

SOPHIA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
MASTER'S PROGRAM IN LINGUISTICS
TESOL: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

上智大学 言語科学研究科
言語学専攻 英語教授法コース

APPLICATION BOOKLET

Academic Year 2026

2026年度入試要項

M.A.

Sophia University
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Every effort has been 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 Linguistics: 33 students

This is the total number of students to be admitted every year to the four courses within the Program in Linguistics: Linguistics, Research in Communication Disorders, TESOL and TJFL (Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language). Each course does not specify the number of students it accepts.

Students are accepted to the Program once a year, to begin their studies from the Spring semester (April). **No September entries are accepted.**

2. Eligibility

Those who meet **one** of the following criteria and **two** of the following prerequisites can apply to the TESOL Program:

【Criteria】

- (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 at a specialized training college designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) after the date designated by the Ministry, or are expected to do so. The course must have at least a 4-year study duration and meet the requirements specified by the Ministry.
- (5) Applicants deemed eligible by the MEXT.
- (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), (5) or (6) above are required to go through an eligibility screening process. Please contact the Admissions Office no later than one month prior to the application submission deadline.

【Prerequisites】 Applicants must meet prerequisite #1 below and one of the prerequisites in #2.

1. [For non-native speakers of English only] TOEFL® scores higher than 550 (PBT) or 79 (iBT), IELTS (Academic) scores higher than 6.0 or First Grade of the Jitsuyo Eigo Gino Kentei (EIKEN, Test in Practical English Proficiency). These tests should be taken within two years of the application deadline. TOEFL® ITP (Institutional Testing Program) scores are not accepted.
2. Applicants should meet one of the following four criteria:
 - (1) The applicant holds a teacher's license.
 - (2) The applicant is expected to obtain a teacher's license before entering the Master's program.

*Even though applicants may have been accepted to Sophia University on the basis of their expected obtainment of a teacher's license, failure to obtain a teacher's license or have the results submitted before our deadline (March 31, 2026) will result in cancellation of their acceptance.
 - (3) At the time of application, the applicant has experience of teaching a foreign language for one year or more at educational institutions and companies in Japan or in other countries as their principal occupation.

*Private tutoring does not fulfill the one-year teaching experience requirement.
 - (4) The applicant holds a CELTA certificate.

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 on-line 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 will always be able to access even after leaving your current school.

-Face photo

-Basic information

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

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

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

You can update information during the on-line application period only!!

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

This step DOES NOT FINISH the application. Go on 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 mail.

Important notes:

-Applicants must use a trackable shipping service.

-Application forms cannot be revised once the application fee has been 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 inform the Sophia Admissions Office in writing before applying.

4. Application schedule for April 2026 entry

Applicants can apply during either or both of the two application periods below.

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

	September Examination	February Examination (For applicants with valid residency 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 3, 2025	10:00 a.m.(JST*), February 4, 2026
Oral examination date	September 10, 2025	February 15, 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 the dates and time 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

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

Please follow the guide on STEP 3 on “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 on-line 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 differently (see note 2).

The following documents 1 to 9 (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 deadline of submission. **Late applications may be refused.** 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 on “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
TESOL 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
言語学専攻 TESOLコース 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 on-line 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 <u>Note:</u> Applicants 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. Such applicants should then submit either (1) or (2) to the Sophia Admissions Office by March 31, 2026. An applicant who does not submit this document in time could be denied enrollment.
3	Official University/College Transcript(s)	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. Photocopies are not accepted.
4	Recommendation Letter (IKEN-SHO) *use a provided form	• <u>One</u> letter of reference from the applicant's instructor at university/college or a supervisor at work. The form provided on the Sophia University website should be used. The letter must be signed and sealed. Recommendation letters from members of staff teaching courses in the Graduate School of Languages and Linguistics at Sophia University will not be accepted. • 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	Essay	An English essay of 2,000 words or less, giving the applicant's reasons and purposes for wishing to study in the TESOL course.
6	A Certificate of English language Proficiency (TOEFL®, IELTS or EIKEN) *Required only for non native English speaker	Either a TOEFL® official score (including Special Home Edition), IELTS (Academic) official score or a test certificate of the First Grade of Eiken. 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 the TOEFL®, attach the Test Taker Score Report (photocopy accepted) to the application, and arrange to have ETS send the Institutional Score Report to Sophia University (University Code 0819). The Official Score report must be delivered to Sophia University by the application documents submission deadline. We accept neither MyBest™ scores nor the 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 Sophia University. Please make sure to specify Sophia University, necessary information so that the official Test Report Form will reach our university. • For EIKEN, attach the Official Score Certificate to the application. Note: 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. • This requirement is waived for non-native applicants who have obtained a bachelor's degree from an institution where all their courses were taught

