



# Global Community Fellowship (ST)

Position Description at University of Gadjah Mada (UGM)

## 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

**Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)** is seeking motivated and adaptable **Summer 2026 Global Community Fellows** to participate in a **6-week Immersive Education Program in Community Engagement** in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. As one of Indonesia's leading national universities, UGM integrates education, research, and community service to address societal challenges through participatory and sustainability-focused approaches.

Fellows will engage in a structured, multi-phase program that includes cultural and language orientation, community-based service learning (KKN-PPM), sustainability-focused engagement with university-led initiatives, a community-based internship, and structured reflection and reporting. Participants will live and work alongside local students and community members, contributing to programs that support education, public health, women's empowerment, environmental sustainability, and local economic development. Additional activities include engagement with the **Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) UGM Yogyakarta** on sustainable development practices, as well as a community internship with the **Department of Foreign Languages, Arts, and Cultural Sciences (DBSMB) of UGM Vocational College**. The program concludes with evaluation and reflection sessions, where participants present their experiences and compile reports and documentation of their learning outcomes.



This fellowship offers a rigorous, immersive experience ideal for students interested in global development, community engagement, sustainability, public service, media, and cross-cultural learning.

### About the Partner

**Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)** is a premier public university in Indonesia, grounded in the national philosophy of **Pancasila** and committed to democracy, cultural integrity, and community service. UGM's community engagement programs are anchored in the **KKN-PPM (Student Community Service – Community Empowerment Learning Program)**, a core academic requirement that places students directly in communities to collaboratively address local needs.

UGM integrates **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** into its community service initiatives, emphasizing empathy, leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration, and applied problem-solving. International participants join UGM students in these programs, gaining exposure to Indonesian society while contributing global perspectives.

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

### About the Location

Yogyakarta is a cultural and educational hub on the island of Java, known for its strong community traditions, universities, and proximity to rural villages and environmental sites. Fellows will be based in villages and community settings throughout Yogyakarta Province, offering deep exposure to Indonesian cultural life, community values, and grassroots development efforts.

Accommodation options may be **homestay-based or local accommodation determined by UGM**, allowing Fellows to live alongside local families and communities during program phases.

**VIA and UGM will assist Fellows in arranging suitable accommodation within Yogyakarta. Fellows will be responsible for accommodation expenses.**



## Schedule & Commitment

- Full-time participation across all program components
- Community-based living during KKN-PPM and other program phases
- Willingness to adapt to rural conditions and community schedules

## Program Components & Responsibilities

### 1. Orientation & Indonesian Language Learning (Week 1)

- Participate in cultural orientation sessions introducing Indonesian society, Yogyakarta's regional context, and cross-cultural engagement.
- Learn survival-level Indonesian through classroom instruction and small-group tutorials.
- Prepare for respectful and effective interaction within local communities.

### KKN-PPM: Community Empowerment Learning Program (Weeks 2–3)

- Join UGM student teams deployed to villages across Yogyakarta Province (Sleman, Yogyakarta City, Bantul, Gunungkidul, or Kulon Progo).
- Collaborate with local residents to design and implement community-driven programs responding to local needs.
- Contribute to thematic areas such as:
  - Education
  - Community-based health
  - Disaster preparedness and early warning systems
  - Women's empowerment
  - Local government and village capacity building
  - Micro, small, and medium enterprise development
  - Cultural and natural resource-based initiatives
  - Sustainable tourism
- Live within the community and participate in daily village life, strengthening cultural understanding and mutual learning.
- Work in interdisciplinary teams, contributing ideas aligned with academic interests and skills.

### 3. Community Engagement with Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Yogyakarta (Week 4)



- Engage with the **RCE Yogyakarta**, a university-based center advancing Education for Sustainable Development.
- Participate in site visits, workshops, discussions, and community observations focused on:
  - Green city development
  - Coastal and river restoration
  - Disaster management and rehabilitation
  - Zero-waste agriculture
  - Youth and school capacity building
- Gain exposure to regional sustainability initiatives and community-led environmental solutions.

