

SOPHIA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HUMAN SCIENCES
MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION

English-taught program

上智大学 総合人間科学研究科

教育学専攻（英語修学者向け）

APPLICATION BOOKLET

Academic Year 2026

2026年度入試要項

M.A. Ph.D.

Sophia University
Admissions Office
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Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein. However, subsequent to the date of publication, unavoidable circumstances may result in changes in this document. The university reserves the right to make all such changes, including those in the program of study, courses of instruction, fees, and officers of administration and instruction, without notice.

1. Number of students to be admitted

Master's Program in Education	10 students
Doctoral Program in Education	5 students

This is the total number of students to be admitted every year to the Japanese and English language tracks combined.

Students are accepted to the program once a year, with classes beginning in the Spring semester (April). **No September entries are accepted.**

Those with working experience of more than three years that is related to the topic of the planned research may be eligible to apply under the "special provision for those with working experience" for the Master's program. Please refer to p.7 for details.

2. Eligibility

Important Note: Applicants who wish to study in English must contact potential supervisors via email with their CV attached in principle before June 25 for the September examination and November 25 for the February examination (both dates in Japan time) to confirm whether their research interests match those of supervisors. Currently, the Graduate Programs in Education accept applicants in the following two fields: 1) Comparative and International Education and 2) Education and International Development. Applicants who wish to study in other sub-fields of education should consult with the faculty members in charge of the fields.

Those who have work experience of more than three years and wish to enter the Master's program could apply for a partial exemption from the entrance examination (see **8. Special provision for those with working experience (Master's program)**). Applicants should check the eligibility criteria and consult with potential supervisors about their eligibility.

Information about the disciplinary specialties, research interests of faculty members and the contact information is available at the Graduate Program in Education website:

http://www.sophia-humans.jp/department/01_education_06.html

【Specific prerequisites】

< M.A. Eligibility >

Those who meet ONE of the following seven criteria can apply to the Master's program in Education:

- (1) Applicants who have graduated, or are expected to graduate, from a university in Japan before entering the Master's program.
- (2) Applicants who have completed, or are expected to complete, 16 years of formal education at a foreign educational institution before entering the Master's program.
- (3) Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or an equivalent awarded by a foreign educational institution which requires at least three years of study for graduation.
- (4) Applicants who have successfully completed a postsecondary course designated by the Minister of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) at a specialized training college after the date designated by the Minister or are expected to do so. The course must have at least a four-year study duration and meet requirements specified by the Minister.
- (5) Applicants deemed eligible by the Minister of Education.
- (6) Applicants aged 22 or above whose academic ability has been judged by Sophia University as equivalent to that of a student who graduated from a university.

Applicants without a bachelor's degree, who fall under (2), (6) above are required to go through an eligibility screening process. Please contact the Admissions Office at least one month prior to the application submission deadline.

< Ph.D. Eligibility >

Those who meet ONE of the following seven criteria can apply to the Doctoral program in Education:

- (1) Applicants who have completed, or are expected to complete, a Master's program at a university in Japan before entering the doctoral program.
- (2) Applicants who have completed, or are expected to complete, a Master's program at a foreign educational institution before entering the doctoral program.
- (3) Applicants who have successfully obtained a degree equivalent to a Master's degree or professional Master's degree at a foreign educational institution in Japan designated by the Minister of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as an educational institution offering graduate school curricula.

(4) Applicants deemed eligible by the Minister of Education.

(5) Applicants aged 24 or above whose academic ability has been judged by Sophia University as equivalent to that of a student who has completed a Master's program.

Applicants without a Master's degree who fall under (5) above are required to go through an eligibility screening process. Please contact the Admissions Office at least one month prior to the application submission deadline.

[General prerequisites for both M.A. and Ph.D.]

Applicants must have ONE of the following at the time of application:

- TOEFL® scores higher than 580 (PBT), 85 (iBT)
- IELTS (academic module) scores higher than 6.5
- TOEIC® scores higher than L&R840, S&W330
- First Grade of the Jitsuyo Eigo Gino Kentei/EIKEN (Test in Practical English Proficiency)

These tests must be taken within two years of the application deadline. TOEFL® ITP (Institutional Testing Program) scores are not acceptable. The English proficiency requirement is waived for applicants who have obtained a degree from an institution where English is the official medium of instruction. In such cases, an official document from their institution attesting to this is required. The document must be signed by a person who holds a post such as department chair.

3. Application procedure

Application is accepted through the following steps. Make sure to CHECK and COMPLETE each step.

