1. Outline of JSPS RONPAKU Program
The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) has been carrying out the RONPAKU (Dissertation PhD) Program since 1978. The aim of this program has been to provide tutorial and financial support for promising researchers in countries of Asia and Africa or other specified countries who wish to obtain their PhD degrees from Japanese universities through the submission of a dissertation without matriculating a doctoral course.

Grantees under the program (RONPAKU fellows) are required to conduct their dissertation research under the joint supervision of an advisor in Japan and an advisor in their home country, and are expected to obtain their PhD degrees within a maximum period of three years. RONPAKU fellows are allowed to visit a Japanese university to conduct research under the direct supervision of their advisors in Japan. The advisor in Japan may visit the RONPAKU fellow's home university or research institution when deemed necessary to supervise the fellow's research together with his/her home advisor.

2. Eligible Fields
All fields within the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences are included.

3. Applicable Countries
Candidates must be a researcher whose university/institution is in one of the following countries:

ASIA (including Middle East countries)
- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Vietnam and Yemen

AFRICA
- Algeria, Angora, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

EUROPE (specified countries)
- Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Georgia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

JSPS also treats Palestine in this manner.

※) Please note that the countries that are considered to have sufficiently developed the systems for conferring of degrees are exempted from the list of the applicable countries from the FY 2018 recruitment onwards. More specifically, the applicable countries are limited to the countries and regions which are the official development assistance recipients from the Japanese Government. Therefore, the United Arab Emirates, Israel, Qatar, South Korea, Kuwait, Singapore, Bahrain, Brunei and Taiwan, which had been regarded correspondingly as the subject country, are not eligible.
4. Eligibility of Advisor in Japan

The candidate’s advisor in Japan must be a full-time professor or associate professor who, as of 1 April 2018, is engaged in implementing a doctoral course at the Japanese university to which the prospective RONPAKU fellow will submit his/her PhD thesis.

5. Eligibility of RONPAKU Fellow

The candidate must be a researcher
(1) Who has not obtained a PhD degree from a university
(2) Who wishes to obtain a PhD degree from a Japanese university through the submission of a dissertation
(3) Who has already achieved substantial research results and is likely through dissertation research under the program to successfully obtain a PhD degree, as well as is nominated by a home advisor and the president of his/her affiliated university/research institution.
(4) Who has nationality in an applicable country (listed in section 3)
(5) Who is employed full time at a university or research institution in his/her home country or will be appointed to such a position by April 1, 2018
(6) Who is 45 years of age or younger as of April 1, 2018

Regarding (1), if, during the period of JSPS support, the fellow obtained his/her PhD degree through other program, JSPS takes the prescribed measures, including the discontinuation of the allowance.

6. Number of Fellowships to be Awarded

Approximately 20

7. Fellowship Tenure

Maximum of 3 years from 1 April 2018

8. JSPS Financial Support

(1) Total funding provided to Japanese host university
   Maximum of 3.6 million yen (Up to 1.2 million yen per fiscal year)

(2) The following expenses can be covered by the above funding:
   Travel expenses between Japan and RONPAKU fellow’s home country, and within Japan by the fellow and his/her advisors in Japan; expenses incurred in conducting research in Japan and fellow’s home country; and other expenses related to the fellow’s dissertation submission (based on Japanese host university’s regulations), etc.

(3) Details
   JSPS will contract the Japanese host universities, conclude a contract with them to commission the RONPAKU program operation, and provide them with funding of up to 1.2 million yen per fiscal year. RONPAKU fellows will receive travel expenses and other necessary expenses through the Japanese host universities based on its regulations. As this program is administered based on the annual budget for each Japanese fiscal year (from 1 April to 31 March), JSPS cannot carry over the remittance of any allowances or other payments to the following fiscal year.

Notes: These terms are subject to change.
9. Application Procedure and Deadline

Prospective advisors in Japan will be required to use JSPS’s online application system to apply for the program. For detailed procedures, please refer to the online application system guide at http://www-shinsei.jsps.go.jp/ (in Japanese).

RONAPKU candidates are to prepare Forms 2 and 3 and send them to their prospective advisor in Japan. Then, the advisor is to fill out Form 1 and submit it with all the other forms to JSPS through his/her university.

(1) Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form No.</th>
<th>Form Name</th>
<th>Person who prepares the form (How to prepare)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form 1</td>
<td>Application Form 1</td>
<td>Prospective Advisor in Japan (Pages 1 to 3 are to be printed out from online application system; the format for other pages can be downloaded from the program website.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form 2</td>
<td>Application Form 2</td>
<td>RONPAKU candidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form 3</td>
<td>Letter of Recommendation 1</td>
<td>RONPAKU candidate’s home advisor and the president of his/her affiliated university/research institution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Steps to apply

**Step 1**: Eligible researchers wishing to receive a RONPAKU fellowship must contact a prospective advisor in Japan and discuss applying for the program with him/her.