#### 4. Community Internship (Week 5)

- Intern with the Department of Foreign Languages, Arts, and Cultural Sciences (DBSMB), Vocational School, UGM
- Participate in community service programs in several villages in Kulon Progo, Yogyakarta
- Contribute to the development of promotional materials for tourism attractions in villages supported by the DBSMB community service program

#### 5. Evaluation & Reflection (Week 6)

- Prepare and deliver presentations reflecting on fellowship experiences and learning outcomes.
- Compile documentation, reports, and media from the program.
- Participate in final discussions and broadcasts as appropriate.

### 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**. Bahasa 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.
- Strong interest in community engagement, sustainability, and cross-cultural learning
- Willingness to live in community settings and collaborate with diverse teams
- Commitment to full participation in all program phases
- Up to **five** Fellows will be selected for this role.

These recurring meetings and working sessions are required components of the fellowship schedule.

### Preferred Qualifications

- Interest in global development, education, sustainability, or community-based work
- Experience with community service, service-learning, or intercultural programs
- Adaptability, teamwork, and strong interpersonal skills

### Professional Development

- **Community-Based Learning:** Apply academic knowledge to real-world community challenges
- **Cross-Cultural Competence:** Develop cultural humility and communication skills
- **Sustainability & Development Practice:** Engage with ESD frameworks and grassroots initiatives
- **Media & Communication Skills:** Build storytelling and outreach experience through community engagement
- **Leadership & Collaboration:** Build teamwork, empathy, and problem-solving skills in diverse settings

### Estimated Cost – \$4500 USD~

- **International Travel** – \$1800: Economy Flight \$1500~ + Travel/Health Insurance \$300~



- **Accommodation** — \$1300: \$30~ USD per day
- **Living Costs** — \$800:
  - Food - \$10-15 Daily
  - Transportation - \$5~ Daily
  - Miscellaneous (supplies, personal expenses, materials) - \$200
- **Fellowship Management Fee** — \$500: Fee for fellowship management and logistics
- **Student Visa** — \$0-\$300: UGM and VIA will assist the Fellow in obtaining the appropriate VISA

## Testimonials

*A student from France (2 weeks, Oct-Nov 2025)*

During my two-week KKN-PPM program in Jatirejo Village, Imogiri, I participated in a community development project focused on waste management and social awareness. Our group of seven international and local students worked with the villagers to identify key issues such as improper waste disposal, lack of teachers in the primary school, gambling, tuberculosis stigma, child stunting, and unregistered small businesses. We organized educational activities in the local school to teach children about recycling and sustainability, helped in classrooms, and engaged in awareness sessions about health and social challenges. Beyond the main project, we immersed ourselves in Javanese culture by attending traditional gatherings, weddings, and community events, which allowed us to gain a deep understanding of the villagers' lifestyle and values. Despite the language barrier, the experience strengthened our sense of empathy, adaptability, and teamwork, contributing both to our personal growth and the community's ongoing development efforts. (Source: a student KKN report, November 2025)

*A student from Sweden (50 days, Oct-Dec 2025)*

The time here in the village has been really interesting for me in many different ways. The biggest difference for me is to learn and see how religion is such a big part of the daily life here and community. The strong community in itself is also really interesting for me to see. People never seem to be alone here, and they spend time together. I also found out that people's view of time here is different. People here don't stress



about the time and I think that is mostly positive. The facility and infrastructure is better than I expected. Wi-Fi, electric and water works, and the transportation is working. The first time here in the village we had meetings and introduced ourselves and the KKN- program. I think that is important, so the people of the village get a good impression from us. Then we have been doing a recycling project with the kids. We had a competition with making art from trash and gave out prizes. We have also been holding a cooking class for the women where we shared food culture. And the people from the village have also shown us their daily life with old traditions of batik, bambú craftwork, cooking skills, tea making and much more. The locals have treated us really nice and welcomed us and a lot of pitchers have been taken. (Source: the student's comments via WA message, October 2025)