

Asian Research Institute for International Social Work, Shukutoku University

## VISITING RESEARCHER FELLOWSHIP *ROMPAKU* PROGRAM

leading to Ph.D.

April 1, 2018

We present “free” two years to you. You write an outstanding thesis. We award you with a prestigious Ph.D. degree. The Asian Research Institute for International Social Work (ARIISW), Shukutoku University, Chiba, Japan, is now offering a successful applicant an opportunity to complete his or her Ph.D. dissertation through our Visiting Researcher Fellowship *Rompaku* Program. A monthly stipend and accommodations will be provided to the successful applicant. No tuition is necessary.

The aim of the program is to help meet the growing need for both a greater quantity and better quality of educators in Asian schools for social work.

**The Asian Research Institute for International Social Work (ARIISW) welcomes matured and/or promising researchers who are ready to finish writing their doctoral theses as a Visiting Researcher.** The program is referred to as *Rompaku*\*, which literally means “A thesis only Ph.D. program” with no supervisor and no course work although some courses are provided in our program.

\* *Rompaku*:

Please note that *Rompaku* is not a discounted Ph.D. program, and may be more difficult to complete than a typical one. In Japan there are two ways of getting a Ph.D. One is similar to the Western (American) process, i.e. through course work and thesis, the other is the traditional Japanese way, i.e. through thesis only. While the former degree, which is usually obtained in one’s late 20s or early 30s as a sort of “entrance ticket” to the university/academic community, the latter degree has been considered more prestigious, as sort of an “award” for academic achievement. Ph.D. applicants submit a quasi-life work thesis usually in their 50s or 60s. Until approximately 20 years ago, Japan only had the latter program. Our program basically belongs in the latter category, but some original conditions such as age have been eased and some course requirements have been added.

Within two years, you will finalize your thesis by yourself while attending several courses on research methods, international social work, and the “essence of social work” (for non-MSW holders). Upon satisfactory completion of your thesis and course work, ARIISW will recommend you to Shukutoku University Graduate School as a Ph.D. candidate. The school examines your dissertation and awards the degree in social welfare studies. The lecturer panel and the dissertation committee are composed of leading university professors from Japan and other Asian countries as well as from outside Asia.

We encourage all qualified candidates to apply for this unique program if your field is either **International Social Work/Social Welfare Studies** or **Asian Buddhist “Social Work”**.

# Application Guideline

## 1. Application Period

April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## 2. Program starting date (Arrival day)

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

## 3. Residency

Two (2) years, maximum

## 4. Thesis Topics

- (A) International Social Work/Social Welfare Studies or
- (B) Asian Buddhist “Social Work”

## 5. Degree to be awarded

Ph.D. in Social Welfare, Shukutoku University

## 6. Qualification

You must:

- (1) be Master degree holder, preferably in social work.
- (2) be ready to write Ph.D. thesis. (You must have a thesis topic and a conceptual framework, and preferably you have already written some parts of your thesis.)
- (3) be able to attend and understand the courses (below 10 (1) which the Asian Research Institute for International Social Work (hereinafter referred to as ARIISW) will provide
- (4) be non-Japanese, who are not living in Japan when apply.
- (5) be ready to submit the following three letters of recommendation/reference:
  - a. One by your school/university or agency which includes following “guarantees”:
    - (i) the permission to be off campus, (ii) no school/university or agency assignments, and (iii) the security for good conduct, for the two years as a Visiting Researcher; and (iv) the promise for a position after the two years.  
[A substitute letter in case of an independent researcher without affiliation would be discussed with the ARIISW.]
  - b. One referring to your capability of research.
  - c. One referring to your character.  
[One of three letters should refer to your English and/or Japanese proficiency.]
- (6) have an experience as a researcher after graduating the school as follows:
  - a. At least three years’ research experience since completion of a master’s course, or
  - b. at least five years research experience since completion of an undergraduate course, or

c. be recognized by the Shukutoku University graduate school as having research experience equivalent to the above.

## 7. Selection

- (1) The core criterion for the selection is our certainty of the completion of the applicant's dissertation within two years as well as the quality of the proposed thesis.
- (2) The priority for selection is given in the following order in case the levels of above (1) are similar: Applicants who affiliate with 1) APASWE (Asian and Pacific Association for Social Work Education) member schools, 2) non-APASWE member schools, 3) social work agencies/organizations, and 4) no institutions.
- (3) Higher priority is assigned to applicants who have started their research. We will consider your readiness level for writing thesis.

