

# Luce Scholars

The Asia Foundation has had the honor of administering the signature program of the Henry Luce Foundation — the Luce Scholars Program — since it was launched in 1974 to enhance the understanding of Asia among potential leaders in American society. The Luce Scholars Program remains living testament to the commitment of both the Luce Foundation and The Asia Foundation to building understanding and appreciation of Asia, and to strengthening the relationship between the United States and Asia one person at a time.



## PROGRAM GOALS

The Luce Scholars Program is a nationally competitive fellowship program that represents a major effort to provide an awareness of Asia among potential leaders in American society. The program is unique among American-Asian exchanges in that it targets highly qualified young Americans – under the age of 30 – across a variety of professional fields, including but not limited to the arts, journalism, law, medicine, science, public health, environmental studies, and international relations, who have had limited experience of Asia and who might not otherwise have an opportunity in the course of their careers to come to know Asia. Since the beginning of the program, the Luce Foundation has believed that the young leaders will gain a personal understanding and appreciation of the cultures and societies of Asia through the workplace and everyday living, and “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 year-long program for up to 18 scholars annually provides stipends, language training, and a professional placement arranged for each Scholar on the basis of their professional interest, background, and qualifications.

Of the nearly 700 Luce Scholar alumni, many have gone on to demonstrate extraordinary and visionary leadership in their personal and professional careers. Their ranks include Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, authors and artists, the world’s first female fetal surgeon, the former president of the World Bank, U.S. Ambassadors and senior government officials, and recognized leaders and innovators across the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors. Over these four decades, what has remained consistent is the dedicated commitment of the staff of the Luce Foundation and The Asia Foundation in working together to identify, guide, and support generations of creative spirits and inspired talents. The range of organizations that have hosted Luce Scholars over the years reflects the dynamism of Asia, and is as broad as the scope of talents and interests of the scholars themselves.

In recent years, Luce Scholars have:

- Worked for The Caravan, India’s first and only publication devoted to narrative journalism, in New Delhi;
- Developed new technologies to create transgenic organisms at the RIKEN Kobe Center for Development Biology in Japan;

## LUCE SCHOLAR PROGRAM DESTINATIONS

Cambodia  
China  
Hong Kong SAR  
India  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Laos  
Malaysia  
Mongolia  
Myanmar  
Nepal  
Philippines  
Singapore  
South Korea  
Thailand  
Vietnam

- Contributed to the local engagement efforts of Buddhism for Social Development Action in Kampong Cham, Cambodia;
- Worked to support social innovation and entrepreneurs with the Non-Profit Incubator in Shanghai, China;
- Studied regional marine conservation issues at the Coral Triangle Institute in Sanur, Bali in Indonesia;
- Worked in the BioRobotics Laboratory of the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Seoul National University;
- Examined the impacts of climate change with the Department of Ecology at the National University on Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar.

### THE LUCE FOUNDATION'S ROLE

The Luce Foundation identifies Luce Scholars through a rigorous and highly competitive nationwide selection process. Eligible individuals apply each fall through one of 75 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—including accomplished Luce Scholar alumni—choose up to 18 Luce Scholars who will participate in the following year's program. In this process, the Luce Foundation seeks scholars who have the character and flexibility to adapt to a new environment and the potential to use the knowledge they gain during the program as a resource for future leadership. In addition to managing the selection of the Luce Scholars, the Luce Foundation provides financial support for the travel and living costs of the placements in Asia.

### THE ASIA FOUNDATION'S ROLE

The Asia Foundation is responsible for administering the Asian portion of the program, and supporting and advising the Luce Scholars while they are in Asia. The heart of the year-long program continues to lie in the organizational placements arranged by The Asia Foundation for each Scholar on the basis of their individual career interests and experience. Individually tailored through discussions with The Asia Foundation, the primary

responsibility of a host organization is to provide a productive work setting for the Luce Scholar. Host organizations assign responsibilities to ensure that the Scholar contributes professionally to the organization's mission, and identify a mentor or supervisor who oversees the scholar's work. The Asia Foundation is uniquely equipped to implement these responsibilities with its network of 18 Asian offices and extraordinary network of relationships and knowledge of institutions and organizations gained through 60 years of work across Asia.

### THE "LUCE SCHOLAR YEAR"

After two rounds of one-on-one interviews, the new class of Luce Scholars is announced in February. The Luce Scholar year is launched in June with a general orientation in New York City, covering Asian political history and culture and a specific briefing on each scholar's placement locale. Scholars then travel to Asia for intensive language study for a few months prior to starting work with their host organization in early September. An early assessment meeting for all Luce Scholars is held in Thailand at the end of October to continue the orientation process and discuss experiences and challenges in adjusting to living and working in Asia. An extended "Focus Country" wrap-up meeting takes place in July to conclude the Luce Scholar year, where the Scholars have the opportunity to present their reflections gained from their year of exploration and discovery in Asia.

### THE HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION

The Henry Luce Foundation was established in 1936 by Henry Luce, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time Inc., to honor his parents who were missionary educators in China. The Foundation builds upon the vision and values of four generations of the Luce family: broadening knowledge and encouraging the highest standards of service and leadership.

### THE ASIA FOUNDATION

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Working through our offices in 18 countries and informed by deep local expertise and six decades of experience, we address the critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century by: strengthening governance, expanding economic opportunity, increasing environmental resilience, empowering women, and promoting international cooperation.

*The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.*



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