. First semester students in both programs receive assistance in finding housing and for initial setup.	