

Course Number	06080
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**2006 「The International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP)」**  
**～Advanced Graduate Courses for International Students～**

**【 1 . Profile of the University】**

①University Department	The Graduate University for Advanced Studies School of Life Science				
②President	KODAIRA, Keiichi				
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④Contact	Division	Director for Academic and Student Affairs			
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⑤Web-Address	<a href="http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/">http://www.soken.ac.jp/en/</a>				
⑥Enrollment (only Graduate School)	90 (include MEXT's Scholarship Students : 45 )				

**【 2 . Outline of the Course】**

①Course	Life Sciences Training Program in English for Foreign Students		
②Degree	Doctor (5 years)		
③Graduate Course, Department	Department of Physiological Sciences, School of Life Science (Address) 38 Nishigonaka, Myodaiji, Okazaki, 444-8585 Aichi Japan		
④Collaboration (Universities, Graduate courses, Departments)	School of Life Science / Department of Genetics, Department of Basic Biology		
⑤Quota	6 (include MEXT's Scholarship Students : 3 ) (include Japanese : 0 )		
⑥Faculties	198 (Full-time(only for this course):194, Full-time(at the department offering this course):4, Part time : 0 )		
⑦Representative of the Course	Job Title : Dean of the School of Life Science, Professor		
	Name : KOMATSU, Hidehiko		

### **[3. Course Contents]**

#### **Aim of the Program**

This English-medium program aims to cultivate leading scientists through collaboration among the following three departments in the School of Life Science:

- The Department of Physiological Sciences
- The Department of Basic Biology
- The Department of Genetics.

To achieve this aim, we arrange international meetings and seminars abroad. The meetings and seminars provide us with the opportunity to recruit students of high calibre, through interviews and by promoting our scientific achievements.

After gaining admission, the students in each of the departments will receive extensive training programs in English. In addition, exchange programs will be instituted between different departments through mutual visits and participation in joint seminars on life sciences, thus facilitating interactions between foreign and Japanese students. By admitting foreign students from across the globe, we hope to enhance the international competitiveness of both the students and our university.

The School of Life Sciences at our graduate university started—for the first time—a 3-year international PhD program in English; so far, we have admitted 10 students. By making all the courses available in English, we have succeeded in increasing the number of foreign applicants. However, due to the varying backgrounds of our students, it was not easy for even the excellent students to obtain a PhD degree within three years. In addition, in the case of Japanese students, we started a 5-year program in 2003 to promote high-quality research for PhD theses. The current program for foreign students—The International Priority Graduate Programs—enables us to provide all the students with a consistent quality of education, over a longer term, thus enhancing the efficiency of the program.

Our graduate school has already concluded agreements with universities abroad; in the future, we aim to strengthen cooperation with these universities and conclude agreements with other universities in order to recruit foreign students not only from Asian countries but also from Western countries. This will further diversify our student base. Through such processes, we will actively contribute to international collaboration and sow the seeds for international consortium from a global perspective.

#### **Features of the Program**

##### **I. Program conducted in English**

All the training in this program will be imparted in English, and the content of the training will be similar to that used for the 5-year program for Japanese PhD students. Professors at the School of Life Science will hold regular lectures in English, in specialized subjects, common subjects, and e-learning; further, occasional life sciences seminars will also be held. All the senior staff members of the departments will provide supervision, in English, for experiments, scientific reports, and presentations during meetings. Since English communication skills are indispensable for students, we refer to the applicants' TOEFL and other scores during the entrance examination. The School of Life Science has leading scientists in various fields who interact on a daily basis with other scientists all over the world in English. Further, education in the PhD program is imparted through the medium of English. In addition, even while working in the laboratory, communication usually takes place in English, even in the case of Japanese students.

## **II. Short-term visits**

At the School of Life Science, we promote scientific interaction networking through agreements with foreign universities and through research collaborations. We strive to extend this network in order to facilitate international interactions by students. For those students who are interested in pursuing their studies in Japan, we support short-term (2 weeks–2 months) visits to our institutes in order that these students can experience our training system in English. These short-term visits should make it easier for students to decide on selecting our university for the 5-year program.

## **III. Attention given to overseas students after admission**

Our graduate school provides overseas students with all the requirements for them to have an enjoyable stay in Japan:

- **Support:** Each foreign student is assigned one Japanese PhD student as an advisor to provide any kind of support needed for the student's stay in Japan.
- **Interaction:** We take measures to ensure that the foreign students do not feel isolated, by facilitating interaction through a discussion forum for students.
- **Accommodation:** Supervisors and advisors provide the students with sufficient support with all arrangements for accommodation.
- **Programs & seminars:** In addition, we hold summer programs and joint seminars in the field of life sciences. We encourage foreign students to participate in these programs and establish ties with foreign and Japanese students from other departments.
- **Campus visits:** Our graduate school has two campuses, one in Okazaki and another in Mishima. As part of this program, we support joint programs that include mutual student visits to both these campuses.
- **Communication:** Students are also encouraged to make use of web-based e-learning and meeting systems to facilitate communication in English; thus, even after they graduate and return home, they will be able to communicate with each other for collaborative research.

### **Recruitment and Selection Process**

In addition to personal ties made by students and the announcement posted on the university's home page, we hold Sokendai lectures abroad and use opportunities of international meetings for the interview. So far, we have conducted interviews in China, Korea, India, and Thailand. In the future, we expect to conduct further interviews overseas. We will attempt to use the WebELS system [<http://weblsx.ex.nii.ac.jp/Meeting/index.html>] to conduct international interviews with foreign students. Some of the departments even invite candidates to Japan for personal interviews and select awardees for the MEXT scholarship.

### **Career Path after Graduation and Follow-up**

After the completion of this 5-year program, postdoctoral students are expected to work as researchers in Japan or abroad. In the event that they decide to work abroad, some will return to their native countries and others will go to a different country to pursue their interests. In the latter case, supervisors provide them with advice on how to select a suitable laboratory and help with the necessary arrangements and negotiations. Some scientists who have completed our program still collaborate with our institute and return to Japan as visiting professors. In order to maintain relationships and pursue research collaboration, we try to follow-up with the graduates of this course and invite them to international symposiums held by Sokendai.