



Global Community Fellowship (ST)

Position Description at Upcycle4Better (U4B)

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

Upcycle4Better (U4B) is seeking motivated Summer 2026 Fellows to support its sustainability education, textile upcycling operations, and community outreach programming in Malaysia. This fellowship integrates experiential learning, environmental stewardship, and community engagement, offering Fellows the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to circular economy initiatives and textile waste reduction.

The fellowship is intentionally designed as a service-learning and voluntary engagement experience that integrates applied learning, operational exposure, and cultural immersion. Fellows will work alongside local staff and volunteers in a collaborative environment that emphasizes peer learning, cross-cultural exchange, and shared responsibility. Through hands-on participation in workshops, factory tours, outreach activities, and content creation, Fellows gain a practical understanding of sustainable production, education programming, and community-based environmental action.

This fellowship is well-suited for students and recent graduates interested in sustainability, environmental studies, circular economy, social enterprise, education, communications, design, or community development in low- and middle-income contexts.



About the Partner

Upcycle4Better (U4B) is a community-driven social enterprise dedicated to reducing textile waste and promoting sustainable practices through upcycling, education, and community engagement. U4B operates as part of a multi-company ecosystem that transforms resources, spaces, and operations into meaningful community projects and environmental initiatives that create measurable social and environmental impact.

U4B delivers a range of initiatives including corporate sustainability programs, school tours, uniform recycling projects, hands-on upcycling workshops, and awareness campaigns. Through these programs, U4B helps organizations and individuals better understand textile recovery, responsible consumption, and circular thinking while creating tangible sustainability outcomes.

U4B combines operational textile recovery processes with educational programming to make sustainability accessible, engaging, and action-oriented for diverse audiences including students, corporate partners, and community members.

The VIA Summer Fellowship with Upcycle4Better will take place during Summer 2026 for approximately 8 weeks, with flexibility within the mid-June to mid-August period depending on project needs and participant availability.

About the Location

This is an in-person fellowship based in Selangor, Malaysia. Fellows will be immersed in local community life while working in U4B's facilities and participating in outreach activities, workshops, and educational tours.

The fellowship includes exposure to Malaysian culture through local immersion sessions, community engagement activities, and collaborative teamwork with international volunteers and local staff. Fellows will gain firsthand insight into environmental challenges, waste management practices, and community-based sustainability efforts in Southeast Asia.

Accommodation is provided in shared volunteer housing with access to common facilities and workspace. Meals are provided on weekdays, with some meals on weekends not included.

Fellows will be responsible for accommodation expenses.



Schedule & Commitment

Week 1: Orientation & Induction

- Organizational onboarding and factory tour
- Introduction to textile waste management and U4B operations
- Safety, roles, and project expectations

Weeks 2–7: Project Implementation & Community Engagement

- Participation in factory tours for school and corporate visitors
- Planning and delivery of textile and sustainability workshops
- Social media content creation (writing, photography, video)
- Local immersion activities and cultural exchange sessions
- Community outreach, including disability center engagement
- Ongoing reflection, feedback, and team collaboration

Final Phase (Week 8): Reflection & Wrap-Up

- Final contributions to programming and documentation
- Fellowship reflection, evaluation, and closure

Fellows generally work full-time with two days off per week. The schedule may vary depending on programming needs and partner activities.

Position Responsibilities

Sustainability & Community Engagement Fellow

Fellows will work collaboratively with U4B staff and fellow participants to:

- Assist in facilitating factory tours for schools and corporate visitors, explaining textile recovery processes and environmental impacts.
- Support the planning and delivery of hands-on sustainability and upcycling workshops (e.g., fabric education, clothing care, DIY projects).
- Contribute to social media and communications content including writing, photography, and video creation.



- Participate in local immersion activities, including cultural learning sessions and community engagement experiences.
- Support outreach programming at local community and disability centers through activity planning and facilitation.
- Assist with basic operational tasks related to workshop preparation, logistics, and visitor engagement.
- Engage in teamwork, reflection, and continuous improvement discussions with staff and peers.
- Represent U4B's mission of sustainability, responsible consumption, and environmental education in all activities.

Anticipated Frequency of Check-Ins: Regular weekly check-ins with U4B supervisors and VIA program staff.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Age:** 21 years and above
- **Education:** Rising juniors/seniors or recent graduates preferred
- **Language:** Beginner-level English proficiency required
- **Commitment:** Ability to commit to at least 6–8 weeks during Summer 2026
- **Adaptability:** Comfort living and working in a shared, international community setting
- **Values:** Interest in sustainability, environmental responsibility, community engagement, and collaborative learning
- **Up to Four** Fellows will be selected for this role.

Preferred Qualifications

- Background or interest in sustainability, environmental studies, education, communications, design, or social enterprise
- Experience in volunteering, community engagement, or facilitation
- Comfort working in multicultural and team-based environments
- Creative skills (media, photography, content creation) are a plus

Professional Development

- **Sustainability & Circular Economy:** Practical exposure to textile recovery, upcycling, and environmental education.
- **Community Engagement:** Experience facilitating workshops and interacting with diverse audiences.



- **Cross-Cultural Collaboration:** Living and working in an international volunteer environment.
- **Communication Skills:** Content creation, public engagement, and facilitation practice.
- **Leadership & Teamwork:** Collaborative problem-solving and project ownership.

Additional Resources Provided:

- Shared accommodation
- Weekday meals (three meals per day); limited weekend meals
- Internet access and workspace
- Transportation support (car access with international driving permit, if applicable)
- Certificate of completion
- Two days off per week (subject to scheduling needs)

Estimated Cost - \$4500 USD~

- **International Travel** – \$1800: Economy Flight \$1500~ + Travel/Health Insurance \$300~
- **Accommodation/Food/Additional Resources (5 days per week/3 meals per day)** – 2000 Malaysian Ringgit (\$500 USD) - cost to U4B
- **Living Costs** – \$1000 (non working days):
 - 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: VIA will assist the Fellow in obtaining the appropriate VISA