

## Instruction for Obtaining “Student Visa”

Non-Japanese students from abroad to study at Sophia must obtain a student visa before departure for Japan. A temporary visitor visa is not acceptable. Please read the following instruction carefully and be prepared for your visa application.

### **(0) Entry restrictions and suspension of visa issuance (as of May 2021)**

As you might be aware, currently international students are not permitted to apply for a visa to enter Japan. We are not sure if/ when the restrictions will be relaxed or lifted. Once the government’s policy is released, we will let you know and may request you to submit additional documents\* for your entry to Japan, so please follow our future instructions. Meanwhile, please see the usual application process below.

### **(1) Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)**

Sophia University will apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) for your visa at the Tokyo Immigration Bureau. CoE is one of the documents needed for applying student visa. We will send your CoE to you together with an Acceptance Letter in the end of July, 2021. If you do not receive the acceptance package by early August, please contact us as soon as possible.

### **(2) Visa application**

After you receive the acceptance package from Sophia, you can apply for your student visa. You will need to bring required documents (Passport, CoE, Acceptance letter, photos, etc.) to the Japanese embassy or consulate where you reside. Please make sure you have enough time to obtain the visa before entering Japan. In principle, you cannot enter Japan without your student visa.

Documents to be submitted for application may differ from country to country. For details, please inquire at your nearest Japanese consulate or embassy.

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\* In January 2021, when students were permitted to obtain a student visa and enter Japan, they were required to submit a pledge signed by their host university when applying for a student visa. We assume that the pledge will be required for your future visa application as well even if the suspension of visa issuance will be lifted. Once the updated policy is released by the government, we will request you to submit an additional document promising to follow the host university’s instructions on your entry to Japan and quarantine, so that we can issue a pledge required for your visa application.