



Application instructions

International Graduate Program at NIG

5-year PhD program in the Life Sciences

How to Apply	Enrollment: October 2017 / Application Deadline: December 9th, 2016
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Please prepare the required documents and send them as e-mail attachments to

<nig-igp@nig.ac.jp>.

The application deadline is **December 9th (Fri) 2016 (12pm noon, JST)**.

- Write "IGP application" in the Subject line
- Name the files as follows: Start with "your family name", followed by underscore "_", given name, and underscore, all in capital letters. If your name is "Gregor Mendel", your files should start with "MENDEL_ Gregor _". Add "1" for Application form, "2" for Transcripts, or "3" for other documents. If there are multiple files in one category, number them sequentially by adding underscore and a numeric character (e.g., MENDEL_ Gregor _1_1, MENDEL_ Gregor _1_2).

What you will need to Apply

☐ **Application form**

The form is available at

<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions/igp> . Applicants should register for this exam well in advance of the application deadline (scores must be received by December 15, 2016). When you save the file, please don't forget to name the file as "Family Name_Given name_1" (e.g. "MENDEL_Gregor_1")

☐ **Certificate of graduation or Certificate of current enrollment**

If you already have a bachelors degree please send a scanned copy of the certificate. If you are currently enrolled in a bachelors program, please submit a scanned copy of the certificate of current enrollment that indicates the expected date of graduation.

☐ **Transcript**

Please send a scanned copy of your academic records. Certified records will be required upon fellowship application and enrollment. Please name the file as "Family Name_Given name_2" (e.g. "MENDEL_ Gregor _2")

☐ **Two letters of recommendation**

Arrange with two faculty members or other researchers/academic advisors who know you well to provide letters using the form provided. The forms are available at <https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions/igp>. Instructions

are contained within the form.

☐ **Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score General Test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing)** (optional, but strongly recommended)

This test is administered by the Education Testing Service <https://www.ets.org/gre/>. Applicants should register for this exam well in advance of the application deadline (scores must be received by December 15th, 2016). Please have your scores forwarded directly from ETS to SOKENDAI (**Institution code: 7120, Department code: 0210**). Note that only General Test scores are requested. Students residing in countries where the GRE is not administered should contact <nig-igp@nig.ac.jp>

☐ **Additional documents that demonstrate your academic knowledge and/or English language skills. (optional)**

If you have taken a GRE Subject Test or the TOEFL, please have your scores sent directly from ETS to Sokendai using the following Institution/Destination codes:

GRE subject test: [Institution code] 7120 The Graduate University for Advanced Studies

[Department & Major field code] 0120 Genetics

TOEFL: [Destination code] 7564 SOKENDAI

TOEIC only sends its scores to test takers; please include a scanned copy of the score sheet in your application document. Results from other tests of academic knowledge may also be included in your application.

Note: All documents must be in Japanese or English. Please print on A4 size paper for hard copy submissions. For documents prepared in languages other than Japanese or English, please attach an English or Japanese translation to each document.

International Graduate Program (IGP)

Eligibility and Admissions FAQ

Q1: What is the timeline for the application process?

A1: IGP applications are due December 9th, 2016. On December 9 or 10, applicants will be asked to take a written exam via email to be submitted by December 15th. The written exam is a required part of the application to IGP. This exam consists of an English exam and a mini report. The mini-report is designed to test analytical ability rather than background or knowledge and no particular preparation should be necessary. Candidates selected for interviews will be notified by January 19th, 2017 and the interviews will be conducted via internet on January 26th, 2017 (reserve date: January 27th). Successful candidates will be contacted by late-February. Application to IGP does not require coming to Japan for the selection process

Q2 : Is completion (or expected completion) of a bachelor's course in any country sufficient for eligibility for IGP?

A2 : Bachelor degrees from any country will be honored, as long as the applicant has completed (or is expected to complete) 16 years of formal education (from elementary school to undergraduate college). We will also consider applicants with 15 years of formal education, if they have excellent school records. This includes applicants from countries whose period of formal education is less than 16 years and those who have advanced placement. Please inquire in advance if you have any question on eligibility. Exceptional cases that may not qualify by the criteria above may also be considered. Details of the qualifications for application can be found at the following URL:
<http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/guide/qualifications/>

Q3: If I have masters degree can I apply to IGP and graduate in less than 5 years?

A3 : Several of our current students indeed had masters degrees before entering the IGP and students may graduate in less than 5 years if the host department recognizes that a student has accomplished outstanding research performance. IGP guarantees five years of support for all students irrespective of their prior experience, as long as they remain in good standing. Please note that having a masters degree on its own does not satisfy the eligibility for IGP application; applicants must have had 16 years of formal education, as described in **A1**.

Q4 : Am I qualified to apply even if my university is not in the country of my citizenship?

A4 : Yes, the only condition for using this application system is that the applicant lives outside Japan at the time of application.

Q5 : When can I send an IGP application for next fiscal year?

A5 : Please refer to the application guidelines for IGP which are revised every summer.

Q6 : I am an international applicant currently residing in Japan. Can I apply to the IGP?

A6 : IGP is open to applicants residing abroad (at the time of application). If you live in Japan at the time of application, please apply via the general admission program.

<http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/guide/general/>

Q7: Will my application be accepted without GRE score?

A7: GRE scores are strongly recommended, but we will consider applications without GRE scores.

Q8 : If I am selected for the IGP, will I receive full financial support? Will my tuition/registration fee be waived?

A8 : Students admitted to the International Graduate Program receive full financial support for 5 years of graduate study as long as they remain a student in good standing. Each student will be provided with a monthly stipend in addition to funds to cover tuition and registration fees. The financial support is provided either by Japanese Government (MEXT, <http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/toj/toj0302e.html>) or by National Institute of Genetics (NIG). Support from NIG is provided through research assistantships and the tuition waiver program. The annual stipend for IGP student is currently between 1,728,000 and 2,040,000 JPY per year. The stipend is guaranteed for five years as long as a student remains in good standing in our department. In addition, fund will be provided to cover international flights at the beginning and end of the program.

Q9 : Are there options other than the IGP program for financially supported graduate studies for international students at NIG?

A9 : Yes, there are at least 2 options. Please see <https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions> for details.

1) Early Admission MEXT program (EA-MEXT). One cannot apply to both IGP and EA-MEXT.

2) In a number of countries you can apply to Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship through the "Embassy Recommendation" system.

<http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/toj/toj0302e-10.html>

Please check the Japanese embassy web site in your own country for information.

International students who were admitted via the "general admission" system can be recommended for the MEXT Scholarship through "University Recommendation" system after their enrolment. Students advancing to the third year can also apply to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) fellowships.

In addition, many countries sponsor graduate studies abroad so please check with your university.

Q10: Why does NIG/SOKENDAI have multiple graduate programs and admissions paths for international students?

A10: Our programs may be a bit complicated to understand but are designed to maximize funding opportunities and to allow flexibility in the admissions schedule. The EA program is timed around Japanese government deadlines for scholarships. The IGP schedule is timed to coordinate with decision dates of other international graduate programs.