



**Application instructions for NIG Global Scholar  
(NIG-GS) selection**



**Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI  
5year PhD program in Life Sciences**

**Enrollment: October 2018 / Application Deadline: November 13, 2017**

**Eligibility:**

- ◆ The applicant must be able to travel to Japan from January 26 to February 3, 2018, to take the entrance exam. (The travel cost is supported.)
- ◆ **For eligible candidates, this selection doubles as the selection for the Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship. The applicant must satisfy the following list of qualifications for the MEXT scholarship. The important exception is that citizens of countries that do not have diplomatic relations with the Japanese government (e.g. Taiwanese) can apply to NIG-GS. However, in this case, the applicant cannot receive the MEXT scholarship after enrollment. (\*Taiwanese applicants are encouraged to apply for other scholarships such as Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Scholarship.)**
- ◆ To obtain the Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship, the applicant must accept a potential offer by February 28, 2018.

**[Qualifications of MEXT scholarship]**

(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 calculated with the formula of the Japanese government (see FAQs, Q7) and is expected to maintain the equivalent level during the scholarship period.

(2) Nationality:

The applicant must hold a nationality of a country that has diplomatic relations with the Japanese government (<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/index.html>). 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:

The applicant for 5-year doctoral program must have completed a 16-year course of study in the educational institutions in foreign countries or expect to complete such a course of study by September 30, 2018.

\* Please see FAQs, Q1 for more information. Those with questions or concerns regarding the qualification are advised to contact the Department <[info-soken@nig.ac.jp](mailto:info-soken@nig.ac.jp)> well ahead of the application deadline.

(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:

The applicant 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.

### **Financial Support:**

- ◆ A limited number (2 or more) of successful candidates who are eligible to receive the MEXT scholarship will be offered MEXT scholarships (see next section).
- ◆ Other successful applicants will be offered partial financial support to cover tuition. Please see the following website for our general supports to students:  
<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/main-page-top/various-aids-to-students>
- ◆ Taiwanese candidates are not eligible to receive the MEXT scholarship, and are encouraged to apply for other scholarships such as Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Scholarship ([https://www.koryu.or.jp/taipei-tw/ez3\\_contents.nsf/14](https://www.koryu.or.jp/taipei-tw/ez3_contents.nsf/14)).

### **The Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship:**

**(1) Scholarship Amount:**

The scholarship amount for 2018 has not been fixed yet.

For reference, the amount of stipends (per month) for 2017 was as follows.

1 and 2-year student: 144,000 Japanese Yen

3 to 5-year student: 145,000 Japanese 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 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 home address 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”).

**(3) Transportation from Japan:**

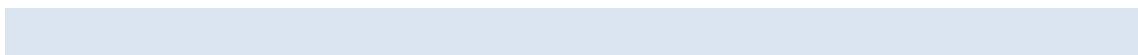
For a grantee who returns to his/her home country by a specified date after the period of his/her scholarship has ended, MEXT will pay for an economy class air ticket from the international airport in Japan nearest to the campus of SOKENDAI where the grantee is placed to the international airport nearest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

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

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

**(5) Term of Scholarship**

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. Please note that the term of scholarship is subject to change according to the Japanese government’s policy.



## Timeline for admission process:

### Before initial application:

Contact your prospective mentor(s) and discuss possible research projects.

### Primary screening

#### **November 13, 2017: Deadline for initial application for the visit to the department**

Please assemble all the required information in one file (.doc, .txt, or .pdf) and send it as an e-mail attachment to <[info-soken@nig.ac.jp](mailto:info-soken@nig.ac.jp)> by **noon on November 13, 2017 (JST)**

Required information

- **CV (Curriculum Vitae)** (preferably in MS Word format).
- An essay describing why and what you want to study in the Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI (no more than 1,000 words).
- One or two name(s) of your prospective mentor(s). If you list two names, place the order.
- The proof of your academic level, such as transcript, from your college or university (with GPA).
- Write "NIG-GS application" in the Subject line
- Name the file as follows: Start with "your family name", followed by underscore "\_", and given name. If your name is "Gregor Mendel", your filename should be "MENDEL\_Gregor".

### Secondary screening

#### **November 21, 2017: Deadline for submission of On-line examination**

The applicants who pass the primary screening will be notified by November 16 and will be asked to take a written exam via email (to be submitted by November 21). In this exam, the applicants are asked to submit a mini report. The mini-report is designed to test analytical ability rather than background and/or knowledge; no particular preparation should be necessary. Candidates invited for the on-site visit and exam will be notified by December 1, 2017. Invitees must prepare and send required documents by January 29, 2018.

### Submission of the required documents for the tertiary screening

#### **January 4, 2018: Deadline for the electronic files**

#### **January 29, 2018: Deadline for the original hard copies**

These documents need to be submitted **only** for those who are invited to visit the Department (notified by December 1, 2017). Those documents are required to take exam at NIG.

- The scanned copy of the documents should reach the Department <[info-soken@nig.ac.jp](mailto:info-soken@nig.ac.jp)> as e-mail attachments by **January 4, 2018** before the original documents are sent to SOKENDAI.
- The original documents should reach the International Affairs Section, SOKENDAI no later than **January 29, 2018** by registered mail, courier service, or a similar service.