		in English (and English is the official medium of instruction), or who have completed at least two years of graduate education in a program taught in English and received the MA degree or the equivalent. In such cases, an official document from their institution attesting to this is required.
7	Certificate for 【Prerequisites】 2 (See 【Prerequisites】 on pg.2)	<u>One</u> of the following should be submitted: (1) a photocopy of the teacher's license (2) a certificate of expected acquisition of the teacher's license (3) a certificate of employment : the certificate must clearly state that the applicant has experience of teaching a foreign language for one year or more. (4) a photocopy of the CELTA certificate
8	Photocopy of Residence Card in Japan	*Only for international students who apply to <u>February Examination</u>. This is to check the applicant's status of residence. Please submit a photocopy of your residence card (face up).
9	Application Materials Checklist *use a provided form	Check the items you enclose in your application. The form provided on the last page of this booklet.

*The forms of recommendation letter and application materials checklist are available on the following page:

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

7. Entrance examination (consists of an oral examination conducted in English)

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 located at the entrance gate of the University on the day of the examination.** Please be seated in the examination room 30 minutes before the exam starts.

2. Examination schedule

Date	Time	Exams	Details
Refer to pg.3	10:00 a.m.~	Oral exam	Interview in English

In principle, the interview test will be conducted at Yotsuya Campus.

8. Notification of the 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.

9. Matriculation procedures

To secure admission, a newly admitted student 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 2025 entry**).

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

<Instructions for matriculation>

1. Click "Entrance Procedures" on "My Page" to download the booklet of "Entrance Procedures."

Please read through all the information and follow the instructions in this 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 the payment of the fees 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.	
Entrance Fee*	¥200,000	(Once at matriculation)
Semester Enrollment Fee	¥30,000	(Per semester)
Tuition Fee**	¥246,000	(Per semester)
Education Enhancement Fee	¥90,000	(Per semester)
Premium for Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research	¥1,400 (2 year period)	(Once at matriculation)
Tuition fee (Spring Semester)	¥567,400	
Tuition fee (Autumn Semester)	¥366,000	
Tuition fee (Annual)	¥933,400	

*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 2025 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" instructions guide.

10. Scholarship information

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

- 1) New Students Scholarship: The grant varies 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.

The application forms for those scholarships are available from the following website.

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

Other scholarships are also available after entrance to the University. For more information, please refer to the above website.

11. 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/>

12. International students coming to Japan

Students coming from abroad to study at Sophia University must have a college student status of residence or any other appropriate status of residence such as a diplomatic, official, or dependent status. A temporary visitor status is not acceptable. Before you apply for a college student status of residence, you need to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) issued by a Regional Immigration Bureau. Additional information, please refer to the guide for "Entrance Procedures" (available for accepted applicants) 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)

_____ ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia5) Essay ☐ Enclosed

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

☐ Enclosed (Eiken) ☐ Sent directly to Sophia (TOEFL / IELTS)

7) Certificate for 【Prerequisites】 #2 (Please check one of the following.)

1. a photocopy of the teacher's license ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia
2. a certificate of expected acquisition of the teacher's license ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia
3. a certificate of employment ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia
4. a photocopy of the CELTA certificate ☐ Enclosed ☐ Sent directly to Sophia

8) 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 scores be sent directly to Sophia. (if applicable)

Date you requested: _____

IELTS Test Report Form #: _____

- ☐ Message, if any