

Join Myanmar's Social Innovators  
working to bring about development!

Bonner Foundation/Pre-Collegiate  
Program Partnership  
Myanmar, Summer 2019



You as a Bonner junior are invited to apply for an 8-week summer internship abroad!

## Overview

The Bonner Network encompasses more than 65 liberal arts colleges and lives up to its motto of *Access to Education, Opportunity to Serve*. Extensive information is available at [bonner.org](http://bonner.org).

The Pre-Collegiate Program of Yangon (PCP), a small liberal arts program that since 2004 has enabled over 200 students to develop their critical thinking skills and win scholarships to colleges abroad, is partnering with the Bonner Foundation. PCP alumni have already made their mark since opportunities abound in Myanmar. Graduates include a Yale PhD growing a quality liberal arts college from small, sound educational projects; the co-founder of an awarding winning film production house; key staff of a social business that has enhanced the livelihood of a half a million farmers; a Member of Parliament; the co-founder of a healthy food agribusiness; the architect of a hotel; researchers in think tanks. How would you like to become part of this network?

Aligning with many of the components of your Bonner developmental model — including service leadership, capacity building, education and reflection — the PCP-Myanmar Partnership offers you the opportunity to learn and apply professional skills to advance the mission of the organization with which you will serve. Applicants will choose from among five internship opportunities: 1) promoting public health through journalism; 2) embedded in classroom teaching and learning; 3) developing a new website for PCP, your host organization; 4) documentary filmmaking; and 5) creating short videos of physics experiments to make high school science come alive.

The Bonner/PCP Myanmar experience will center on the following six grounding values and learning goals:

- Service to others.
- Understanding of a diverse local culture.
- Acquisition of basic Burmese language.
- Understanding of the history and growth of the field within which you will be working.
- Documentation of your experience.
- Communication of the process and results of your internship both within Myanmar and upon return to the US.

The 2019 Bonner/PCP Partnership Myanmar will select three interns. Each Bonner intern will be paired with a Yangon-based Pre-Collegiate graduate. All internship work will be done as a team.

Students need to contribute \$2,500 toward the full cost of \$4,700. Private donors are covering the rest. The program covers the cost of your visa fee, orientation, a round trip flight to Myanmar from a major airport near you, in-country bus travel, food and lodging, local phone costs, two weeks of Burmese lessons, health and other insurance, all materials, pocket money, and weekend excursions.

## The 2019 Myanmar Internship Posts

Each internship host organization will provide a mentor and a project small enough to show progress in only two months. As in your college Bonner experience, you and your Burmese partner will participate in a weekly seminar to give feedback on the work week and to prepare you for what lies ahead. You will have a choice among five posts across sectors of social and educational development. Note that at the end of each post description below, there is a description of some skills and experiences of strong applicant. We do not expect any applicant to have all those qualities. The statements are there to guide your thinking about how you can be a valuable partner during your internship.



### Health Digest

*As a journalist for Health Digest you and your Burmese partner will be creating news stories that will inform and empower readers, both young and old.*

*Health Digest* is the pioneering print weekly in the Burmese language that reaches people across a wide social spectrum. The journal fills a crucial need that is not addressed by the medical or education systems. The health care systems react to an ill patient showing up, while *Health Digest* proactively teaches thousands each week to practice their own preventive medicine.

Well-off Myanmar citizens go to foreign-run hospitals and fly to Bangkok or Singapore. The Burmese doctors trained in modern medicine who work in the national health system are so overworked that they spend almost no time with each patient. They are so poorly paid that they hold their own clinics on evenings and weekends. Doctors do not explain the illness to a patient, but merely prescribe and sell medicine. Since most people think that the doctor's fee is for the pills, to save money they go to any pharmacy. On showing a pill, they ask the clerk to match it. Although the law stipulates that every pharmacy must have a pharmacist, like many laws this one is not observed. Myths and superstitions abound, traditional ones and modern ones, including that shots are stronger medicine than tablets.

