

Guidelines for Applying to the SOKENDAI Special Researcher Program (Pioneering Research Type)
For Fiscal Year 2021

1. Aim

The SOKENDAI Special Researcher Program (Pioneering Research type) is designed to foster human resources who will be responsible for the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan. SOKENDAI students who are independently conducting original and challenging research that is not bound by the framework of existing research fields, departments, schools or other organizations will be appointed as Special Researchers and will be provided with research incentive and research expenses.

This program is subsidized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) under the “Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation.”

2. Intended number for adoption (for FY 2021)

10 persons

3. Requirements for applicants

Applicants are required to meet all of the following conditions as of October 1, 2021 (An estimation can be made at the time of application).

1) They should have been enrolled for 24 to 54 months in a 5-year doctoral course (excluding transfer students), or have transferred to the third year of the 5-year doctoral course and have been enrolled for 1 to 30 months. Those who have enrolled in SOKENDAI on October 2021 cannot apply this program.

2) They should not receive a scholarship under the government-sponsored international student system, a research grant from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for special researchers, or any foreign government-financed scholarship.

3) They should not be a SOKENDAI Special Researcher (Field-Specific type).

4) They should not receive stable income such as salary or executive remuneration at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (JPY 2.4 million/year (before tax) or more) from SOKENDAI, a parent institute, or a company.

5) They are requested to participate in "SOKENDAI Student Dispatch Program", "SOKENDAI Dual Degree Program", or "Internal Joint Advising Program". However, this does not apply to students who have been enrolled in a 5-year doctoral course (excluding transfer students) for more than 48 months, or who have transferred to the third year of the 5-year doctoral course and have been enrolled for more than 24 months.

*Even if you are expected to meet the qualifications at the time of application, your application may be canceled if you are unable to meet the qualifications due to a leave of absence or other reasons.

*Students in the long-term course system are not eligible to apply.

*The period of a leave of absence (calculated by rounding up to the nearest month) during the doctoral course is not counted within the enrollment period. However, if the total leave of absence is less than six

months, it will be counted within the enrollment period.

*International students are also eligible for the support, but it is assumed that the students will have the intention and ability to be involved in the creation of science, technology and innovation in Japan after taking degrees.

* It is possible to receive reward for Research Assistant (RA) · Teaching Assistant (TA) together with the support from SOKENDAI Special Researcher Program (Pioneering Research Type).

* It is possible to apply together with “Field-Specific Type” but if you pass both tests, you will be appointed as a special researcher for one of them at the discretion of the university.

4. Appointment start date

October 1, 2021

*Regardless of the timing of the appointing decision, appointing will begin retroactively on October 1, 2021.

5. Period of appointment

The period obtained by subtracting the period of enrollment up to the day before the start of appointment from the standard period of study stipulated in Article 21 of the School Regulations.

*If you complete the doctoral course and obtain a doctoral degree during the period, the appointment will be terminated at the end of month in which you obtain the degree.

6. Scholarship

1) Fellowship (for living expenses)

The amount to be paid for AY 2021 is listed below. Please note that the amount is subject to change.

JPY 190,000 per month

2) Research grant

To support the research plan described in the application form, a grant for research expenses (up to JPY 400,000 per year) will be provided.

*Additional research expenses may be provided in addition to the aforementioned amount, taking into consideration the individual research plan and the progress of the research.

*Please note that the above scholarship amounts are subject to change depending on the budget situation.

7. Application form

1) Application form

Please fill in the required information, convert it to a PDF file, and submit it as an email attachment.

2) Recommendation letter

Please ask your chief supervisor to prepare and send the recommendation letter.

*The recommendation letter should be submitted directly from the supervisor to the project office, and the project office will not disclose it to the applicant.

8. Application destination

Promotion Office for Pioneering Research Initiated by Next Generation
jisedai-jimu(at)ml.soken.ac.jp

9. Application deadline

October 8, 2021 15:00

10. Selection and disclosure of results

1) Selection

The first screening (document review) and the second screening (online interview) will be conducted to determine the candidates who will be offered appointment.

2) Standard for screening

- (1) The applicant must have a strong will and concrete vision to work as a professional engaged in academia or research and development after completing the doctoral course.
- (2) The applicant must be expected to become an outstanding researcher who will play a leading role in the future of academia or intellectual infrastructure of society.
- (3) The applicant must have excellent ability to set up challenging research problems with excellent imagination, and to carry out research to clarify and solve problems, regardless of the field.
- (4) The applicant must be original in his/her approach to research and have a unique vision for the future development of his/her research.