#### **International Affairs Section**

SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)

Shonan Village, Hayama, Kanagawa 240-0193 JAPAN

Telephone: 81-46-858-1519/1527

E-mail: [kokusai@ml.soken.ac.jp](mailto:kokusai@ml.soken.ac.jp)

Webpage: <http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/>

<NOTE> 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.

The application documents are:

- Application form for MEXT scholarship**  
The form is available in [Word](#) and [PDF](#). When you save the file, please don't forget to rename 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 bachelor's degree please send an original certificate of graduation (NOT the original diploma). If you are currently enrolled in a bachelor's program, please submit an original certificate of current enrollment that indicates the expected date of graduation.
- Academic Transcript**  
Please send an original certificate of your academic records. Final records will be required upon enrollment if you are currently enrolled in a university or graduate school. Please name the file as "Family Name"\_"Given name"\_"2" (e.g. "MENDEL\_Gregor\_2") when you send a scanned copy to the Department.
- Recommendation from the president/dean of the last university attended, addressed to the president of SOKENDAI (original)**
- Examinee's Score Record for TOEFL-iBT, Official Certificate for TOEIC Listening & Reading, or Test Report Form for IELTS (Academic Module).**  
If you have taken the TOEFL-iBT, please have your scores sent directly from ETS to SOKENDAI using the following Institution/Destination code:  
TOEFL: [Destination code] 7564 SOKENDAI-Department of Genetics  
TOEIC and IELTS (Academic Module), please include a scanned copy of the score sheet in your application document AND bring the original score sheet when you visit the Department for the tertiary screening.

**[IMPORTANT]** Instead of submitting the above-mentioned English test score, you can take the TOEIC (IP) test at our campus on January 29 during your on-site visit. The result will be used for tertiary screening. If you are willing to take this on-site English test, please contact the Department <[info-soken@nig.ac.jp](mailto:info-soken@nig.ac.jp)> through e-mail by **December 8, 2017, noon JST (Japan Standard Time)**.

### **Tertiary screening**

#### **January 26 ~ February 3, 2018: On-site visit and exam**

The invited candidates will visit the Department of Genetics (National Institute of Genetics) at Mishima-city Japan, and will be hosted by the lab of (one of) the prospective mentor(s). Invitees will take the written exam on January 31 and an interview on February 1. Successful candidates will be contacted on February 17 or earlier.

### **Decision for the enrollment**

#### **February 28, 2018**

The applicants who are offered admission with the MEXT scholarship must make an accept/decline decision by February 28, 2018.

## **NIG-GS Selection Procedure and Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Eligibility and Admissions FAQ**

**Q1: Is completion (or expected completion) of a bachelor's course in any country sufficient for eligibility for NIG-GS application?**

**A1 :** Bachelor's 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 questions 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/>

**Q2: If I have a master's degree can I apply to NIG-GS and graduate in less than 5 years?**

**A2 :** Several of our current students indeed had master's degrees before entering. Like any graduate program, completion of coursework is not sufficient to obtain PhD; one needs to report an original research that contributes to the advancement of science and defend your thesis.  
<http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/campuslife/curriculum/requirement/>  
<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/courses-top/degree-criteria>  
Students may graduate before reaching the required period of attendance if the host department recognizes that a student has demonstrated "outstanding research performance". Please note that having a master's degree on its own does not satisfy the eligibility for application; applicants must have had 16 years of formal education, as described in **A1**.

**Q3: When can I send a NIG-GS application for next fiscal year?**

**A3:** Please refer to the application guidelines which are revised every summer.

**Q4: I am an international applicant currently residing in Japan. Can I apply to the NIG-GS?**

**A4:** NIG-GS 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.  
<https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions/general-admissions>

**Q5: Are there any options other than obtaining the MEXT scholarship through NIG-GS selection for financially supported graduate studies for international students at Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI ?**

**A5:** Yes, there is at least 1 option.  
In some specific countries the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship through the "Embassy Recommendation" system is available.  
<http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/toj/toj0302e-30.html>  
[http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/guide/mextscholarship/scholarship\\_jpn/](http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/admission/guide/mextscholarship/scholarship_jpn/)  
Please check the Japanese embassy web site in your own country for more information.

**Q6: I have heard about "International Graduate Program (IGP)" or "Early Admission for MEXT scholarship (EA-MEXT)" of Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI before. Can I apply for IGP or EA-MEXT?**

**A6:** From this year, we combined IGP and EA-MEXT to create a unified system, NIG-GS, to support international students. Please apply to NIG-GS from this year.

**Q7: How can I estimate my GPA (grade point average) for the Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship?**

**A7:** Your official GPA score is calculated by the SOKENDAI administration office. The calculation method of MEXT is described at:

[http://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/pdf/phd\\_program/admissions/appendix\\_AboutMextGPA.pdf](http://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/pdf/phd_program/admissions/appendix_AboutMextGPA.pdf)

to allow you to estimate your GPA.