Doc Htwe is working to empower people to safeguard their own health. He graduated in 1980 from the Institute of Medicine in Mandalay. Like the other doctors trained in Myanmar, he had no opportunity to study either preventive medicine or public health. Entrance to medical school starts at age 16 for students who performed at the top in the national matriculation exam. Six years of courses and one year of residency produced a full-fledged doctor. Doc Htwe decided that the most effective way he could promote health in his country was to educate people through a weekly journal. As the founder and editor-in-chief of *Health Digest*, he had the problem of making the news journal interesting to people who knew nothing about preventive health. Every issue runs stories of famous Burmese actors, actress, and singers.

As journalists, you and your Burmese partner will work in a small front room with experienced journalists and head out all over Yangon to gather information for your news stories. Initially, Doc Htwe will assign stories to you, but before the end of your internship you and your partner will understand preventive medicine sufficiently to find your own stories. Together you will write your stories in English. Your partner will translate them into Burmese, and then an editor will work with you both to shape them into news stories aimed at the readership. The three usual sources where you and your partner will find stories are: interviewing foreign experts; attending medical conferences and talks; and finding information on the web to adapt. You may even become so in tune with the culture that you and your partner can write feature stories on herbal plants known to the various traditions of the country.

A strong applicant for this position will have experience on a school or college newspaper, interest in health, strong writing skills, experience adapting science content to a wide audience, and good interviewing techniques, including note taking skills.

Check out:

- <http://www.healthdigestmm.com>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/doc-htwe-506a2619/>

## **Lumbini Academy**

*In joining Lumbini Academy you will become part of a school where young children come running joyfully into the building and teachers maintain continuous collaboration.*

Lumbini Academy, founded in 2006, is the only bilingual and science-based school in Myanmar. The bilingual nature of this K-12 school allows its students to prepare for a global education and to strengthen their Burmese roots. Within a few years the children become fluent in both languages. Inquiry based learning is taking longer to take root in Lumbini because all of the teachers had their own start in government schools that are based on rote learning. At Lumbini, teachers encourage children's questions in their classrooms of about 22 students, but in government schools students in classrooms as large as 50 are usually hushed. The prime qualifications for teachers at Lumbini are that they love children and read books for pleasure. Reform in education is sweeping Myanmar, in changes made by the Ministry of Education, in the mushrooming of private schools, and even in transformation of Buddhist monastic schools that educate children in poverty. Parents are passionate for their children to receive better education than they had under the fifty years of military dictatorship.

The Lumbini founder, Ko Tar (pronounced Tah) is always aware that some day government schools will be able to adopt excellent techniques from local schools. Maps are rarely made and rarely used. Map making is an excellent way to engage children in critical thinking. The unit was suggested by Gary Wagenbach, Emeritus Professor of Biology at Carleton College and approved by the teachers. Teaching by means of scientific inquiry has been Prof. Wagenbach's focus across five workshops held since 2009 for all Lumbini teachers. The initial design is a two-week unit, taught by the Bonner, the PCP partner, and the classroom teachers. The lessons could be taught to three different grade levels.

Since the Lumbini students learn both English and Burmese, you will be able to communicate simply and directly with students. Since critical thinking is done best in one's mother tongue, your PCP partner and the classroom teachers will be able to carry a discussion with any younger child to a deeper level and thus let you know the child's thinking process.

Until Lumbini opened, the parents who wanted their children to participate in the modern world had the option of their learning English in an expensive international school, but losing their heritage. Ko Tar had grown up in a village, son of a schoolteacher who rewarded her students by bringing them home for meals. Ko Tar enrolled in medical school and after twenty years of government medical service, he left in order to bring scientific ideas into the Burmese language. His publishing house, Chindwin, has produced over 150 books for adults. Since he founded Lumbini Academy, Chindwin has produced over 90 books for children. Ko Tar next turned his attention to transforming monastic schools that serve village children. He created two networks of monastic schools that aim to teach children critical thinking, to empower teachers, and to become community centers. Ko Tar continues his translating and essay writing.

