

Eligibility:

- ◆ The applicant's first-choice for graduate studies is the Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI.
- ◆ The applicant must be able to travel to Japan from January 25 to February 2, 2019, to visit the National Institute of Genetics (NIG) and take the on-site entrance exam during the visit (note that your travel cost is supported). The invitees to the on-site visit will need to submit a scanned copy of their passport at the beginning of December.

【Qualifications】

(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 (see FAQ, Q7). 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.

* Please see FAQ, Q1 for more information. 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.)

Financial Support:

- ◆ A limited number of successful candidates will receive full financial support: a monthly stipend (approx. 140,000 JPY), tuition support, and airfare to and from Japan at the beginning and upon completion of the program as long as he/she remains a student in good standing. The above-mentioned monthly stipend includes scholarships or wages, and the monthly total of 145,000 JPY may not be exceeded.
 - Please be aware that due to limited availability of MEXT funding, eligibility to receive the MEXT scholarship does not guarantee that all successful candidates will receive a recommendation for the scholarship.
 - Taiwanese candidates are not eligible to receive the MEXT scholarship. They are encouraged to apply for other scholarships such as the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Scholarship (<https://www.koryu.or.jp/tw/business/scholarship/>).
- ◆ Successful candidates not selected for the above financial support will be offered partial financial support equivalent to students enrolled through General Admission. Please see the following website to read about the various types of support available to students: <https://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/main-page-top/various-aids-to-students>

Timeline for the admissions process:

Before initial application:

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

Primary screening

November 6, 2018: Deadline for submission of initial application documents

Please assemble all the required information 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)**

Required information

- CV (Curriculum Vitae) ([download the form from here](#))
- An essay describing why and what you want to study in the Department of Genetics (no more than 1,000 words).
- One or two name(s) of your prospective mentor(s). If you list two names, place them in order of preference.
- Books, papers, or lectures that were particularly interesting to you ([download the form from here](#))

- Latest academic transcripts (with GPA) issued by the college or university you attend/attended. If the explanation of grading scale/grading system is available, be sure to include that information.
- Write "NIG-GS application" in the subject line of the e-mail
- Name the file as follows: Start with "FAMILY NAME (in capitals)", followed by underscore "_", and "given name". If your name is "Gregor Mendel", your filename should be "MENDEL_Gregor".

Secondary screening

November 15, 2018: Deadline for submission of on-line exam

The applicants who pass the primary screening will be notified by November 9 and will be asked to take a written exam via email (to be submitted by noon on November 15 JST). 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 is necessary.

Submission of required documents for the tertiary screening

January 7, 2019: Deadline for submission of scanned copy

January 25, 2019: Deadline for submission of original documents

The candidates invited for the on-site visit and exam will be notified by November 30, 2018. Invitees must prepare and bring originals of required documents in hard copy when visiting NIG. A scanned copy of the candidate's passport will also need to be submitted at the beginning of December in order to arrange flights.

The documents listed below need to be submitted **only** by those who are invited to visit NIG

- Scanned copies of the documents for revision purposes should reach the Department of Genetics <info-soken@nig.ac.jp> as e-mail attachments by **January 7, 2019** before bringing the original documents.
- The original, printed documents should be submitted to the Education Team before taking the on-site exam at NIG.

<NOTE> The submitted documents will NOT be returned under any circumstances. Please keep a copy of all the documents for personal reference. In the case that any of the documents is not re-issuable, please submit an attested (notarized) copy of it instead.

The main application documents are:

- Application form**
The form is available in Excel and PDF (download the form from here: Excel / PDF). When you save the file, please do not forget to rename the file as "FAMILY NAME (in capitals)"_" Given name"_"1" (e.g. "MENDEL_Gregor_1")
- Field of Study and Study Program**
- Certificate of graduation or Certificate of current enrollment**
If you already have a bachelor's degree, please submit 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 submit 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 (in capitals)"_" Given name"_"2"

(e.g. “MENDEL_ Gregor _2”) when you send a scanned copy to the Department of Genetics.

- **Recommendation from the last university attended, addressed to the president of SOKENDAI (original)**
- **Career Plan**
- **Examinee’s Score Record for TOEFL-iBT or Test Report Form for IELTS (Academic Module)**

The test must be taken no longer than two years prior to the on-site exam day.
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
For IELTS (Academic Module), please include a scanned copy of your Test Report Form in your application document AND bring the original report form when you visit NIG for the tertiary screening.

The documents above must be prepared in Japanese or English using word-processing software. Print all required documents on A4 size paper. For documents prepared in languages other than Japanese or English, attach a Japanese or English translation to each document.

Tertiary screening

January 25 ~ February 2, 2019: On-site visit and exam

The invited candidates will visit NIG in Mishima, Japan, and will be hosted by the lab of (one of) the prospective mentor(s). Invitees will take the written exam on January 30 and be interviewed on January 31.

Decision for the enrollment

February 28, 2019

Successful candidates of the tertiary screening will be contacted on February 15 or earlier. The applicants who are offered admission must make an accept/decline decision by February 28, 2019.

NIG-GS Selection 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 a Ph.D.; one needs to conduct and report 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 NIG-GS selection for financially supported graduate studies for international students at the Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI?

A5: Yes, there is at least one 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/

Please check the Japanese embassy website in your own country for more information.

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

A6: We have combined IGP and EA-MEXT to create a unified system, NIG-GS, to support international students. Please apply to NIG-GS.

Q7: How can I estimate my GPA (grade point average)?

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

http://www.nig.ac.jp/nig/pdf/phd_program/admissions/appendix_AboutMextGPA.pdf

You may follow the link to learn how to estimate your GPA.

Q8: What is the minimum score of each English proficiency test required to apply to NIG-GS?

A8: NIG-GS does not set the minimum scores for admission.

Q9: If I pass NIG-GS selection, will I receive financial support? Will my tuition be waived?

A9: A limited number out of all the successful students admitted through NIG-GS will receive financial support for 5 years of graduate study as long as they remain students in good standing. Those students will be provided with a monthly stipend in addition to funds to cover tuition. The financial support is provided either by NIG or by scholarships including the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship.

Other successful students will receive partial financial support from NIG equivalent to students enrolled through General Admission.

Support from NIG is provided through research assistantships and the tuition waiver program of SOKENDAI.