## 8. Process and schedule

- ① Application Period (April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- ② The acceptance by ARIISW as Visiting Researcher (May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
- ③ Applies for visa (ARIISW apply for your Certificate of Eligibility to Immigration Bureau.)
- ④ Your arrival at ARIISW (October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018)
- ⑤ Writing of your thesis while receiving ARIISW's support and services including several courses (from October 2018 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020; You may finish writing anytime by this date.)
- ⑥ Submission of your thesis to Shukutoku University Graduate School via ARIISW (June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020; ARIISW forwards it the Graduate School by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020).
- ⑦ Review and judgement by the school's preliminary review committee (July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020).
- ⑧ Submission to the dissertation committee. No changes will be allowed after this date. Return home.
- ⑨ Review, oral examination, and judgement by the school's dissertation committee and the faculty meeting (October 2020-March 2021)
- ⑩ The award of Ph.D. (March 2021)

## 9. Thesis writing

- (1) **You should write your thesis independently, entirely by yourself. No supervisor is assigned by ARIISW although it provides assistance and advice as a resource. You should find a supervisor for assistance if necessary by yourself.**
- (2) You can submit your thesis anytime once you complete it to Shukutoku University Graduate School via ARIISW, but must do so within two years minus four months.
- (3) **Language:** English or Japanese. In case of English submissions, you must attach a summary in Japanese in addition.
- (4) The dissertation committee is usually composed of three Shukutoku University Graduate School professors and one or two professors from other universities in or outside Japan.

## 10. Courses to be offered

### (1) Subjects

- ① Research Methods and Research Design I: Quantitative Research
- ② Research Methods and Research Design II: Qualitative Research
- ③ Program designing-monitoring-evaluation (currently closed)
- ④ Thesis writing skills
- ⑤ International Social Work
- ⑥ Essence of Social Work (for non-MSW holders)
- ⑦ Japanese Language and Culture (currently closed)
- ⑧ Special lecture/seminar (depending on the interest of participants)

[No courses on relevant subjects such as poverty, the elderly, children, disabilities, disasters and HIV/AIDS are offered.]

### (2) Method

Courses are tutorial. The first several sessions are given face to face in a classroom and the remaining sessions through on-line. The language is English.

### (3) Certificate

Certificates are issued in the ARIISW director's name after the satisfactory completion of each course.

### (4) Lecturers

Lecturers' Panel is composed by leading professors from various universities in and out of Japan.

## 11. ARIISW's Recommendation to the Graduate School

The following three items must be submitted to ARIISW to get its recommendation:

- (1) The completed dissertation manuscript, which after review by ARIISW judges has been deemed to meet the standards of the Graduate School.
- (2) The certificates of all courses (above 10 (1)) which ARIISW provided for the Visiting Researcher.
- (3) Your books and refereed and non-refereed articles, which satisfy the Graduate School's requirement for all Ph.D. candidates. The Graduate School usually requires a few refereed articles besides the Ph.D. thesis.

The Graduate School of Shukutoku University requires a) more than one book relating to your Ph.D. thesis, b) more than three peer-reviewed articles relating to your Ph.D. thesis published in academic journals, c) more than two peer-reviewed articles published in academic journals or more than five articles approved by the Graduate School as academic papers, or d) the recognition by the Graduate School that the Ph.D. candidate has reached the equivalent academic level. The applicant may be able to write one or two articles with or without peer-review during his/her stay with the program, if making effort.

(Shukutoku University Graduate School of Integrated Human and Social Welfare Studies Degree Thesis Evaluation Criteria)

## 12. Fellowship (financial support)

All payment will be made in Japanese yen.

- ① A roundtrip international economy class air ticket between your country and Tokyo
- ② An allowance for initial expenses (¥50,000; approximately US\$470 as of April 2018 rate)
- ③ A stipend during your residency up to for two years (¥200,000 per month; approximately US\$1882 as of April 2018 rate) (The stipend will be provided from the arrival at Japan to the submission of the thesis when you leave Japan for the country. (cf.8 ⑥ above)
- ④ Accommodation (an apartment room for a single. The utility costs (gas, water and electricity) are on your own.)
- ⑤ Course fee and thesis review and examination fee (exempted)
- ⑥ The English-Japanese translation fee for the summary of the final thesis, if necessary.
- ⑦ A roundtrip international air ticket between your country and Tokyo and accommodation fee for the oral examination

### 13. Number of fellowships to be awarded

One (1) per year

### 14. Documents to be submitted

- ① Application form (Please attach your 3cm x 4cm size photo for visa application. After being accepted as the Visiting Researcher, applicant must send the original as soon as possible.)
- ② Three (3) recommendation letters (See 6(5) above.)
- ③ Certificates of degrees (in English)
- ④ Health form (Only for the accepted as the Visiting Researcher.) Visiting Researcher will be required to send the form to ARIISW after the acceptance notification.

You may send all these application documents (①-③above) in PDF form by email or in hardcopy form by postal mail by the application deadline. In case of postal mail, registered mail is preferable considering postal conditions in some countries. Please inform us your application by email when you send these documents by postal mail. All these application documents must arrive at ARIISW by the deadline.

### 15. More information

See the attached Appendix 2, **Q & A**, which is regarded as part of this guideline.

### 16. Submit your application to:

Asian Research Institute for International Social Work  
 Shukutoku University  
 200 Daiganji-cho, Chuo-ku, Chiba-City, Chiba 260-8701 Japan  
 Tel +81(43)265-9879 Fax +81(43)265-7339  
 Email [asiainst@soc.shukutoku.ac.jp](mailto:asiainst@soc.shukutoku.ac.jp)

Feel free to contact us for more information.