A. Prepare the following:

- Application materials (see **6. Application documents**)
- Digital face photo (color)
- PC and printer

B. On the online application website, register the following to create your "My Page":

- Email address

Note: Important information including the reference number will be sent to the email address registered until enrollment in Sophia. Make sure to use an email address which you will always be able to access even after leaving your current school.

- Digital face photo
- Basic information

For more information about the application website, refer to the guide on the website below:

<https://www.guide.52school.com/guidance/net-sophia-parallel/>

C. In your "My Page", enter all the required application information.

You can input information during the online application period only!

D. Pay the application fee (see **5. Application fee**) and submit the application online.

This IS NOT the end of the application. Go to the next step to complete the application.

E. Send the printed application forms and all the other documents listed on **6. Application documents** to the Admissions Office of Sophia University by post.

Important notes:

- Applicants must use a trackable shipping service.
- Application forms cannot be revised once application fee is paid. To change information on the forms, please write correct information in red directly on the print-out forms.
- Test scores must be sent directly to Sophia University (see **6. Application documents**).
- Documents sent directly from schools are also accepted.

Medical attention:

Any applicant with physical conditions that might require special attention when undertaking university work should notify the Sophia Admissions Office in writing before the application period.

4. Application schedule for April 2026 entry (M.A. and Ph.D.)

Applicants can apply during one or both application periods below.

※Only applicants who hold valid residence status in Japan can apply to the February Examination.

※Ph. D applicants applying for the September examination must already have a Master's Degree, or be expected to receive one by September 2025.

	September Examination	February Examination *only applicants who hold valid status of residence in Japan
Online application period	June 27 - July 9, 2025	November 28 – December 10, 2025
Deadline for submitting the application documents ¹	July 10, 2025	December 11, 2025
Examinee ticket download date	10:00 a.m.(JST*), September 5, 2025	10:00 a.m.(JST*), February 4, 2026
Written examination date (MA only)	September 10, 2025	February 15, 2026
Oral examination date	September 11, 2025	February 16, 2026
Notification of results on the website	10:00 a.m.(JST*), September 26, 2025	10:00 a.m.(JST*), February 25, 2026
Matriculation deadline	October 17, 2025	March 4, 2026

*All dates and times are based on Japan Standard Time (JST).

¹For applicants sending documents from abroad, the package must arrive by this deadline. For applicants sending documents from within Japan, packages postmarked with the deadline date are accepted.

*Applicants who plan to use the MEXT scholarship must contact the following email address during the application period.

Email: admapp-g-co@sophia.ac.jp

In the e-mail, please let us know your name, the major or the program for which you are applying, and you will be using the MEXT scholarship. For more information about the MEXT Scholarship, contact the Center for Global Education and Discovery

E-mail:inbound-co@sophia.ac.jp

5. Application fee

35,000 yen

Online payment handling fee of 1,100 yen will be charged in addition to the application fee.

Please follow the guide on STEP 3 of “My Page” to complete the payment¹.

Payment should be made by credit card, at a convenience store (inside Japan)², via Pay-easy, or via online banking during the application period. Payment must be completed by 11:59 p.m. (JST) of each application deadline. After the deadline, the application will not be accepted. The application fee is non-refundable once it is paid.

¹In case the window shuts down during STEP 3, go to STEP 4 to continue the payment process.

²The name of the payer does not need to match the applicant's name. Please note that the payment at a convenience store could take a while to complete.

6. Application documents

All application documents must be original, unless indicated otherwise (see note 2 below).

The following documents 1 to 10 (with the exception of the TOEFL®/IELTS official scores and official documents from schools/recommenders sent directly to the Admissions Office) should be enclosed in an envelope and sent to the following address by express **trackable** mail or international shipping service. They must reach Sophia Admissions Office by the application deadline. **Late applications will not be accepted.** Official test scores (TOEFL®, IELTS) must be delivered directly to Sophia University from the testing service by the application deadline.

For shipping inside Japan, please print out the mailing label available on STEP 4 of “My Page”. For shipping outside Japan, please make

sure to write the Admissions Office address on the envelope:

SOPHIA UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS OFFICE
7-1 KIOI-CHO, CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO 102-8554 JAPAN
EDUCATION (M.A. or Ph. D.) APPLICATION

Or

102-8554 東京都千代田区紀尾井町7-1
 上智大学入学センター
 教育学専攻英語修学(M.A. または Ph.D.) 出願書類在中

Important Notes:

1. Documents printed in languages other than English or Japanese should be translated into English and certified by a school official or an official agency, such as an embassy or consulate.
2. If an original document cannot be reissued, a copy certified by the school official (Principal or Registrar) or Sophia University Admissions Office is acceptable.
3. The application documents once submitted will not be returned.
4. Applicants who use different names in their application documents must submit a copy of their Family Register (Koseki Tohon) or other applicable documents.

