



Global Community Fellowship

Position Description

Overview

The Global Community Fellow plays a critical role in supporting capacity-building, education, and training initiatives of local institutions designed to address specific needs and challenges in the local community. By working directly with communities, fellows gain hands-on experience with organizations in Asia using creative and innovative methods to address critical social challenges while applying their knowledge and skills to further grassroots social change.

Post Summary

The fellow at Shonan Shijuku will support the organization's mission to nurture future social impact leaders. The fellow will also have the opportunity to receive an immersive cultural experience and engage in a wide range of activities and tasks with Shonan Shijuku. By working directly with the community, the fellow will receive hands-on experience learning how organizations in Izumi Otsu are using creative and innovative methods to address critical social challenges.

About the Partner

Shonan Shijuku is a community organization that launched its initiatives in 2010 and was incorporated in 2016 by the current mayor of the City of Izumi Otsu in Osaka Prefecture. Shonan Shijuku aims to nurture future social impact leaders who can contribute to their community and beyond. Their current primary activities include providing educational programs and opportunities, supporting youth in entrepreneurship (an example of some of them hosting a market can be seen [here](#)), holding sessions to encourage students and children with self expression, and providing opportunities to connect foreigners studying at a Japanese school in their city and people in their local community.

About the Location

Izumi Otsu is a city of 74,000 located on the eastern shore of Osaka Bay, opposite Kobe, about 25 minutes from Kansai International Airport (KIX) and 45 minutes from Osaka by train. The city is known for their production of woolen and cotton blankets since the Meiji period and currently produces over 90% of Japan's cotton blankets, for both domestic use and export.

Position Responsibilities

- Support project-based programming for student groups targeted at community goals and optimizing for cultural exchange.
- Conduct monitoring, evaluation, and research activities to assess program outcomes.
- Assist in strengthening intentional, sustainable project design to ensure projects connect and build on each other.

- Participate in the management of community events and projects conducted by Shonan Shijuku.
- Provide planning ideas for programs to foster social innovators.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Academic:** At minimum, completion of a 4-year undergraduate degree by January 2022
- **Citizenship:** US citizenship or residency
- **Language Skills:** English (fluent); Japanese not required but basic Japanese skills and an interest in learning the language is preferred

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity and/or experience with educational programs and community building
- Strong organizational skills; ability to work independently and in a team
- Demonstrated flexibility, adaptability, openness, and curiosity
- Ability to serve as effective bridge between multiple stakeholders
- An interest in supporting grassroots social change organizations
- Strong interest in and/or experience working with social issues in Asia or the US
- Strong oral and written communicator, especially in cross-cultural contexts; comfortable working with English language learners

Professional Development

Fellows have the opportunity to develop and strengthen many transferable skills, including:

- **Mentorship** - Develop peer and expert mentoring relationships with students and collaborators; give feedback, share resources, and connect to new networks
- **Facilitation** - Design and facilitate training sessions for small and large groups
- **Project Management** - Utilize frameworks including logic models and needfinding tools; help ensure projects reach development milestones
- **Cross-cultural Skills** - Deepen understanding of social change initiatives in a new cultural context
- **Team Development** - Support teams in navigating conflict and building effective collaboration practices
- **Sustainability** - Learn how to think critically about the three pillars of sustainability (people, planet, profit) in the context of social impact initiatives
- **Virtual/Hybrid Work Skills** - Learn how to build relationships in a virtual and distributed environment; Help teams manage time effectively when accommodating different time zones and work styles; use tools for effective remote work (Slack, content & community building platforms, etc.)
- **Recruitment** - Learn how to assess applicants and ensure strong and diverse learning communities