

Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji) Fellowship For Pure Land Studies

2010-2011

Application Notice

1. Purpose of the Fellowship Program

The Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji) Fellowship for Pure Land Studies is awarded by Shinshū Ōtani-ha, the Ōtani denomination of Jōdo Shinshū, whose head temple is the Higashi Honganji in Kyoto. The Fellowship was created to support advanced studies of Pure Land Buddhism by assisting the academic careers of graduate students of superior achievement, exceptional promise, and demonstrated interest in Pure Land Buddhism. The Fellowship provides with financial support necessary to complete part or all of the training required for an advanced degree in fields that can shed light on the history and doctrines of Pure Land Buddhism. The fellowship is designed to encourage talented students to pursue scholarly careers in fields related to Pure Land Buddhism, especially Jōdo Shinshū, and thereby to promote academic studies of Pure Land Buddhism.

2. Categories of Applicants

- (a) Non-Japanese citizens attending graduate schools outside Japan.
- (b) Non-Japanese citizens attending graduate schools in Japan.
- (c) Japanese citizens attending graduate schools outside Japan.

3. Eligibility

(a) The applicant must be enrolled (or officially admitted at the time of application) as a full-time student in an accredited graduate program, and must be pursuing a Master's Degree or a Ph.D.

(b) The focus of the applicant's research or intended dissertation topic must be related to Pure Land Buddhism.

The selection committee will look for evidence that one can expect that the applicant will contribute significantly to the dissemination or promotion of the academic study of Pure Land Buddhism, especially Jōdo Shinshū.

(c) The recipients of the fellowship must take Japanese language or seminars using original Japanese sources every semester/quarter, and send their official transcripts to Shinshū Ōtani-ha every semester/quarter.

(d) Within one month after the completion of each academic year under fellowship support, the recipients of the fellowship must submit a report on their studies or research, demonstrating that their work is in fact relevant to Pure Land studies.

(e) The recipients of the fellowship must demonstrate intent to publish at least one journal article related to Pure Land Buddhism in academic journals, such as *The Eastern Buddhist*, within one year after finishing their degree programs.

(f) Eligibility is limited to students under the age 35 at the time of application.

4. Number of Fellowship Recipients

One or more each year.

5. Application Procedure

To apply, send the following documents to the Eastern Buddhist Society:

(a) Applicant Information (Use the cover sheet attached to this notice).

(b) Curriculum vitae (resumé).

(c) A sample of the applicant's academic writing: seminar paper or the applicant's extended summary of his M.A. thesis (do not exceed 2000 words).

(d) Personal Statement (1000 words), including an explanation of how the graduate

program in which the applicant is enrolled is related to his or her program of research.

*Applicants in categories 2(b) and 2(c) of the above Categories of Applicants should write 5(c) and 5(d) in Japanese (approximately 2000 characters).

(e) Official Transcripts of all higher education studies.

(f) Certification of Enrollment (or Letter of Acceptance) from graduate institutions.

(g) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, or equivalent scholastic aptitude examinations.

(h) Three Letters of Recommendation (Use the attached form).

One from applicant's academic advisor, and the others from professors who can evaluate applicant's abilities in the field.

6. Application Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Shinshū Ōtani-ha Fellowship Board, and the final decision will be made by the Chief Administrator of Shinshū Ōtani-ha. In some cases, interviews will be held as a part of the review process.

7. Length of Awards

Awards are made for one year, and are renewable to a maximum of five years contingent upon the students making satisfactory progress toward the degree. The Fellowship Board's review is required for renewal.

8. Awards

The awards consists of two parts:

(a) An institutional payment to be paid to each institution at which a Fellow is in attendance to cover the student's tuition and fees.

(b) A stipend to the Fellow for personal expenses. The amount will be decided based on the standards set by such major fellowships as The National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships.

9. Application Deadline

Applications must be received by the date announced in the Application Notice. For academic year 2010-2011, the application deadline is April 20, 2010.

10. Notification of Disposition

A notice will be sent to individuals on or around June 4, 2010, informing them of the decision of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha Fellowship Board and final approval of their appointment as Shinshū Ōtani-ha Fellows. All applicants, those selected as well as those not selected, will be notified of this decision at the same time.

11. Application Mailing Address, and Contact

Applications should be addressed to:

Shinshū Ōtani-ha Fellowship for Pure Land Studies

The Eastern Buddhist Society *

Otani University, 22 Koyama Kamifusa-cho

Kita-ku, Kyoto 603-8143

JAPAN

Fax: +81-75-431-4400

E-mail: ebs@otani.ac.jp

*The Eastern Buddhist Society, founded by D. T. Suzuki and others in 1921, is affiliated with the Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji).