



**Application instructions for the Early Admission
Process for Japanese Government (MEXT)
scholarship (EA-MEXT)
at Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI
5year PhD program in Life Sciences**



Enrollment: October 2017 / Application Deadline: November 14th, 2016

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be able to come to Japan from January 27th to February 4th, 2017, to take the entrance exam. (The travel cost is supported.)
- The applicant must make an accept/decline decision on a potential offer by February 28th, 2017.
- Qualifications for the Japanese government (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 1st, 2017 (that is, born on or after April 2nd, 1982).
 - (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 30th, 2017.

* 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> 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, 2017 (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 “College 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 “College Student” by the end of September, 2017 (an applicant who comes to Japan with a visa or resident status other than that of “College 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 “College 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 2017 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 in 2017 as a privately-financed foreign student and are on the register continuously from October in 2016.

Scholarship:

(1) Scholarship Amount:

The scholarship amount for 2017 has not been fixed yet.

For reference, the amount of stipends (per month) for 2016 was as follows.

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

3 to 5-year student: 145,000 Japanese Yen

Amounts for 2017 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 the admission process:

Before initial application:

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

Primary screening: Initial application for the visit to the department: application deadline = Nov. 14th, 2016

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>.

The application deadline is **November 14th (Mon) 2016, noon JST (Japan Standard Time)**.

- Write "EA-MEXT 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".
- Required information
 - Your CV
 - 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).

Secondary screening: On-line exam: Nov. 17th ~ 22nd, 2016

The applicants who pass the primary screening will be notified by November 17th and will be asked to take a written exam via email (to be submitted by November 22nd). 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 2nd, 2016. Invitees must prepare and send required documents (listed in the next page) by January 30th, 2017.

3rd screening: On-site visit and exam: Jan 27th ~ Feb 4th, 2017

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 February 1st and interview on February 2nd. Successful candidates will be contacted on February 18th or earlier.

Decision for the enrollment

The applicants who are offered admission with the MEXT scholarship must make an accept/decline decision by **February 28th, 2017**.

Preparation of application documents for the 3rd screening

- These documents need to be submitted only for those who are invited to visit the Department (notified by December 2nd, 2016).
- The scanned copy of the documents should reach the Department <info-soken@nig.ac.jp> as e-mail attachments by January 5th, 2017 before the original documents are sent to SOKENDAI.
- The original documents should reach the International Affairs Section, SOKENDAI no later than January 30th, 2017 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

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

- The application documents are:
 - Application form**

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.
 - 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 a 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 (original)**
 - Examinee's Score Record for TOEFL-iBT, Official Certificate for TOEIC, 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 3rd screening.

[IMPORTANT] Instead of submitting the above-mentioned English test score, you can take TOEIC (IP) test at our campus on January 30th during your on-site visit. The result will be used for the 3rd screening. If you are willing to take this on-site English test, please contact the Department <info-soken@nig.ac.jp> through e-mail by **December 9th, 2016, noon JST (Japan Standard Time)**.

**Early Admission Process for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship
(EA-MEXT)
Eligibility and Admissions FAQ**

Q1 : Is completion (or expected completion) of a bachelor's course in any country sufficient for eligibility for EA-MEXT?

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/admissions/qualifications.html#qua5yearDrCourse>

Q2 : If I have a master's degree can I apply to EA-MEXT 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/>
<http://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 accomplished "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 an EA-MEXT 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 EA-MEXT?

A4 : EA-MEXT 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.nig.ac.jp/nig/phd-program/admissions-top/admissions/general-admissions>

Q5 : Are there any options other than EA-MEXT for financially supported graduate studies for international students at Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI ?

A5 : Yes, there are at least 2 options.
One is our International Graduate Program (IGP). Please see [application instructions](#) and [comparison table](#) for details. One cannot apply to both IGP and EA-MEXT.
Second, 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 web site in your own country for more information. In addition, students advancing to the third year can also apply for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) fellowship. Many countries sponsor graduate studies abroad – please check with your university.

Q6: Why does the Department of Genetics, SOKENDAI have multiple admission paths (EA-MEXT and IGP) for financially supported graduate studies?

A6: Our admission paths may be a bit complicated to understand but are designed to maximize funding opportunities and to allow flexibility in the admission schedule. The EA-MEXT is timed around the deadline for the Japanese government scholarship. The IGP schedule is timed to coordinate with decision dates of other international graduate programs.

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
to allow you to estimate your GPA.