



► Taishi Yoneda (Japan, left) served as a UN University Volunteer in Tanzania. Working in communications, he supported SDG 14, Life below Water, by conducting a beach clean-up campaign with local partners and volunteers. (UNV, 2017)

Engaging with  
**UNV**



## SPONSORING UN UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERS

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has served as a bridge between the United Nations (UN) system, UN Member States and civil society since its establishment in 1970. UNV leverages volunteerism as an essential mechanism that meaningfully engages people in social, environmental and economic transformation. Volunteerism is a valuable and effective means of localization and implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNV deploys UN Volunteers who contribute to the peace, humanitarian and development projects and initiatives of 30 UN system partners in about 130 countries. UNV offers its partners – including UN entities, governments, universities, civil society organizations and the private sector – an opportunity to fund UN Volunteer assignments.

**In 2017, out of 6,500 onsite UN Volunteers, 98 were UN University Volunteers.**

### THE UN UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER SCHEME

UNV launched the UN Youth Volunteer modality in 2014, to bring a welcomed and vibrant youth perspective to the UN system's work. This modality provides for the deployment of young people aged 18-29 as UN Youth Volunteers and UN University Volunteers.

The UN University Volunteer scheme enables young students enrolled in a University to broaden their personal and professional skills and gain experience in the field of international development and peace, while contributing to the work of the UN.



UN University Volunteers can be deployed with a UN host entity within their country (**national** assignment) or abroad (**international** assignment). The average pro forma cost for six months is **US \$19,700** (international assignment) and **US \$6,700** (national assignment). UN University Volunteers benefit from a monthly Volunteer Living Allowance, health and life insurance, as well as (if applicable) travel and a settling-in-grant.

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2017

- ➔ **98 UN University Volunteers**
- ➔ **served with 16 UN host entities**
- ➔ **in 34 countries**
- ➔ **75% women, 25% men**

## WHO ARE UN UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERS?

UN University Volunteers are young people who are interested in addressing development challenges and working towards the achievement of the SDGs while gaining experience in the UN system, diversifying their skills and increasing their employability.

Eligibility criteria for candidates:

- 18 to 29 years old
- enrolled in a university programme
- up to two years of working experience
- able to commit to the duration of the assignment

UN University Volunteer assignments vary based on the needs of the hosting UN entity.

## Benefits for UN Volunteers

Through their assignments, UN University Volunteers:

- Gain experience in the UN system and international development cooperation as they contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.
- Develop professional and interpersonal skills, while enhancing their civil engagement capacities.
- Contribute to peace and sustainable development.
- Expand their social and professional networks through experience in a multicultural environment.

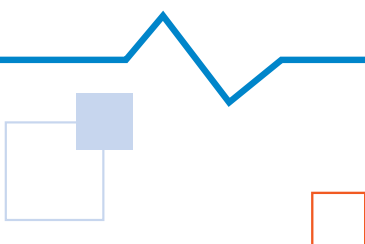
## Benefits for partners including universities

Through the UN University Volunteer scheme, funding partners, including universities:

- Invest in their citizens/students, helping them realize their potential academically and personally.
- Offer opportunities for youth to engage as volunteers in global peace and sustainable human development.
- Support the achievement of the SDGs. Become a role model for other universities to promote volunteerism, civic engagement and contribute to sustainable development around the world.

## As hosts of UN Volunteers, partner UN entities:

- Receive valuable support to their work towards the achievements of the SDGs.
- Foster innovation by leveraging young people's creativity, flexibility and capacity to learn.
- Engage young people to be part of solutions to global challenges.
- Provide young people with a way to meaningfully contribute to peace and sustainable human development results.





## COLLABORATION

UNV is a results-oriented talent provider that serves as an interlocutor between UN entities, funding partners and coordinating entities. In close consultation with UN partner host entities, UNV offers services such as assignment identification, candidate shortlisting, recruitment, and support during the onboarding and throughout the assignment, as well as access to a global community of volunteers, professionals in different domains.

UN host entities provide the volunteer with organizational onboarding, on-the-job training and ensure appropriate supervision. The onboarding process includes a thorough on-site induction and coaching to help a UN University Volunteer to understand the host entity's work structure, priorities and organigram, as well as his/her own responsibilities.

Funding partners can be participating universities, governments, private sector, foundations or the actual UN host entities. The university may act as a partner in the process or as coordinating entity, and support or lead, for instance, on the identification of candidates and provision of face-to-face training.

