



The Research Partnership Programme

The Research Partnership Programme (RPP), funded by the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida) and organised by The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) offers a small number (4-6) researchers from developing and transitional countries the unique opportunity of becoming a guest researcher at the DIHR for a period of no more than five months, during the semester August – December 2012.

For 2011 and 2012, the programme operates under the thematic focus of “Informal Justice Systems” (IJS), and the topics selected by prospective applicants should ideally fit under this theme. The terms informal, non-state or local justice systems encompass a wide range of adjudicative mechanisms using a variety of normative foundations, forms and structures, and adjudicative procedures. They present opportunities for access to justice where state systems lack outreach and forums in which a diversity of cultures and values can be respected. They also present challenges and weaknesses in respect of compliance with human rights standards concerning participation and accountability, fairness of procedures (including the protection of the vulnerable) and substantive outcomes.

Exploration of the human rights implications of IJS by the international human rights system and community has been limited. A more detailed guide to issues considered to be of interest is to be found at <http://humanrights.dk/rpp>

Objective

The RPP is one component of the DIHR strategy to upgrade and expand the resource bases in developing and transitional countries within the field of human rights. The aim of the programme is to build human rights research capacity in these countries, and in general to contribute to stronger academic environments and increased exchange between institutions in the human rights field internationally.

Please note that the DIHR does not issue an academic degree. However, the study may give academic credit if it is carried out as part of academic studies, e.g. PhD. or other doctoral studies with another institution, and such linking is encouraged.

Who can apply?

The programme is primarily for persons who have experience in human rights-related research and/or work. The minimum requirement for applying is a bachelor's degree and preference will be given to those possessing a master's degree or equivalent qualifications. The applicant must be professionally affiliated to an institution (NGO, university, etc.) in a developing or transitional country. It is of utmost importance that the applicant is fluent in spoken as well as written English.



The selection of research partners will depend on the qualifications of the total number of applicants and the availability of qualified supervision at the DIHR.

The Research Grant

Expenses in relation to accommodation, insurance and international flights will be covered by the grant. Moreover, the guest researcher will be given an adequate amount per month to cover living expenses in Denmark. The guest researchers are accommodated at the Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) in central Copenhagen. DFC handles the administration of the grant and organises numerous social-cultural events. As the price level in Denmark is high, one should not expect to be able to make savings. It is not possible for the DIHR to invite family of the guest researcher to Denmark.

Programme Structure

The Research Partnership Programme is anchored in the Research Department of the DIHR. Guest researchers are provided with office facilities within this department, and may hereby benefit from the experience and dynamics of the DIHR's human rights research. In 2011 and 2012, the programme will be implemented in close cooperation with the Justice Department, responsible for the implementation of the Informal Justice initiative, and extensive and close cooperation should therefore be foreseen with this department and its staff.

A supervisor/sparring partner is appointed for each guest researcher. Together the guest researcher and the supervisor will agree on a work plan for the research period. Various forms of courses and seminars will be offered both in relation to the specific thematic topic and human rights, and on various aspects of research methodology. In addition, the guest researchers are expected to participate in seminars, conferences and group discussions at the DIHR.

By the end of the research period a discussion of the research findings will take place at the DIHR. In addition, each guest researcher is given the opportunity to publish her/his research findings in the most appropriate form.

How to apply?

Applicants are requested to forward the following in English only (certificates and letters of recommendation in French are also acceptable):

1. Research proposal of five to ten pages stating:
 - A) Field of research
 - B) Objective
 - C) Methodology
 - D) Expected output
 - E) Time frame for the work.

Please refer to the attached concept paper in relation to the specific topic of IJS
2. Certifiable academic degree(s).
3. Curriculum Vitae.
4. Proof of institutional affiliation.
5. An academic article or paper produced by the applicant.



6. Proof of proficiency in English (oral and written) by means of an English test (for instance TOEFL or IELTS)
7. A letter of recommendation from the institute to which the applicant is affiliated.

If you have further questions you are welcome to contact Programme Manager, Ms. Sisse Stræde Bang Olsen: sol@humanrights.dk, or Head of Programme, Dr. Lone Lindholt: lli@humanrights.dk. For questions relating to the thematic of IJS, please contact Mr. Fergus Kerrigan, Head of Access to Justice Programme: fke@humanrights.dk.

Applications for the coming academic year (August-December 2012) should be received at the DIHR no later than 14th of February 2012. A reply will be forwarded to the applicant by May 1st at the latest. Please send your application to:

The Danish Institute for Human Rights
The Research Partnership Programme
Att.: Sisse Stræde Bang Olsen
Strandgade 56
DK-1401 København K
Denmark

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www.humanrights.dk

The Danish Institute for Human Rights was founded by the Act on Establishment of a Danish Centre for International Studies and Human Rights 6th June 2002, and carries forth the mandate vested in the Danish Centre for Human Rights, established by act of parliament in 1987 as an independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) according to the UN Paris Principles of 1993. Read more at www.humanrights.dk