

Raoul Wallenberg PhD Support Program in Human Rights

Deadline for the Application: 15 October 2017

“Raoul Wallenberg (RW) PhD Support Program in Human Rights”¹ is designed for the doctoral (PhD) students in Turkey pursuing their thesis in law, political and social sciences on specific human rights topics, relevant to Turkey.

The primary aims of the Program are to increase the number of PhD work related to human rights topics in Turkey and foster networks with other junior researchers and experts in Turkey as well as abroad. The Raoul Wallenberg PhD Support Program provides PhD candidates with:

- an extensive knowledge of research on human rights as a multidisciplinary perspective
- special trainings on academic writing
- online and/or face to face support from academic supervisors/experts throughout the program
- travel grants for seminar participations and meetings with their supervisors
- networking with researchers and experts in the same field both in Turkey and abroad
- opportunities to present their work in seminars and conferences
- a program certificate for their participation in the activities

Program Framework and Requirements:

1. Thematic Areas:

The Program expects from each PhD candidate to focus on at least one human rights topic related to Turkey as part of their studies within the field of law, political and social sciences. PhD candidates who study any of the following thematic areas are specifically encouraged to apply for the program:

- Rule of law
- Children’s rights
- Rights of persons with disabilities
- Rights of elderly people
- Rights of refugees and migrants
- Business and human rights
- Human rights and environment
- Gender equality, women’s rights and/or LGBTI rights

2. Program Framework:

Raoul Wallenberg PhD Support Program in Human Rights includes face to face thesis supervision, human rights research and academic writing seminary. The maximum duration of the support covers four academic terms depending on candidate’s individual study plan.

¹ The program is designed by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in the frame of its Turkey Program in consultation with Research Worldwide İstanbul.

2.1 Individual Study Plan:

Each PhD candidate will have their own individual study plan based on their thesis term. The plan will be decided in consultation with the PhD Support Committee. The PhD Support Committee will be composed of three experts, individual program supervisor of the PhD candidate, an independent expert from the field and a member of the Program Administration Team. Each PhD candidate shall satisfy the program requirements in each term to carry on the program. Individual plans shall only be amended with the approval of program supervisors.

2.2 Supervision:

A program supervisor will be assigned to each PhD candidate and will support the student throughout the program. The supervisors will be selected by the Program Administration Team with the final approval of PhD candidates. PhD candidate can meet with the program supervisor –both in person or via online-twice in an academic term based on student's study plan.

2.3 Seminars and Conferences

The program has three compulsory seminars; 'Research Methodologies', 'Academic Writing' and 'Individual Seminars'.

Research Methodologies module comprises the key concepts of science and methodology as well as methodological approaches to science and academic research. Academic Writing module provides technical knowledge on how to use resources and write a PhD thesis in international standards.

The individual seminar is an essential component of the Program. Each PhD student is required to give an individual seminar on their thesis in order to complete the program. Thus, students are responsible for presenting their work at least once in two terms period based on their individual study plan.

At the end of each academic year an annual international conference in Turkey will be organized by Program Administration Team in order to provide an environment for PhD candidates to discuss related topics with senior and junior researchers and experts from different countries.

2.4. Travel and Accommodation Support

Each PhD student will be provided travel and accommodation grants to participate seminars and the annual international conference and to meet their supervisors based on their individual study plan. The Program also encourages PhD candidates to present their work in both national and international conferences at least once in two terms providing travel grants with approval of the Program Administration Team.

2.5 Program Requirements:

PhD candidates shall satisfy all the program requirements each term to be able to maintain their place in the program.

Accordingly, each PhD student, who meets the entry requirements, is also expected:

- to participate at least 2 of 3 the provided seminars in each term
- to satisfy at least %75 of their individual program requirements

3. Application Requirements and Selection Criteria:

3.1 Entry requirements:

The PhD candidates who apply for the Program must

- be a Turkish citizen
- be enrolled in a PhD program at a Turkish university,
- has completed his/her PhD qualification exam not more than two academic years before
- have English language proficiency in academic reading and writing, or study at a university with English education system

A complete application must include all enclosers listed below. All enclosers should be submitted **in English** as PDF or word files no later than October 15, 24.00 PM

- Completed **online application form** (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PhDsupport2017>)
- **Personal motivation letter** (The motivation letter is an essential part of the application. The students shall briefly explain their professional expectations and input of the program to their studies)
- **CV of the applicant** (A brief CV outlining studies, degrees and foreign language proficiency)
- **Two academic references for recommendation** (contact informations of two academics must be provided. The references may be contacted for additional information during the selection period)
- **Official copies of the academic degree** indicating level of education and terms of PhD qualification exam

3.2 Selection Criteria:

Applications will be assessed by the Program Administration Team which is composed of the Research Director of RWI, Director of the Research Worldwide İstanbul and the Program Advisor. The applications will be evaluated based on their focus to the human rights issues, their contribution to Turkey's human rights agenda and literature, and their originality. The selection of candidates will seek a balanced distribution of applicants across genders, academic fields and thematic areas.

A maximum of 10 PhD candidates will be accepted for the Raoul Wallenberg PhD Support Program in 2017-2018 academic year.

Selection results will be announced on 23rd of October by 17.00 PM. The first program meeting and first seminar will be held in the same week in İstanbul.