

## Call for Applications

### Research Grants for PhD Candidates in Contemporary Japanese Studies in the Nordic Countries

The Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation has launched a call for applications for its PhD Research Grants in Japanese Studies, see details below.

#### **Research Grants for PhD Candidates in Contemporary Japanese Studies**

Research grants are provided for PhD candidates enrolled at Nordic institutions/universities in all subjects within the broad field of contemporary Japanese studies, to cover costs for conducting research activities in Japan for up to one year. Contemporary Japanese Studies are defined as fields within the humanities, social sciences, art, architecture, law, education and history, and the interdisciplinary study and research of various aspects of Japan, its society, history and culture with a view to deepening and enhancing an understanding of the country. The research grant program may also accommodate exceptional cases, e.g., research activities in Japan in such areas as science, technology, health and medicine, or any other subjects outside of social science and humanities, if there are compelling reasons why the PhD candidate must go to Japan during his/her PhD studies.

*Costs covered by the grant:* The grant covers the costs of conducting research activities in Japan only. Typical costs that can be covered are those for: travel, accommodation, meals, access to research databases or research materials, other direct costs for procured services necessary to perform the research. The maximum amount awarded is EUR10,000 per person.

*Grant period:* The grant period is from January to December 2021. Continuation of funding is possible, pending a successful year-end review, but priority is given to those who are applying for the first time.

*Duration of stay:* The duration of stay in Japan is from one month up to one year.

*Eligibility:* The applicant should be enrolled as a PhD student at an institution/university in a Nordic country (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway or Sweden) within any academic field, but focused on studies of contemporary Japan.

*How to apply:* Applications for projects starting in January 2021 are to be made on the online application platform: <http://apply.se/sjsf> under “2021 Japanese Studies PhD Research Grants” from April 1, 2020 to August 1, 2020.

**Deadline: August 1, 2020.**

*Enquiries:* Send an e-mail to the Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation to Marie Tsujita Stephenson or Edvard Fleetwood at the e-mail address: [info@swedenjapan.se](mailto:info@swedenjapan.se).

## Background

Japanese Studies programs and departments at institutions of higher learning in the Nordic countries have had important roles in cultivating experts on various aspects of Japan, and in advancing the understanding of Japanese culture and society in the Nordic countries. However, budget constraints have meant that universities and institutes offering Japanese studies have not been able to expand into new areas of teaching and research on Japan as desired.

In 2018, in an effort to promote Japanese studies in the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the regional pool of expertise on Japan by cultivating the next generation of Japan scholars, The Nippon Foundation and the Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation launched the Grant Program for the Study of Contemporary Japan in the Nordic Countries. The program is administered by the Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation, with funding from The Nippon Foundation.

The grant program, which will run for a period of five years starting from April 2019, provides financing for the establishment of new lectureships in contemporary Japanese Studies at selected Nordic universities and institutions, and research grants for PhD candidates in contemporary Japanese Studies.

## About the foundations

The Nippon Foundation was established in 1962 as a non-profit philanthropic organization, active in Japan and around the world. Focusing initially on the maritime and shipping fields, the foundation has since then expanded its range of activities to education, social welfare, public health, and other fields in over 100 countries. Together with more than 20 partner organizations in Japan and worldwide, The Nippon Foundation funds and assists community-led efforts aimed at realizing a more peaceful and prosperous global society.

<https://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en/>

The Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation was established in 1984 with an endowment from The Nippon Foundation to promote friendly relations between the peoples of Japan and the Nordic countries by giving grants and scholarships to private individuals, companies, institutions and organizations, to further research, development, education and training within medicine, the humanities, social and natural sciences and technology. Since its inception the Foundation has provided some 7,000 grants to recipients in the Nordic countries and Japan.

<https://sjsf.se/>