

LUCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM



In 1974, against the backdrop of war in Vietnam, the Henry Luce Foundation began a new program designed to improve America's understanding of Asia. Called the Luce Scholars Program, it sent young Americans — none older than 29 — to work in professional internships in an East or Southeast Asian country. More than 30 years later, with the valued contribution of many key Asian organizations, the Luce Scholars Program remains a signature program of the Henry Luce Foundation.

PROGRAM GOALS

Luce Scholars are young Americans who have not specialized in Asian Studies. Instead, the Scholars have settled on careers in other fields — in law, medicine, journalism, politics, the arts, or business. The Luce Foundation feels that by sending these young people to Asia to gain an understanding and appreciation of the culture through the workplace and everyday living, “their broadened insights can have a significant impact on the course of America’s future relations with Asia and on American cultural, intellectual and political development.”

The heart of the program lies in the job placements that are arranged for each Luce Scholar on the basis of his or her individual career interest, experience, and training. The Scholar gains by expanding his or her horizons through living in an Asian community and working for an Asian organization. The host organization benefits by taking advantage of the enthusiasm and skills of an outstanding, talented young American for 10 months without any cost to the organization. Over the last 30 years, Luce Scholar alumni have risen to positions of authority in their professional lives, taking with them a continuing interest and involvement in Asia through the professional links and personal friendships they made as interns on the Luce Scholars program.

SELECTION OF LUCE SCHOLARS

Luce Scholars are identified through a rigorous selection process. Eligible individuals apply through any one of 65 nominating institutions,

which include America’s leading colleges and universities. The nominating institutions submit the names of up to two applicants to the Luce Foundation, which interviews each applicant personally. Finalists meet with a selection panel of senior professionals, well-known in their fields and knowledgeable about Asia. These selectors choose the 18 Luce Scholars who will participate in the next year’s program. By this process the Luce Foundation seeks Scholars who have the personality and flexibility to adapt to a new environment and who have the potential to turn the knowledge they gain during the program into a resource for future leadership.

THE LUCE FOUNDATION’S ROLE

In addition to selecting the Luce Scholars, the Luce Foundation provides the Scholars with international transportation and a monthly stipend for the length of the program — from late August of one year to mid-July of the following year. Stipends are adequate to cover the costs of living wherever a Scholar happens to be placed. If a Scholar has a family, the stipend is adjusted so that family members may accompany the Scholar on the program.

THE ASIA FOUNDATION’S ROLE

The Asia Foundation collaborates with the Luce Foundation via its network of Asian field offices in administering the program and handling logistical matters such as providing health insurance, obtaining visas, and finding a place to live. Most importantly, The Asia Foundation assists in secur-

LUCE SCHOLAR CAREER FIELDS
Agriculture
Architecture
Business
Conflict Resolution
Dance
Economic Development
Education
Engineering
Environment
Fine Arts
Human Rights
International Relations
Journalism
Law
Medicine
Physics
Public Health
Public Policy
Theater
Veterinary Medicine

ing job placements for each Scholar from among the organizations the Foundation has come to know during its more than 50 years in Asia.

The range of organizations that have hosted Luce Scholars is as broad as the range of talents and interests the Scholars bring to the program. In recent years, Luce Scholars have reported for English-language newspapers from Beijing (*China Daily*) to Bangkok (*Bangkok Post*), developed new technologies to create transgenic organisms at the RIKEN Kobe Center for Development Biology, assessed the impact of the Indonesian government's social welfare programs for the SMERU Research Institute, taught a course on Beijing's architecture at Peking University's Graduate Architecture Research Center, directed a Vietnamese-language production of Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke* at the Ho Chi Minh City College of Stage and Cinema, and participated in the Visayan Forum Foundation's advocacy programs for the rights and welfare of marginalized Filipino migrants and victims of trafficking, especially child domestic workers.

THE HOST ORGANIZATION'S ROLE

The primary responsibility of a host organization is to provide a productive work setting for the Luce Scholar. Host organizations provide a work space in the organization's office, and assign job responsibilities to assure that the Scholar contributes professionally in some way to the organization's mission. The host organization should identify a mentor or supervisor who will not only oversee the Scholar's work, but will help the

Scholar learn about the organization and its role in the community. If there are costs associated with the Scholar's job, those costs must be borne either by the host organization or by the Scholar; the Luce Foundation does not make payments to organizations for hosting Luce Scholars. Host organizations are encouraged to contribute to the Scholars cultural learning by consenting to Scholar's activities outside the workplace. Many host organizations are so pleased with the added value a Luce Scholar brings that they request a Scholar the following year and inquire regularly thereafter for a Scholar in their field.

THE "LUCE SCHOLAR YEAR"

Luce Scholars start the program year in August with a general orientation on Asian political history and culture. Scholars travel to Asia and start work with their host organization early in September. In late November, the group meets for several days in Hong Kong to continue the orientation process and discuss their experiences and adjustment to life in Asia. The year ends the following July, with a final meeting somewhere in Asia, when Scholars present oral and written reports on their experiences.

Since 1974, over 500 Americans have lived and worked in Asia, expanding their horizons through participation in the Luce Scholars program. The immediate experience has been invaluable to them personally, and serves their host organizations as well. For many former Luce Scholars, their involvement with Asia is continuing today.

LUCE SCHOLAR PROGRAM COUNTRIES

- Brunei
- Cambodia
- China & Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Philippines
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

THE HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION

The Henry Luce Foundation was founded in 1936 by Henry R. Luce, the founder and publisher of *Time* magazine, as a tribute to his missionary parents, Henry W. and Elizabeth Root Luce. The senior Luces taught for many years in Christian schools in China, where Henry R. Luce was born and lived until he left to attend high school in the United States. This family history continues to inform the Luce Foundation's program interests in education, theology, and most especially Asia.

THE ASIA FOUNDATION

The Asia Foundation is a private, non-profit, non-governmental organization working to advance mutual interests in the United States and the Asia-Pacific region. It is funded by contributions from corporations, foundations, individuals, and governmental organizations in the U.S., Europe, Canada, and Asia, and an annual appropriation from the U.S. Congress. Through its programs, the Foundation builds leadership, improves policies, and strengthens institutions to foster greater openness and shared prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.



The Asia Foundation

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