

| | Q | A |
|------------------|---|--|
| <i>"Rompaku"</i> | What is the <i>"Rompaku"</i> program? | <p><i>"Rompaku"</i> is a dissertation-only doctoral program. There is no supervisor and no course required at the Graduate School. In Japan, there are two ways to receive a Ph.D. One is similar to the Western (American) process, i.e. through course work and thesis; the other one 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-lifework thesis usually in their 50s or 60s. Until approximately 20 years ago, Japan only had the latter program. Basically, our program belongs in the latter category, but some original conditions such as age have been eased and some courses at ARIISW have been added to improve your teaching skills not as a Ph.D. candidate but as a future faculty staff.</p> <p>Please note that <i>Rompaku</i> is not a discounted Ph.D. program, and may be more difficult to complete than a worldly common western-style program in a sense.</p> |
| | What is the difference between <i>"Rompaku"</i> program and Ph.D. course program? | <p>There is a significant difference between the western-style Ph.D. program and the <i>"Rompaku"</i> program. The western-style Ph.D. course provides the doctorate through advanced courses at the Graduate School. In the <i>"Rompaku"</i> program, candidates have to finalize their thesis by themselves, and ARIISW does not provide supervision. Candidates must be experienced and/or promising scholars ready to write their thesis. ARIISW will support you basically as colleagues.</p> |

| | Q | A |
|-------------|--|---|
| | It seems to be a shortcut program to get the Ph.D. in only two (2) years. | Two years are designed for writing and finalizing your thesis, not for attending advanced courses of the Graduate School. Please note that the coursework at ARIISW is designed to provide candidates with an opportunity to increase their skills as future educators. Applicants are expected to have completed at least some data collection, analysis, and if supervision necessary prior to application. Applicants are also expected to have sufficient academic achievements or experience. |
| | Who would be my supervisor? | The program does not provide a supervisor , but, ARIISW provides faculty support for the visiting researcher as colleagues. This is a program for mature researchers. You may of course find and assign a supervisor by yourself. |
| Eligibility | What is the definition/range of "international social work" and "Buddhist social work"? | There is leeway regarding both definitions. It is possible to convincingly justify the definition depending on your own situation. |
| | To what extent do you require us to have started writing the thesis theme and framework? | It is required that the applicant finishes his/her thesis within 2-year-stay (within 3-year-program in some cases). Higher priority will be given to projects already in the writing process or with well-developed content. |
| | Am I ineligible if I could not obtain a recommendation letter from my university? | The recommendation letter is strongly requested. Please explain the reason why you could not get the letter from your university/faculty. Please note that priority will be given to those who have obtained the recommendation letter. |
| | I don't live in the Asian region. May I apply to this fellowship? What is the scope of "Asia"? | This fellowship is primarily for the members of universities, agencies and organizations of social work in Asia. Please judge for yourself the area of the Asian region. |

| | Q | A |
|---|---|--|
| | Is it possible to participate in the program even if I could not get the fellowship? | Yes, you may join the program at your own cost. Facility usage and course fees will be waived for the non-fellowship researcher. However, the program does not cover travel, accommodation, living and research expenses of non-fellowship participants. The Asian Research Institute for International Social Work (ARIISW) will always open the door to all people who wish to use it as a “research base.” We welcome you as a general visiting researcher/research fellow. It is also possible to come as non-participant of the program. |
| Content of the fellowship (financial support) | Do you have medical insurance for us? What is covered under the medical insurance plan? | All people registered as residents in Japan are required to take part in the National Health Insurance (NHI) system operated by the Japanese Government. It will cover most of the medical treatment for injuries and diseases (including dental treatment). Thirty-percent (30%) of medical expenses will be charged to you directly when you are treated. Participants in this program are required to join the NHI system. Registration procedures will take at least one (1) week after entry in Japan, so please cover this initial period with general travel insurance. |
| | Are travel expenses for accompanying family covered by the fellowship? | No. This program provides no provision for accompanying persons. There is no financial support for the family. |
| | When the family accompanies the participant, is there any reasonable space for them to live in the apartment? How should the participant arrange for schooling of their children? | A small American style apartment/flat will be prepared. If you are accompanied by your family, you are responsible for finding housing at your own expense. ARIISW will support you in finding housing and schooling for your children as long as possible. |

| | Q | A |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| | Does the fellowship program cover the utility cost in the apartment? | The utility costs (gas, water and electricity) must be paid by the resident. Note that the apartment is not equipped with a phone. If you want to use a phone, you must purchase it on your own. You will be responsible for the telephone bill payments. |
| | Is a Visiting Researcher allowed to find a part-time job during their stay in Japan? | No, basically. Please note that the intent of this program is to fully concentrate on the Ph.D. thesis. Remember that additional permission and procedures may be requested, in case you need to work part-time. Please refer to the Immigration Bureau for details. |
| Selection Process and Methods | Who will select the participants for this fellowship program, and how are they selected? | Applicants will be selected by a fair and independent committee. No details concerning the process of the selection will be provided. |
| | When and how will the applicants be notified of the results? | ARIISW will send all official documents (including visa application forms) by PDF promptly after the selection date written in the application form and on the guidelines for all applicants. |
| Application | May I apply online? How should I send application to you? | You may send all application documents 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. When sending your application by postal mail, please inform us of your application submission by email. All application documents must arrive at ARIISW by the deadline. |
| Preparation for travel | What kind of visa is required? Do you send all required documents to apply for the visa? | Although your status is Visiting Researcher, "Student visa" is the resident status designated by the Immigration Bureau of Japan. All necessary documents will be sent to you. |

