



# Global Community Fellowship (ST)

## Position Description at Katariba

### Overview

The Global Community Fellowship (Short-Term) plays a critical role in supporting capacity-building, education, and training initiatives of 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

**Katariba** is seeking one motivated, creative Summer 2026 Fellow to support dynamic youth-focused education and community programs in Japan. Katariba's mission is to ensure all teenagers, regardless of background, can develop the motivation and creativity to carve out their own futures, addressing widening opportunity gaps in Japanese society by providing meaningful learning and interaction opportunities.

As a Fellow, you will engage directly in youth work at Katariba's sites in Tokyo, including after-school youth centers, school-linked programs, and community learning spaces. Fellows will help facilitate open dialogue, support project-based sessions that inspire exploration and resiliency, and work with teens and young people from diverse backgrounds (including those affected by economic hardship). This role includes hands-on facilitation, programming support, and the chance to contribute ideas for program development.

The Fellowship will deepen your practical experience in youth engagement, educational facilitation, and community-based program design, ideal for applicants passionate about education, adolescent development, and positive social impact.

### About the Partner

認定NPO法人カタリバ (**Katariba**) is a certified nonprofit organization working across Japan to create youth-centered spaces where teenagers can connect, explore their interests, and build confidence through dialogue and collaborative activities. Katariba's vision is a society in which anyone, no matter their social or economic



background, can develop the power to make their own future. Its mission is to provide motivation and creativity for all teenagers through meaningful opportunities for interaction, learning, and support.

Katariba's activities span four core areas – DISCOVER (exploration and inspiration), RESILIENCE (support in adversity), GLOCAL (community-rooted learning), and POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH (strength through recovery). These include youth centers, project-based learning programs, and partnerships with schools and communities nationwide.

The VIA Summer Fellowship with Katariba will take place during **Summer 2026 for 6 weeks duration, starting mid-June to late June**. The exact schedule will be confirmed in consultation with the Fellow and Katariba staff, but applicants should expect involvement in programming and support activities from June through July.

### About the Location

This is an in-person role based primarily at Katariba's centers in Tokyo, with potential travel to other regions where Katariba operates youth centers (e.g., disaster-affected areas and community spaces). Headquarters for Katariba is based in Nakano, Tokyo.

Nakano is a vibrant ward in central Tokyo, known for its lively shopping streets, local eateries, and cultural attractions. It offers excellent access to central Tokyo via multiple train lines, making it convenient for commuting to schools, youth centers, and community sites. The area combines a bustling urban atmosphere with quieter residential neighborhoods, providing a dynamic setting for community engagement and youth programming.

**VIA and Katariba will assist the Fellow in arranging suitable accommodation within Tokyo. The Fellow will be responsible for accommodation expenses.**

### Position Responsibilities

- **B-Lab Youth Worker (文京区青少年プラザ b-lab – Youth Center)** (B-Lab: an after-school youth space for teenagers to explore activities, socialize, and learn supportively)
  - **Organization:** B-Lab Youth Center – a community space for junior and senior high school students in Bunkyo Ward offering a “third place”



where youth can freely engage in activities after school and on weekends.

- Support and engage teenagers in a safe and inclusive after-school environment.
  - Facilitate diverse **extracurricular activities**, including **music, dance, table tennis, English learning, mini-club activities**, and other student-led projects.
  - Provide **learning support and study encouragement** through structured and informal study opportunities.
  - Act as a positive role model and supportive youth worker, building trust and promoting confidence among participants.
  - Assist students in identifying and pursuing their interests, including creative and social activities that contribute to personal growth and skill building.
  - Maintain a welcoming, respectful, and safe space for all youth members.
  - Work collaboratively with staff to plan, promote, and execute scheduled events and community activities.
  - Flexibly manage responsibilities within **morning and evening shifts**, supporting the center's **open-7-days-a-week after-school schedule**.
- **Youth Worker Mentor – Adachi Ward Child Poverty Prevention Division (アダチベース: A-Base)**
    - **Organization:** Adachi Base (“アダチベース”), operated by the Adachi Ward Child Poverty Prevention Division and Welfare Department in partnership with Katariba, offering support and life opportunities for children affected by poverty.
    - Provide **holistic youth support** for students (primarily middle school and young people up to high school age) from low-income and high-need backgrounds.
    - Facilitate and support **after-school learning programs**, including homework help, study groups, and academic encouragement to help students build confidence and learning habits.
    - Deliver or assist with **extracurricular activities and experiential programs**, such as sports, arts, music, community events, and seasonal celebrations, that enrich participants' experiences.
    - Serve as a **mentor and youth worker**, building supportive relationships with students and encouraging positive social engagement.



