

PhD grant: German Institute for Japanese Studies in cooperation with the Institute of Gerontology at the TU Dortmund and the University of Siegen

The German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo, an institute of the Max Weber Foundation, offers PhD students an extraordinary opportunity for a temporarily limited field research in Japan in the research field "Age and Digital Technology". The grant allows a field stay of 8-12 months and is endowed with 2400 Euro per month.

The research work is part of the international research project "ACCESS - Supporting digital literacy and appropriation of ICT by older people".

Scholarship details:

Target group:

The temporarily limited funding is aimed at PhD students who are enrolled in a doctoral programme and intend to write their doctoral thesis in the field of "Age and digital technology". The following constellations are conceivable:

- PhD students from Japanology who work on the topic of demographic change and possible forms of technical support;
- PhD students from gerontology/sociology and neighbouring disciplines related to Japan and technology;
- PhD students from applied IT research related to Japan and demography.

Knowledge of the Japanese language is required.

Co-supervision is being offered at the DIJ (Prof. Dr. Franz Waldenberger) and by the Institute of Gerontology at the TU Dortmund (Prof. em. Dr. Gerd Naegele, Prof. Dr. Christoph Strünck) as well as at the University of Siegen (Ass. Prof. Dr. Claudia Müller).

Duration:

The research stay can be carried out between October 2018 and mid-2020

Leading research questions:

- Which ICT-based solutions are regarded in Japan as effectively supportive to prolong independent living of older people in their accustomed local surroundings – even in the case of severe neediness?
- Which of these ICT-based solutions are applied in Japan and which are typical barriers on the side of the elderly users in the case of implementation?
- How can the spread of IT-based solutions be supported by policies? What are the respective experiences in the wake of the new Japanese strategy to stronger communalize the Long-Term-Care provision?
- Which (co-)financing models can support the spread of IT-based solutions?
- How can ICT based solutions be best integrated into the specific social structures of families, neighborhoods and friends at the local community level?

Methods:

- Study of relevant academic literature, policy reports and media content
- Expert interviews with relevant stakeholders
- Case studies of relevant initiatives/applications in the City of Iida, Nagano Prefecture, and the City of Miyama, Fukuoka Prefecture

Information on the ACCESS project

ACCESS is funded by the Joint Programming Initiative „More Years - Better Lives' - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Changes“ and connects partners from Finland, Italy, Austria and Germany who, together with the German Institute for Japanese Studies, are researching new ways of learning and appropriating Internet applications and home assistance technologies for older people.

ACCESS focuses on learning processes and on methods for developing and establishing motivating and sustainable learning settings. The aim is the creation of innovative learning spaces for older people and other relevant stakeholders which enable them to acquire knowledge and skills in a self-determined and dignified way. Different settings (formal/informal) and models (e.g. further education courses/ communities of practice) are examined in their spatial and socio-cultural relations in a cross-country and interdisciplinary approach. The research project brings together scholars from pedagogy, gerontology, participatory IT design/human-computer interaction, eHealth, sociology of ageing and political science.

www.project-access.eu

Funding programme "Joint Programming Initiative 'More Years - Better Lives'":

<http://www.jp-demographic.eu/>

Contact & Application:

Applications are open from now. Please explain in a cover letter how you would like to use the grant as part of your doctoral thesis.

Please send your application to Ass. Prof. Dr. Claudia Müller. Please also feel free to send an email in case of further clarification needs: claudia.mueller@uni-siegen.de.