## PROCESS

The recruitment for a UN University Volunteer includes the steps outlined below:

## PARTNERSHIPS

In recent years, UNV has been implementing the UN University Volunteer scheme through:

- Cooperation with funding partners, such as with the Japanese Government and Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU); the Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS), supported by the Government of Hong Kong SAR (China); the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); and Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (Spain).
- Direct placement of UN University Volunteers through UN partner projects.

### UN UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER SATISFACTION

**91 per cent** of respondents were satisfied with their experience as a UN University Volunteer.

**96 per cent** of UN University Volunteers indicated that their volunteer experience helped them develop knowledge and skills.

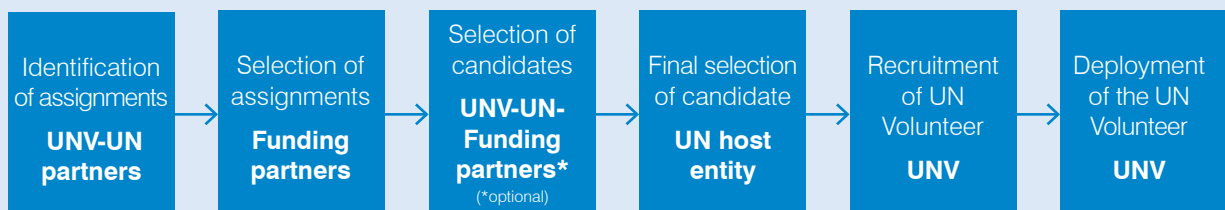
*Source: UN Volunteer Survey Report 2016.*

### UN HOST AGENCY SATISFACTION

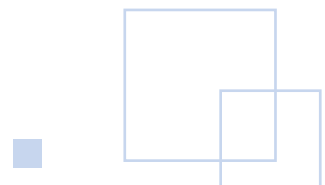
**83 per cent** of respondents were satisfied with the contribution of UN University Volunteers.

**94 per cent** would like to host another UN University Volunteer.

*Source: UN Agency Satisfaction Survey 2016.*



UNV represents the main interlocutor for UN partners and funding partners alike. UNV delivers quality, results-oriented volunteer management, including taking on the full complement of tasks involved in the identification of assignments in close consultation with UN host entities, selection, recruiting, and training volunteers.





## MEET UN UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERS



(Photo: UNV, 2016)

**TAKUYA AZEGAMI** (Japan) served as an international UN University Volunteer in Communications and Advocacy with UNV/UNDP in Uganda. He contributed to the development of communication materials on gender equality and the SDGs. During his assignment, he visited a refugee settlement in Nakivale and met with refugees in person, which helped him better understand their needs and communicate about the refugee situation in the country.

**“My assignment was not a piece of cake, but a lifetime experience. Personally, the added value of volunteerism was ‘tolerance’. I believe that volunteering is the way to serve the community with warmth and tolerance, in order to realize a better future for everyone.”**



(Photo: UNV, 2016)

**KARINDA CHUNTAVORN** (Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China) served as an international UN University Volunteer in Resource Mobilization with UNAIDS in Lao People's Democratic Republic. Karinda supported communication for various UNAIDS projects, conducted in collaboration with government ministries, international NGOs and civil society organizations. She also worked with key population groups, including sex workers, homosexuals and people living with HIV.

**“For me, the UN Volunteer experience was about opening a global dialogue and putting oneself in the shoes of others that I don't normally get to experience or get exposure about.”**



(Photo: UNV, 2016)

**HANEUL KIM** (Republic of Korea) served as an international UN University Volunteer with UNDP's Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) in Uzbekistan. She developed a cartoon series to explain, clearly and simply, how the work of GEF/SGP benefits the environment and planet. Her UNV assignment was fully funded by KOICA.

**“My experience as a UN University Volunteer was full of creativity. It has been a short – but amazing – six months for me, because I was part of a great team. I hope that a lot of the people who wish to leave a positive mark on this planet will apply to become a UN Volunteer and see how they can make the world a better place.”**



(Photo: UNV, 2018)

**NATALIA GARCIA** (Bolivia) is a national UN University Volunteer in Graphic Design, serving with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in her home country. She develops graphics for UN interagency groups and designs the layout for key publications, like the country's UN Development Assistance Framework.

**“I am living an experience of creativity, learning and contribution to promote gender equality in my country. I feel part of an awesome team who is always motivating me so I can give my best. Being a UN University Volunteer is an opportunity for youth who wants to be the change they want to see.”**

For further information about how to partner with UNV on UN University Volunteers, please contact [partnershipsupport@unv.org](mailto:partnershipsupport@unv.org).

*The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. We work with partners to integrate qualified, highly motivated and well supported UN Volunteers into development programming and promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism.*

*UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).*



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