| | Q | A |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | How and when will the participant receive travel costs? | It will be paid in Japanese yen at the same time as the October stipend, after arrival in Japan. |
| Arrival at Shukutoku University | What date should the participant arrive in Japan? | The participant is expected to arrive in Japan on the program starting date (In case of 2020, the program will start on October 7 th). |
| | May participants expect help with transfer from the airport to the hotel/residence? | Yes. ARIISW will dispatch staff to welcome you at the airport. The staff will wait with your nametag at the lobby after passing through Customs. The staff person will also accompany you to the hotel/residence. |
| Writing Ph.D. Thesis | When should the Ph.D. thesis be finished and submitted? | Submit your Ph.D. thesis as soon as it is completed. The conferment of the Ph.D. degree is scheduled 6 months after submitting the thesis. Therefore, participants who want to get their Ph.D. in 2 years should finish and submit their thesis in one and a half years. The Ph.D. degree candidates who submit their Ph.D. after 2 years when they leave ARIISW and Japan will be conferred 6 months after submittal. |
| | In the case of a participant leaving Japan after submitting their Ph.D. thesis, is it necessary to return back to Japan for the oral examination and the examination at the public reviewing board (public defense)? | Yes, but ARIISW will provide you necessary travel expenses for the oral examination, the examination at the public reviewing board (public defense). |

| | Q | A |
|--|---|---|
| | Should the participant prepare a Japanese translation of his/her Ph.D. thesis summary by himself/herself? | Yes. Prepare it by yourself. It is the author's responsibility to find a translator, if necessary, and submit a quality abstract. ARIISW cannot take the responsibility for the quality of translation. If a translation fee is necessary, ARIISW will provide it within reason. |
| | What happens when the participant is not able to finish and submit the Ph.D. thesis within 2-year-stay? | The participant can apply for the Ph.D. degree of Shukutoku University Graduate School as the Visiting Researcher of ARIISW within 3 years from the starting date of this program. However, we recommend you to finish and submit the thesis during your 2-year-stay in Japan to avoid the inconvenience in online communication. |
| | What happens if the participant is not able/allowed to stay in Japan, or not able to continue the research and writing of the thesis anymore? | In this case, fellowship will be terminated. Depending on why the participant was not able to continue/finish the Ph.D. thesis, in some cases the participant may be requested to refund fellowship funds already received. |
| | I have heard that in some cases the fellowship can be terminated. Can you describe such cases? | Such cases include: If the participant doesn't earnestly continue research and thesis writing activities. If the participant acts in a way that doesn't reflect the values of ARIISW or Shukutoku University. In case of false statements on the application form. If the participant violates Japanese law or rules. If the type of visa status is changed. If the participant receives any other scholarship or fellowship. |

| | Q | A |
|-------------|--|--|
| Course work | Which courses will be provided? | Eight courses described in the information and guidance materials will be provided. After consultation with the participants, ARIISW may provide courses or some special seminars, if necessary. |
| | What is the subject matter of the courses? | A syllabus with details on all courses will be provided at the start of the program, in the same way as other university Ph.D. programs. |
| | How will be these courses conducted? | At least one participant will take part in these courses. In some cases, a visiting researcher from Japan or from abroad (both without fellowship) may take part in the coursework. At the beginning of the semester, there will be face-to-face coursework provided for one or two weeks. The rest of the course will be conducted via internet. The contents of the coursework may be different from the common Ph.D. program because the participant is already on university staff, and because this is the Ph.D. through thesis program (" <i>Rompaku</i> "). |
| | Do participants get credits in these courses? | No. This is not coursework for students, so there are no credits. But the subject matter of courses to be provided are as or more challenging than the regular Ph.D. program courses at university. Participants who accomplish the coursework will receive the certificate issued in the ARIISW director's name. |
| | What happens if the participant is not able to accomplish the course work? | If the participant doesn't accomplish the program courses, he/she will not receive ARIISW's recommendation to the Graduate School of Shukutoku University. Of course, the participant may submit his/her Ph.D. thesis to the University as a common " <i>Rompaku</i> " thesis, without the recommendation. |

| | Q | A |
|---|---|--|
| From thesis submission to the Ph.D. degree conferment | Can you describe the procedure from submitting the Ph.D. thesis to receiving the Ph.D. degree conferment? | After finishing your thesis, submit it (including Japanese and English summary) to the university via ARIISW. After receiving your Ph.D. thesis, the Graduate School of Shukutoku University will review it and judge whether to accept it or not. If accepted, your Ph.D. thesis will be examined via documents and oral examination by the referee (dissertation) committee composed of three Shukutoku University graduate school professors and one or two professors from other universities in or outside Japan. After passing this examination, you will have the presentation (including questions and comments) at public defense, and your Ph.D. thesis will be submitted to the Committee of Graduate School of Integrated Human and Social Welfare Studies at Shukutoku University where it will be finally reviewed. If successful, the Ph.D. degree will be awarded. |
| | When will be the participant be awarded the Ph.D. degree? | The deadline for Ph.D. thesis submission is March and September every year. (The deadline for the preliminary examination is December and June.) The degree is conferred 6 months after submitting the thesis, i.e. the following September or March. |
| Taking part in the ARIISW activities | As a visiting researcher, may I take part in some ARIISW research activities (besides my Ph.D. thesis writing and course work)? Or is the participation in some ARIISW activities compulsory? | During guidance at the start of your stay, ARIISW provides information about its research activities. If you are interested, you can join ARIISW activities. No monetary reward will be provided. |

| | Q | A |
|------------------|---|---|
| Temporary return | During the two years of the program am I allowed to leave or return home temporarily? | Please note that the intent of this program is to fully concentrate on your Ph.D. thesis in our Institute. Please consult ARIISW first about the temporary leave. Then the director permits it depending on the reason. No travel expenses will be provided in case of temporary return. The fellowship may be reduced, depending on how many days you leave Japan. |