1	Application Forms (2 pages)	Application forms should be <u>filled out</u> through the online application website https://www.guide.52school.com/guidance/net-sophia-parallel/ and <u>printed out</u> after the application fee payment. Application forms cannot be revised once application fee is paid. To change information on the forms, please write correct information in red directly on the print-out forms.
2	Proof of Graduation	Applicants should submit <u>ONE</u> of the following: (1) University/college issued certificate of a degree or official letter (original copy) (2) Transcript indicating degree received and date of conferral *Ph.D. applicants must submit one of the above for master's degrees. <u>Note:</u> • <u>M.A. applicants</u> who have not completed their final semester at the time of application must submit as part of their application an official document from their school indicating their expected date of graduation. They should then submit either (1) or (2) to the Sophia Admissions Office by March 31, 2026. An applicant who does not submit this document on time could be denied enrollment. • <u>Ph.D. applicants</u> currently in their final semester of a Master's program must submit an official document of expected date of graduation from their school or a letter from their thesis supervisor affirming both the expected date of the thesis defense and/or completion of all requirements for the Master's degree. They should then submit either (1) or (2) to the Sophia Admissions Office by March 31, 2026. An applicant who does not submit this document on time could be denied enrollment.
3	Official University/College Transcript(s)	Original copy of official transcripts showing all undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) courses taken and grades received, including the list of courses you are currently attending, must be submitted. The transcript(s) should be certified by a school official. <u>Photocopies are not accepted.</u> <u>Note:</u> Ph.D. applicants must submit a Master's transcript.
4	Recommendation Letter (IKEN-SHO)	Optional. Any format is acceptable. The letter must be signed and sealed. Online submission is also possible. In that case, the recommender should use the provided form and send it directly by email to the Admissions Office (email: admission-g-co@sophia.ac.jp)
5	Research Proposal	The research proposal must describe a research project you wish to pursue for your thesis or dissertation. It must include your research title, purpose and methodology (800 words in English in A4 size paper).
6	M.A. In addition to items 1~5 above, the following are required.	
	Bachelor's Thesis on Education (English)	If the applicant has not written a graduation thesis on education, submit a research paper discussing a topic on education (4,000 words in English in A4 size paper).

Ph.D. In addition to items 1~5 above, the following are required.		
	Master's Thesis (English)	If the thesis is written in a language other than English, please submit an English summary (a shorter version of the thesis) of around 8,000 words, together with a copy of the master's thesis. 【Only if you are applying for February examination】 Please send your master's thesis by mail to Admissions Office by Friday, January 9, 2026, separate from your application documents.
	Summary of Master's Thesis	800 words in English 【Only if you are applying for February examination】 Please send your master's thesis by mail to Admissions Office by Friday, January 9, 2026, separate from your application documents.
	Other Academic Paper Published in English	If any.
7	Certificate of English language proficiency *Not required for English native speakers	Either a TOEFL® official score (including Special Home Edition) higher than 580 (PBT), 85 (IBT), IELTS (Academic) official score higher than 6.5, TOEIC® official score higher than L&R840, S&W330, or a test certificate of EIKEN (Grade 1). We only accept exams taken within the past 2 years from the application period, and the exam results must arrive before the application period deadline. For information on how to submit the exam results, please refer to the notes below. <How to submit the official test score> • For TOEFL®, attach the Test Taker (Examinee) Score Report (photocopy accepted) to the application, and arrange to have ETS send the Official Score Report to Sophia University (University Code 0819). The Official Score report must be delivered to Sophia University by the application deadline. We do not accept MyBest™ scores and TOEFL® ITP (Institutional Testing Program) scores. • For IELTS, attach the Test Report Form (photocopy accepted) to the application, and arrange to have the testing institution send the official Test Report Form to Sophia University. There is no code number for our university. Please make sure to specify Sophia university, necessary information so that the official Test Report Form will reach our university. • For TOEIC®, attach the Official Score Certificate to the application. Or send your Digital Score to Sophia University (University Code 00031501) on the TOEIC(IIBC) website/submission of scores to Universities and companies. • For EIKEN, attach the Official Score Certificate to the application. If the official score has not been delivered by the application deadline, the application will not be reviewed. Applicants are advised to order the delivery of the official scores well in advance. <u>Note:</u> • For M.A.applicants: This requirement is waived for non-native applicants who have a bachelor's/ master's degree or equivalent in an English-taught program. In such cases, a document from their institution with an official stamp or a signature of a representative such as President or Dean attesting to this is required. • For Ph.D. applicants: This requirement is waived for non-native applicants who have an master's degree or equivalent in an English-taught program. In such cases, an official document from their institution with an official stamp or a signature of a representative such as President or Dean attesting to this is required.
8	Application Form for Exemption from the Examination for the Subject(Educational Studies).	Only for prospective graduates from Department of Education of Sophia University. For details, contact Department of Education Office at deducat@sophia.ac.jp
9	Application Form for Special Provision for those with Working Experience *use a provided form	Only required for applicants who wish to apply under "special provision for those with working experience" for the Master's program. The form provided on the Sophia University website should be used.

