**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING WITH ASHOKA**

**Does Ashoka match or place volunteers with their staff or Fellows?**

Ashoka does not make volunteer “placements” but facilitates connections with staff and Fellows through the Ashoka-LinkedIn Volunteer Marketplace. When you apply for a volunteer opportunity that is posted on the Marketplace, the person placing the ad will receive your application directly in their inbox. Because some ads generate enormous volunteer response, you will usually be contacted only if you are a good fit for the position, at which time you can directly discuss the details with the person who is managing the opportunity.

**Can I work directly with an Ashoka Fellow?**

Yes! You will find current requests for volunteers from Fellows on [Ashoka-LinkedIn Volunteer Marketplace](https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/search/?keywords=volunteer%20ashoka&location=Worldwide).

**What kinds of help are Fellows usually looking for?**

It very much depends on the work a Fellow is doing. Sometimes they need someone who can provide hands-on help with outreach or teaching, but often they have organizational development needs such as PR and marketing, revenue generation, sustainability strategies, research, strategic analysis, or web design and content development.

**Can I work remotely?**

Yes! Most Fellows prefer on-site volunteers because it makes for a better understanding of their work and for more productive relationships, but there are many projects that can be done virtually. Some of these might include web or graphic design, research, business plan development, proposal writing and review, market analyses, or specific strategic advice. Each opportunity advertised on the Marketplace will be marked as "virtual" if the work can be done remotely.

**Can Ashoka help me with any of my travel or housing expenses?**

We wish we could, but simply do not have the capacity to do so. Fellows can sometimes cover local travel expenses that are work related, offer housing, or help you find an affordable and safe place to stay. However, they cannot help you with long distance travel expenses, so if you are traveling you should be prepared to pay your own way.

**What should I expect if I am traveling to a Fellow’s site?**

Many Fellows work in areas where the infrastructure is poor and the need is great. You might want to consider how comfortable you are with living in rural, rustic and unfamiliar environments. Before you commit to the volunteer opportunity, you should talk through your questions with the Fellow. We have provided this Volunteer Checklist to help guide you.

**How do I get information on getting a visa or on security issues?**

You can find out about visa requirements at the country’s embassy. The U.S. State Department's travel advisories can be a helpful resource for determining the safety of the country you are visiting. Local security should be discussed with the office or Fellow with whom you're working.

**What about volunteering with Ashoka Global or with one of the country offices?**

Ashoka has many wonderful strategic partnerships which give us access to high level consultations, but there are often staff members with projects needing immediate attention or a particular skill set. In those cases, staff will advertise their need on the Ashoka-LinkedIn Marketplace.

**What if there isn’t an opening on the Marketplace that interests me?**

Volunteer postings on the Marketplace change regularly, so keep an eye on it until you see an opportunity you’d like to pursue.

**What if I am not selected for a volunteer opportunity to which I applied?**

Ashoka is fortunate to have many capable volunteers eager to help. If you’re not chosen for a particular opportunity we hope that you will continue to apply for others! You will also have an option on your volunteer application to indicate whether you'd like to help with projects outside of the one for which you applied. By checking that option, we may contact you directly as needs arise to see if you're interested and available.

**What is expected of me as a volunteer?**

As a volunteer, we expect that you act professionally and fulfill your commitment. Expectations are high and we know you will meet them! The most important qualities to have are integrity, empathy, entrepreneurial spirit, collegiality, flexibility, perseverance, and diligence. And a sense of humor is always a plus! If you are chosen for a volunteer opportunity, you will likely be asked to sign a Volunteer Agreement that will detail the timeframe and the expected deliverables.

**Will volunteering with Ashoka help me gain future employment there?**

Volunteering with Ashoka Global or one of our regional offices is a great way to learn more about social entrepreneurship and how our team of teams functions. Volunteers and interns are sometimes great staff candidates, but the selection process is very rigorous and time consuming. Ashoka’s criteria for staff hiring is similar to what is used for selecting Ashoka Fellows!

**Who can I contact if I have any other questions?**

The person you’re volunteering with is your best source of information for questions related to a specific opportunity. The Volunteer Checklist can help guide you in finding out useful information. We are available to answer further questions or to provide technical help with your application at [volunteers@ashoka.org](mailto:volunteers@ashoka.org?subject=Volunteer%20query).