**Step 2**: RONPAKU candidates must fill in Form 2.

**Step 3**: RONPAKU candidates must have Form 3 filled out by their home institution. After completing Form 2, they are to submit the application package (Forms 2 and 3) to their prospective advisor in Japan. PDF files are accepted when sending Form 2 and Form 3.

**Step 4**: An advisor in Japan submit Form 1 via their university to JSPS along with the package of documents received from the RONPAKU candidate. Concurrently they take the necessary steps for application submission using JSPS’s online application system.

Note: Applications submitted directly by candidates to JSPS will not be accepted.

**Application Deadline**

August 21, 2017 – August 25, 2017

(JSPS will accept applications through the advisors’ universities in Japan by August 25, 2017.)

Notes:

a. The date stipulated above is the submission deadline for the advisor’s university in Japan.
b. Candidates must send their application documents to their prospective advisor in Japan well in advance of this deadline. (As some universities have their own deadline, candidates should consult their prospective advisor in Japan with regard to the time frame.)

10. Selection and Notification of Results

(1) Selection process

Screening is conducted by JSPS’s selection committee based on the three criteria listed
Selection Criteria

(i) Based on their record of scientific results (e.g., publication of international journals, record of awards), candidates must be seen as "mature" researchers.

(ii) The candidate's research proposal should be suited to pursuing a PhD degree through submission of a dissertation without matriculating a doctoral course. The feasibility should be very high that the candidate will obtain a PhD degree within a maximum of 3 years.

(iii) The advisor in Japan must be suitable for supervising the candidate's research; sufficient advance communication must have been carried out between the advisor and the candidate; the research supervision plan must be well-prepared and specific.

* Research plans that require approval processing within the affiliated institution
Judgments regarding handling are required when the implementation of a research plan includes such aspects as the need for a counterpart's consent or collaboration, for handling personal information, for taking bio-ethics or safety measures, or other researcher aspects that require processing based on laws or regulations. Specific examples of such research would be questionnaire or interview surveys that include private information, surveys of cultural properties either in or outside Japan, the use of donated specimens, invasive research, analyses of the human genome, genetic recombination experiments, and animal experiments. That is, surveys, research or experiments that require approval by an information-protection committee or ethics committee in or outside the host institution.

(2) Notification of selection results
a. Notification of the selection results will be made in writing through the head of the applying institution to RONPAKU candidates by the middle of January 2017.

b. Acceptance documents will be sent to the successful RONPAKU candidates. The names of the awardees, host researchers and institutions as well as their research themes are subject to public disclosure on JSPS's website.

c. Regarding unsuccessful candidates, their advisors in Japan will receive a notice of their approximate ranking among all the applicants.

Non-selected applicants will be ranked in the following three tiers.

Non-selected A (upper tier)
Non-selected B (middle tier)
Non-selected C (lower tier)

d. All notifications will be made via sealed letter.

Notes: Individual requests for selection results and its notification are not accepted.

11. Supervision of Research
(1) Over the period of their tenure (up to three years), RONPAKU fellows will visit a Japanese university to conduct research under the supervision of an advisor in Japan based on a visit plan approved by JSPS. In principle, no maximum is set on the number of times or length of periods of their stays. However, the funding may not be used for travel to third countries which have not been planned in the research proposal.
(2) When deemed necessary, the advisor in Japan may visit the RONPAKU fellow's home university or research institution to supervise his/her research based on a visit plan approved by JSPS. In principle, no maximum is set on the number of times or length of periods of their stays. However, the funding may not be used for travel to third countries which have not been planned in the research proposal.

(3) Travel plans should be made so that the combined days of visits by the fellow and his/her advisor is at least 30 days during a fiscal year.

(4) At the end of each fiscal year, JSPS evaluates each fellow's research progress based on a report submitted by their advisors in Japan, and notifies the fellow of its decision on whether to continue the fellowship in the following fiscal year.

(5) When considered necessary to advance the fellow's research, the advisor in Japan may, with JSPS's approval, appoint co-advisor(s) in Japan, who is to be a full-time researcher at the university. The co-advisor(s) is to cooperate in supervising the dissertation research of the fellow and may, when deemed necessary, visit the fellow's home institution in place of the advisor in Japan.

12. Obligations of the RONPAKU Fellow

RONPAKU fellows should bear the following two points in mind. After selection, they will be expected to observe the regulations and procedures stipulated in the “PROCEDURES AND PROVISIONS FOR RONPAKU FELLOWS UNDER THE JSPS RONPAKU (DISSERTATION PhD) PROGRAM.” If the RONPAKU fellow should fail to do so, the fellowship may be withdrawn and already-paid allowances reclaimed.