10	Photocopy of Residence Card in Japan	*Only for international students who apply to the February Examination. This is to check the applicant's residence status. Please submit a photocopy of the front of your residence card.
11	Application Materials Checklist *use a provided form	Check the items you enclosed in your application. The form provided on the last page of this booklet.

*The forms of special provision for those with working experience and application materials checklist are available on the following page:

https://adm.sophia.ac.jp/eng/admissions/graduate_p/english_g2/english_edu/

7. Entrance examination (consists of a written examination and an oral exam)

1. Procedure

- The examinee ticket (JUKENHYOU) will be available on your "My Page" on the designated day (see **4. Application schedule for April 2026 entry**). Please print out the examinee ticket yourself and bring it with you on the examination day. **The examinee ticket will not be mailed to you.**
- The entrance examination will be held at the Yotsuya campus. **The examination room will be announced on the bulletin board at the Gate on the day of the examination.** Please be seated in the examination room 30 minutes before the exam starts.

2. Examination schedule

< M.A. >

Date	Time	Exams	Details
Refer to pg.4	13:00 p.m.~14:30 p.m.	Written exams consisting of <u>one</u> general and <u>two</u> sub-field questions	When applying online, applicants must indicate the sub-field (Comparative and International Education, and/or Education and International Development, and/or Educational Theory and Schooling) questions they choose to answer.
Refer to pg.4	10:00 a.m.~	Oral exam	Interview in English

< Ph.D. >

Date	Time	Exam	Details
Refer to pg.4	10:00 a.m.~	Oral exam	Interview in English*

*If you live outside Japan, your oral exam may be conducted online. Applicants who want to take the oral exam online must contact the following email address before application.

Email: admapp-g-co@sophia.ac.jp

In the e-mail, please let us know your name, the major or the program for which you are applying and you want to take your oral exam online.

8. Special provision for those with working experience (Master's program)

• Those with more than three years' working experience related to the topic of planned research may be eligible to apply under the "special provision for those with working experience" for the Master's program. Instead of answering one general question and two sub-field questions normally required for general applicants, these applicants will need to answer one general question and only one sub-field question in any of these three fields: Comparative and International Education, and/or Education and International Development, and/or Educational Theory and Schooling.

• For sub-field question, please select the subject you will take if applicable to the entrance examination for Special provision for those with working experience in the first "elective subject" field on the input screen of the web application system. Be sure to select and write up to two elective subjects in case your application for Special provision for those with working experience is not approved.

<Application Procedure>

(1) Applicants who wish to request this provision will need to fill out a request form "Application form for special provision for those with working experience" available online and enclose it in the application pack. During the online application process, applicants

also need to choose “special provision for those with working experience” and indicate one sub-field question which they will choose to answer during the examination.

- (2) The University will notify applicants of the decision concerning eligibility at the same time as the issuance of the examinee ticket. Those who are deemed not eligible will need to answer one general question and two sub-field questions as explained in 7.2.

9. Notification of results

Applicants can confirm their acceptance/rejection from “Admissions Decision” on “My Page” through the following website

<https://www.guide.52school.com/guidance/net-sophia-parallel/>

from 10:00 a.m. (JST) on the designated day (see **4. Application schedule for April 2026 entry**).

Note: • Servers may be slow if too many people access at the same time.

• The email address and the password will be required to log into “My Page.”

• No physical materials will be sent to applicants from the Sophia Admissions Office. A letter of acceptance can be printed out from “My Page”.

• Sophia University will **not** disclose the results of an application by letter, telephone, fax or e-mail.

10. Matriculation procedures

To secure admission, an applicant must pay the fees prior to University entrance and submit the necessary documents to the Sophia Admissions Office by the matriculation deadline (see **4. Application schedule for April 2026 entry**).

Failure to meet the matriculation deadline will result in cancellation of your offer. No exceptions to this rule will be made.

<Instructions for matriculation>

1. Click “Entrance Procedures” on “My Page” to download the booklet “Entrance Procedures”.

Please read all the information and follow the instructions in the booklet to secure admission.

