



Global Community Fellowship

Position Description at Parami University

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

There will be two fellows working as Program Progression Advisors at Parami University. In this role, the fellows will provide support to university students regarding their academic plans, career goals, and assist students in meeting their graduation requirements. The fellows will report directly to the Dean of Academic Affairs. In this position, the fellows will have the opportunity to:

- Explore an unprecedented, high-quality liberal arts institution in Myanmar
- Support Myanmar students seeking locally and internationally-accredited bachelor's degrees
- Provide opportunities for Myanmar youth to develop the necessary skills to be change agents in their communities

To achieve this, the fellows will work with the Academic Affairs Department to provide advising support and tutoring to students as Program Progression Advisors. The Program Progression Advisors will schedule a group cohort call at the beginning of each academic year for all first-year students, hold small monthly group advising sessions for first, second, third, and fourth-year students, and hold one-to-one advising sessions on an appointment basis. Along with advising, the Program Progression Advisors will tutor students in their academic subjects, provide editorial advising for students' written work, and hold academic-related workshops throughout the school year. By working with the staff at Parami, the fellows will have the opportunity to support a rapidly growing liberal arts institution in nurturing competent and skillful future leaders.

About the Partner

Parami University is a high-quality, liberal arts university in Myanmar that seeks to cultivate future leaders and global citizens by nurturing critical thinking, inspiring leadership, and compassionate service. The university started as a pilot institute, known as Parami Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences in early 2017 to become the first not-for-profit residential liberal arts and sciences university in Myanmar. Parami operates two learning institutes and one research center: Parami Institute of Undergraduate Studies (PIUS), Parami Institute of Continuing Education (PICE), and Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR). After a successful fundraising campaign in February 2020, they developed and finalized the campus master plan which has been postponed. In October 2020, Parami formed the inaugural Board of Trustees. Parami signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with their institutional partner, Bard College in December 2020. The university is currently

in the process of obtaining the necessary registration and accreditation to ensure a high standard of education at Parami. PICE welcomed the 7th cohort of the Parami Leadership Program in August 2020 and formed the alumni working group in December 2020. CEPR has also published policy briefs, education newsletters, the first-ever glossary of higher education terminology, and the first issue of Parami Journal in 2020. Parami University's Institute of Undergraduate Studies will be open to young high school graduates of Myanmar in late 2022 and will offer two undergraduate majors - philosophy, politics, and economics and statistics and data science - that are highly relevant to the country's development.

About the Location

Parami was originally located in Yangon, Myanmar and they have recently established a branch office in Washington DC. As Program Progression Advisors, fellows will be based in Chiang Mai to support their students.

Chiang Mai is the current cultural, commercial, and tourism center of northern Thailand and has a population of roughly 150,000. It is approximately 360 km from the Myanmar border. The greater metropolitan area boasts several of Thailand's top universities. Chiang Mai is home to over 100 important Wats (Buddhist temples), a major Buddhist university, and colorful festivals such as Loi Krathong, known for the release of lanterns and *krathong* or buoyant decorated baskets. The city is considered the coffee capital of Thailand, with hundreds of chain and local cafés to choose from. Fans of spice and early risers can enjoy a bowl of *khao soi*, a noodle dish found in Northern Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar often consumed in the morning, while night owls can enjoy fresh fruit, street food, and handmade goods at one of Chiang Mai's well-known night markets. While the city's expat/digital nomad community (one of the largest in the world) makes Chiang Mai friendly to an English-speaking newcomer, tourism and the "serious leisure" culture of established foreign communities negatively impact the area's natural environment, exacerbate socioeconomic disparities, and continue to reshape the city to suit so-called "location independent" professionals' interests and needs.

Position Responsibilities

- Facilitate academic advising sessions for cohorts of first-year students on program requirements
- Manage monthly small group advising sessions for first, second, third, and fourth-year students based on enrollment growth
- Advise students in one-to-one sessions regarding academic policies, degrees, and general education requirements for degree completion
- Provide one-to-one or group tutoring sessions on academic subjects for university students
- Host academic-related workshops throughout the school year
- Maintain academic files and correspondence of academic counseling with students
- Assist with other Academic Affairs projects as requested

Eligibility Requirements

- Academic: At a minimum, completion of a 4-year undergraduate degree by June 2022
- Citizenship: US citizenship or residency
- Language skills: English (fluent), Burmese not required but basic Burmese skills and interest in learning the language preferred.
- Experience or strong interest in supporting Myanmar's young people

Preferred Qualifications

- Academic Advising and Tutoring
 - Experience facilitating in an online space
 - Experience working with youth or English language learners
 - Familiarity with or willingness to learn advising and counseling techniques
 - Background in liberal arts and science education
 - Familiarity and/or experience with the American model of higher education and learning, particularly in liberal arts colleges and universities
 - Experience leading one-on-one or small group sessions that cater to the academic needs of students
 - Experience developing or leading workshops. Potential workshop topics include academic integrity, data visualization, etc.
- General
 - Demonstrated computer proficiency using majoring applications of G-Suite and other educational apps
 - Strong organizational skills; ability to work independently and in a team
 - Flexible and able to support with unexpected changes
 - Ability to serve as an effective bridge between multiple stakeholders
 - 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 need-finding 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 to ensure a strong and diverse cohort