(1) During their tenures, RONPAKU fellows shall not, either in or outside the host institution, infringe in any way on the human rights of others, including racial or gender discrimination or other forms of abuse.

(2) RONPAKU fellows are not to misuse competitive or other funds or to commit any act of misconduct with regard to their research and educational activities, including fabrication, falsification or plagiarism. With regard to these activities, they are to follow the rules prescribed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, (MEXT), JSPS, their advisor’s affiliated institution in Japan, and the university scheduled to award their dissertation PhD degree.

Note: In terms of the proper use of competitive and other funds, please see the separate document “About the Proper Use of Competitive and Other Funds.”

13. Role of Advisor in Japan (including co-advisors in Japan) and Host University

An advisor in Japan and host universities should bear the following seven points in mind. Once the RONPAKU fellowship is awarded, they will be expected to observe the regulations and procedures stipulated in the “PROCEDURES AND PROVISIONS FOR RONPAKU FELLOWS UNDER THE JSPS RONPAKU (DISSERTATION PhD) PROGRAM.” If either the adviser or university should fail to do so, the fellowship may be withdrawn and already-paid allowances reclaimed.
(1) So as to ensure the smooth progress of the fellow’s research in Japan, before submitting an application, the advisor in Japan shall fully inform the candidate of conditions at the host institution, including his/her status under the fellowship, and ascertain the candidate’s acceptance of those conditions.

(2) The host researcher will, in cooperation with the administration office of the host institution, provide a suitable environment for the fellow to pursue his/her joint research. The host will also assist the fellow, when needed, with immigration processing (including applying for a “certificate of eligibility”), securing domicile and other matters related to his/her stay in Japan.

(3) During the fellow’s tenure, the advisor in Japan shall not, either in or outside the host institution, infringe in any way on the fellow’s human rights, including racial or gender discrimination or other forms of abuse.

(4) To ensure that no misuse of funds or research/education misconduct occurs, advisors in Japan shall conduct RONPAKU-related research in conformance with the rules prescribed by MEXT, JSPS, their affiliated institutions, and the university scheduled to award the dissertation PhD degree.

(5) To ensure that no misuse of funds or research/education misconduct is committed by the RONPAKU advisor or fellow, the advisor’s affiliated institution and the university scheduled to award the PhD degree shall promulgate and strictly enforce the rules (includes penalties for misuse and misconduct) prescribed by MEXT, JSPS and their own institutions.

(6) An advisor in Japan, their affiliated institutions and the universities scheduled to award the PhD degree are to take ultimate responsibility for the RONPAKU fellows. As such, they are to take proactive measures to prevent misuse and misconduct and to resolve any problems that may arise.

Note: In terms of the proper use of competitive and other funds, please see the separate document “About the Proper Use of Competitive and Other Funds.”

14. Handling of Personal Information

With regard to personal information contained in application materials, it shall be strictly controlled in accordance with laws to protect personal information held by administrative institutions and JSPS’s rule of protect personal information.

Using personal information in implementing the JSPS Program, including the provision of such information to private companies commissioned to conduct data processing management, JSPS shall observe these laws and regulations.

If selected for a RONPAKU fellowship, the fellow should note that his/her name, research theme, host institution, name and title of host researcher, and research reports will be given public access, including on JSPS’s homepage. Fellows are/may be asked to participate in surveys aimed at improving the fellowship program.

15. Notes

(1) JSPS does not support any research project related to military affairs.

(2) Candidates are to ascertain in advance the requirements for PhD certification in their own
country before submitting an application.

(3) With regard to Paragraph 13 (3) above, should a host researcher be found guilty by the host institution of violating a candidate’s or RONPAKU fellow’s human rights, s/he shall be disqualified for a period of five years from hosting RONPAKU fellows under this program and The JSPS Invitation Fellowships in Japan.

(4) In the following cases, JSPS may cancel a RONPAKU fellowship:
   1. When a fellow is found to have submitted false information (including fabrication, plagiarism and other falsification) in his/her application
   2. When it is determined that it would be difficult for a fellow to obtain his/her PhD degree within the approved fellowship tenure
   3. When a fellow withdraws from his/her position as a full-time researcher at the home institution
   4. When a fellow violates a Japanese law or is so indicted
   5. When a fellow does not follow JSPS’s instruction or causes harm to JSPS.

(5) When preparing their applications, prospective Japanese advisors who are currently involved in a JSPS international exchange activities or project or who have been within the past 5 years are required to describe the results or anticipated results of that activity and any connection it has with making this nomination under the RONPAKU Program.

(6) You can see the application guidelines and download the application forms from the following website:
   http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-ronpaku/index.html

16. Contact
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