2. Choose the program to start entering the required information and upload a face photo online.

3. Print out the designated documents (Student Record / Pledge).

4. Complete fee payment and post mail the required documents by the matriculation deadline.

Information concerning tuition and other fees for the 2026 academic year have not yet been decided. The information will be informed to accepted students. For your reference, fees for the 2025 academic year were as follows:

	M.A.	Ph.D.	
Entrance Fee*	¥200,000	¥200,000	(Once at matriculation)
Semester Enrollment Fee	¥30,000	¥30,000	(Per semester)
Tuition Fee**	¥246,000	¥225,500	(Per semester)
Education Enhancement Fee	¥90,000	¥45,000	(Per semester)
Premium for Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research	¥1,400 (2-year period)	¥2,100 (3-year period)	(Once at matriculation)
Tuition fee (Spring Semester)	¥567,400	¥502,600	
Tuition fee (Autumn Semester)	¥366,000	¥300,500	
Tuition fee (Annual)	¥933,400	¥803,100	

*Students who graduate from Sophia Undergraduate/Graduate Program in September 2025 or March 2026 will not be charged the Entrance Fee.

Students who graduated from Sophia Undergraduate/Graduate Program in and before March 2024 will be charged a half of the Entrance Fee.

**Tuition fee is revised annually based on the inflation rate.

Note:

The fees due prior to University entrance are not refundable. However, if a student notifies Sophia University of his/her intention not to attend by the appointed deadline, these fees, with the exception of the Entrance Fee and a handling charge, may be refunded. For details, please refer to the “Entrance Procedures” guide.

11. Scholarship information

Various types of scholarships and financial aid are available. Scholarships that can be applied at the time of admission are:

- 1) New Students Scholarship: The grant ranges from one-third to the full amount of the tuition fee for the first year.
- 2) Adachi Scholarship for students from Southeast Asia and Africa: Equivalent to the full tuition and education enhancement fee for the first year.

Application forms and other scholarships information are available from the following website.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/admissions-and-aid/tuition/>

Sophia University Graduate School Scholarship for Fostering Researchers is available for PhD students. For the details, please refer to the above website.

12. Housing

Sophia University has several off-campus dormitories and offers affiliated housing options. For more information, please refer to the following website.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/campuslife/dormitory/>

13. International students coming to Japan

Students coming from abroad to study at Sophia University must have a college student residence status or any other appropriate residence status (e.g., diplomatic, official, or dependent) in Japan. A temporary visitor status is not acceptable. Before you apply for a college student residence status, you need to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) issued by a Regional Immigration Bureau. For more information, please refer to the guide for "Entrance Procedures" on your "My Page".

Application Materials Checklist

(Please enclose this checklist in your application)

Applicant's name: _____

Check the items you enclosed.

1) Application forms ☐ Enclosed

- Application forms should be filled out through the online application website and printed out after the application fee payment.
- Application forms cannot be revised once application fee is paid. To change information on the forms, please write correct information in red directly on the print-out forms.

2) Proof of Graduation ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia

3) Official University/College Transcript(s) from (school names):

1. _____ ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia
2. _____ ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia
3. _____ ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia

* If you have been to multiple schools, please fill in 2 and 3.

4) Recommendation Letter from (teacher name) (if any)

_____ ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia5) Research Proposal ☐ Enclosed6) <M.A. applicant> Research Paper on Education or Bachelor's Thesis ☐ Enclosed<Ph.D. applicant> Master's Thesis (English), Summary of Master's Thesis, etc. ☐ Enclosed

【Only if you are applying for February examination】 Please send your master's thesis by mail to Admission Office by Friday, January 9, 2026.

7) Certificate of English language proficiency (Not required for native speakers of English)

☐ Enclosed (TOEIC / Eiken) ☐ Sent directly to Sophia (TOEFL / IELTS / TOEIC)8) Application Form for Exemption from the Examination for the Subject (Educational Studies) ☐ Enclosed
(Only for prospective graduates from Department of Education of Sophia University.)9) Application Form for Special Provision for those with Working Experience (if applicable) ☐ Enclosed10) Photocopy of Residence Card in Japan (Only for international students who apply to February Examination)
☐ Enclosed

Please double-check the following:

☐ I have paid the application fee of 35,000 yen☐ I have requested that my official TOEFL or IELTS or TOEIC scores be sent directly to Sophia. (if applicable)

Date you requested: _____ IELTS Test Report Form #: _____

☐ (Only for applicants who wish to request the special provision for those with working experience) I would like to choose ☐ Comparative and International Education, ☐ Education and International Development, ☐ Educational Theory and Schooling if my request would be approved.

☐ Message, if any