



Global Community Fellowship (ST)

Position Description at Para-can

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

Para-can is seeking a motivated, creative **Summer 2026 Fellow** to support inclusive education and community engagement through para-sports programming in Japan. Para-can works to create inclusive opportunities for children with disabilities by using sports as a powerful tool for empowerment, confidence-building, and social connection.

As a Fellow, you will support para-sports events and collaborate with Para-can staff to **design and pilot a new sports exchange program** that brings together children with and without disabilities through shared physical activities and intercultural learning. The Fellow will engage directly with youth participants, assist in program facilitation, and contribute to the development of an exchange model that Para-can can continue to use beyond the fellowship period.

This fellowship offers hands-on experience in inclusive education, disability advocacy, and community-based program development, making it ideal for students interested in education, adaptive sports, social inclusion, and youth development.

About the Partner

Para-can (一般社団法人パラキャン) is a Japan-based organization dedicated to creating inclusive communities through para-sports and educational initiatives for children and youth with disabilities. Para-can believes that sports can break down



social barriers, foster mutual understanding, and create spaces where children of all abilities can participate, grow, and thrive together.

Through para-sports events, workshops, and community programs, Para-can promotes inclusion, accessibility, and cross-cultural exchange while empowering young people with disabilities to build confidence, social skills, and a sense of belonging.

The VIA Summer Fellowship with Para-can will take place during **Summer 2026** for **8 weeks**, starting in mid-June. The exact schedule will be confirmed in consultation with the Fellow and Para-can staff, with program activities expected from June through August.

About the Location

This is an in-person role with the Fellow based primarily in **Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture**, where Para-can is headquartered. Program activities will take place at Para-can facilities and local community and sports venues, with some travel to external sites such as Osaka, Hiroshima, and Wakayama for para-sports events and outreach activities, particularly during July.

Kashiwa is a lively suburban city located in northwestern Chiba, approximately 30–40 minutes from central Tokyo by train. Known for its strong community feel, accessible public spaces, and family-oriented neighborhoods, Kashiwa offers a welcoming environment for youth-focused and community-based work. The city combines urban convenience with access to parks, sports facilities, and local schools, making it well-suited for inclusive education and para-sports programming.

Para-can will assist the Fellow in identifying suitable accommodation in or near Kashiwa. Fellows will be responsible for accommodation and living expenses.

VIA and Para-can will assist the Fellow in arranging suitable accommodation within Kashiwa, Chiba. The Fellow will be responsible for accommodation expenses.

Position Responsibilities

- Support the planning and facilitation of para-sports events for children with disabilities, working closely with Para-can staff and volunteers.



- Engage directly with child and youth participants in a supportive, inclusive, and encouraging environment.
- Assist with the development and implementation of a **new sports exchange program** between Japan and the United States, drawing on experiences from Para-can's existing activities and summer events.
- Help design program activities and find US based partner organizations that encourage interaction, teamwork, and mutual understanding among children of different abilities.
- Support day-to-day program operations, including event preparation, activity facilitation, and post-event reflection.
- Serve as a positive role model, fostering confidence, participation, and respect among youth participants.
- Collaborate with Para-can staff to document program outcomes and provide input for future program improvement.
Participate in bi-weekly check-in meetings with Para-can leadership staff to reflect on progress and receive guidance.
- Approx. **5 days/40-hour work week**, with hours varying depending on program and event schedules.
- Increased involvement in **outside activities and events in July**, which will inform the design of the sports exchange program.
- A fixed schedule will be determined in consultation with Para-can after the Fellow is selected.

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**. Beginner level 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.



- **Interpersonal Skills:** Enjoys working with children and youth and is comfortable engaging in supportive, inclusive dialogue.
- **Values:** Demonstrates respect for diversity and a strong interest in inclusive education, disability advocacy, and community engagement.
- **One Fellow** will be selected for this role. Female fellow preferred.

Preferred Qualifications

- Interest in inclusive education, adaptive or para-sports, and disability inclusion.
- Nursing/Public Health/Education/Sports background preferred.
- Previous community engagement, volunteer experience, or youth-related activities, especially with children & youth with disabilities.
- Creativity and initiative in program development and activity design.
- Ability to work collaboratively and adapt to evolving program needs.

Professional Development

- **Inclusive Education & Disability Awareness:** Gain firsthand experience supporting children with disabilities through sports-based learning.
- **Program Design & Innovation:** Develop skills in creating and piloting a sports exchange program with long-term impact.
- **Youth Engagement Skills:** Learn techniques for facilitating inclusive, confidence-building activities for children.
- **Cross-Cultural Experience:** Work in a Japanese nonprofit context while engaging with diverse communities and stakeholders.

Estimated Cost – \$6500 USD~

- **International Travel** – \$1800: Economy Flight \$1500~ + Travel/Health Insurance \$300~
- **Accommodation** – \$2500: \$40-50 USD per day
- **Living Costs** – \$1600:
 - 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: US Citizens can apply for VISA exempt on arrival, up to 3 months stay