- Support the operation of a **safe, welcoming, and stable environment** where youth can feel accepted, belong, and grow.
- Work collaboratively with schools, families, and community partners to address individual student needs and help break cycles of socioeconomic disadvantage.
- Provide practical and emotional support tailored to each student's goals and challenges.
- Flexibility to work **morning and evening shifts**, contributing to program operations during center(s) designated hours (**from 4pm - 9 pm**) and adapt to location rotations or sustained on-site engagement.
- **Flexibility:** The Fellow should be prepared for a **shift-based schedule (approx. 5 days/week, 4–8 hours/day)** depending on host site activities.
  - A fixed schedule will be determined by Katariba with discussion with the fellow after the fellow has been selected
- **Commitment:** Willing to participate fully in required sessions, meetings, and youth programming.

## Eligibility Requirements

- **Academic:** Must be currently enrolled in an **undergraduate degree program** at an accredited university. Please note that this fellowship is only eligible for current undergraduate students, as they will be expected to share their undergraduate studies experience as part of their fellowship duties.
- **Citizenship:** Must be a **US citizen, permanent resident, or have significant experience in the US** (e.g., graduated from a U.S. university, worked in the US for several years). Non-US. citizens will be considered on a case-by-case basis due to visa and host-country requirements.
- **Language Skills:** Must be able to **communicate in English**. Japanese language proficiency is not required but is welcomed.
- **Work Experience:** Must be willing and able to participate fully in all mandatory activities, including online preparatory assignments, on-site orientation, and the entire on-site program period.
- Must **respect diversity** and be passionate about transforming differences into strengths through education, cross-cultural learning, and collaborative programs.
- **Interpersonal Skills:** Enjoys working with teens and children, and comfortable engaging in supportive dialogue.
- **One** Fellow will be selected for this role (with rotation between B-Lab & A-Base).



## Preferred Qualifications

- Interest in **youth education, community engagement, and social innovation.**
- Experience or enthusiasm for facilitating discussions and creative activities.
- Strong teamwork skills and ability to adapt to evolving program needs.

## Professional Development

- **Youth Facilitation & Dialogue Skills:** Develop techniques for leading meaningful conversations and activities that empower adolescents.
- **Program Design & Implementation:** Gain experience helping shape educational activities that respond to youth needs and interests.
- **Cross-Cultural Competence:** Work in a culturally diverse environment and support teens from varied backgrounds, including disaster-affected or economically challenged communities.
- **Community Engagement:** Learn firsthand how nonprofit educational programs operate and how to collaborate with stakeholders across sites.

## Estimated Cost – \$4500 USD~

- **International Travel** – \$1800: Economy Flight \$1500~ + Travel/Health Insurance \$300~
- **Accommodation** – \$2000–\$2300 \$40–50 USD per day
- **Living Costs** – \$800–1000:
  - Food – \$10–20 Daily
  - Transportation – \$5–10 Daily
  - Miscellaneous (supplies, personal expenses, materials) – \$200
- **Fellowship Management Fee** – \$500: Fee for fellowship management and logistics
- **Tourist Visa** – \$0–\$100: U.S. passport holders are eligible to enter Japan **visa-free for up to 90 days** and do **not** need to apply in advance for visa-exempt status. While Japan does not require six months of passport validity, passports must be **valid for the entire duration of the stay.**