*In addition to the aforementioned, priority will be given to students who have a research plan that includes an international dual degree/double degree /cotutelle program with an overseas university or on-campus joint supervision with a department or school other than the one to which they belong.

Those who have been enrolled in a 5-year doctoral course (excluding transfer students) for more than 48 months, or who have transferred to the third year of the 5-year doctoral course and have been enrolled for more than 24 months, but have not participated in any of the above programs, will be screened based on their experience in attending international conferences, participating in joint research, etc.

3) Disclosure of results

The results of the first screening will be notified immediately after the completion of the first screening, and successful applicants will be informed of the schedule for the second screening (online interview).

The results of the second screening (“unofficial decision,” “backup candidate,” or “rejection”) will be

announced by the end of October 2021. The second screening will be carried out between October 25 and October 29, 2021.

The project office will not respond to individual inquiries regarding the selection process.

11. Information regarding application documents and selection

- (1) Application documents must be submitted in the prescribed format.
- (2) After the application documents have been submitted, the information in the documents cannot be changed or supplemented.
- (3) If more than one application is submitted, all applications will be invalidated.
- (4) If any falsehood is found in the application documents, the application may be canceled even after the applicant has been appointed.

12. Obligation of special researcher

- (1) Special researchers must be enrolled in a doctoral course at SOKENDAI during the appointment period.
- (2) The special researcher must devote themselves to research based on the research plan described in the application form during the period of appointment.
- (3) The special researcher must submit a research status report at the designated time each year and submit an employment status survey upon completing the appointment period and the doctoral course, respectively.
- (4) Special researchers must participate in lectures, workshops, etc. designated by SOKENDAI to improve their research ability and embark upon a career as a researcher.
- (5) Special researchers may not take a permanent job* (JPY 2.4 million/year (before tax) or more) during their appointment period.
- (6) Special researchers must cooperate as much as possible with the following matters based on the request for cooperation from the Japan Science and Technology Agency.
 - a) Participation in doctoral student exchange meetings
 - b) Cooperation in monitoring surveys conducted by the JST
 - c) Cooperation in follow-up surveys after completion of the doctoral course
 - d) Cooperation in other matters requested by the JST.
- (7) Special researchers must complete a training program on research integrity (eAPRIN) before starting the research. (Detail information will be provided at the time of adoption.)

*They are allowed to take a job for temporary income (part-time job, research assistant, etc.).

13. Termination or cancellation of appointment and request for refund

In the event that the performance of the obligations listed in the previous section is found to be inadequate, or if the president determines that the special researcher meets any of the disqualifying conditions mentioned below, the appointment of the special researcher may be terminated or canceled. Additionally,

the payment of scholarship may be stopped or a request may be made for the return the scholarship amount that has been already disbursed. The disqualifying conditions are:

- (1) If the special researcher completes the doctoral course and receives a degree.
- (2) If they receive a scholarship under the government-sponsored international student system, a research grant from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for special researchers, or any foreign government-financed scholarship.
- (3) If it is clear that the research cannot continue due to illness, etc.
- (4) In case of the researcher taking a leave of absence from SOKENDAI.
- (5) In case of the researcher's withdrawal from SOKENDAI (including expulsion).
- (6) In case of disciplinary action against the researcher.
- (7) In case of poor academic performance or conduct.
- (8) If there is a significant problem with the progress of the research and it is judged that the desired research results cannot be achieved.
- (9) If the documents required for the post-application procedures are not submitted on time.
- (10) If any falsehoods are found in the documents submitted for the post-application procedures.
- (11) If research misconduct is discovered.
- (12) If research funds are misused.
- (13) If the researcher declines the position.
- (14) In the event of other clearly inappropriate behaviors as a special researcher.

14. Policy on Handling Personal Information

SOKENDAI shall not use the personal information of applicants for purposes other than the execution of the Special Researcher Program, which includes outsourcing operations on the condition that SOKENDAI reaches an agreement with the outsourcers regarding the appropriate handling of personal information. Additionally, it will not disclose such information to third parties without the student's consent, except as otherwise stipulated in Article 9 of the Act on the Protection of Personal Information Held by Independence Administrative Agencies.

15. Contact (Program Office)

Promotion Office for Pioneering Research Initiated by Next Generation
jisedai-jimu(at)ml.soken.ac.jp *Please replace (at) with @.