Here are ideas that are now in play for the unit on maps. For children to grasp that maps are a representation of space, they need to start with what they know. A map of the classroom tables that seat six could be a beginning. Children could design a symbol to represent a chair. Because a map is not a picture, but a symbolic representation, children learn to make a title and a key. Children could make maps of the classroom, their school building, the grounds holding the three buildings. They would be learning math, measurement, scaling. They would recognize that map makers are selective in the detail they show. Older children could use Google Earth to map their school, the Kyaikkasan Pagoda next door, and the school neighborhood. They could use paper maps of Yangon to pinpoint where they live. Maps could be connected to class field trips. Older children could use climate records available on the internet to make rain maps of their country. They could make historical maps to show how kingdoms in their country grew, shrank, and disappeared. The initial plan is to conduct the teaching at three different grade levels during three blocks that are each two weeks long.

This internship has a unique early component. Professor Wagenbach will work with you and the Lumbini teacher who is the internship mentor by Skype during late February and into March to shape the first iteration of the curriculum.

Qualifications for the post are a love of maps, a love of children, insights into the processes of learning and teaching, and an awareness of child development. You can point to your knowledge of how children think and feel as gained through Bonner service, baby sitting, caring for siblings, college

coursework and/or independent reading. Your letters of reference should speak to your abilities with children between the ages of 5 and 12.

For several perspectives on Lumbini check out these websites.

- <https://www.irrawaddy.com/features/burma-school-offers-dose-imagination.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDp2WWyRLzM> A variety of learning activities.
- The founder of Lumbini explains the network of monastic schools. <http://2012.tedxseeds.org/en/>
- Profile of Prof. Wagenbach, the professor you will work with on the curriculum. <https://apps.carleton.edu/profiles/gwagenba/>
- To glimpse the extent of Prof. Wagenbach's scientific interests, note this set of videos. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo2oJt3pY4K\\_YHrP7qjrS8Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo2oJt3pY4K_YHrP7qjrS8Q)

## **The Pre-Collegiate Program of Yangon**

Seeking Bonner Intern for Web Design and Development

Location: in vibrant downtown Yangon

The program's mission: to create a society of educated innovators, leaders, and change-makers who solve important challenges in Myanmar and beyond. The program provides 12 months of rigorous academic coursework and concludes with a four-month long internship.

The program's history: Founded in 2001, PCP has sent over 200 Myanmar nationals to receive bachelor degrees abroad at high calibre liberal arts institutions.

The program's need: PCP is seeking a Bonner Intern who will design and develop a website that accurately reflects the academic excellence, innovation, and excitement of the program. The Bonner intern will work as a partner with a recent PCP graduate and report directly to the Program Director.

The Intern should:

- have skills in software programming and graphics
- have creativity and imagination
- be adaptable and able to pick up new techniques
- have good interpersonal and communication skills
- be up to date with advances in computer technology
- possess a good grounding in web design, interactive design, graphic design and internet technology.

In the course of the internship the web designer/developer will:

- work with the program director to create and refine content, including website copy, photographs, and videos
- write the programming code, either from scratch or by adapting existing website software and graphics packages to meet program requirements
- test the website and identify any technical problems
- upload the site onto a server and register it with different search engines.

Please include samples of your work with your application.

A strong candidate will come with skills in software programming and graphics, creativity and imagination, and a good grounding in web design, interactive design, graphic design and internet technologies. The intern will pick up new techniques to keep abreast of advances in computer technology. Good interpersonal and communication skills are essential.

- We invite you to learn more about PCP by visiting our Facebook page . \_
- <https://www.facebook.com/precollegiateprogram>  
<https://precollegiate.org> is our current website.

## Tagu Films

*In working for Tagu Films you will join highly cooperative filmmakers who produce professional quality documentaries. You have the choice of joining either the film crew or the production team.*

Tagu Films is a Myanmar-based production company that documents, creates, and funds film projects in Myanmar. We focus on human-centered stories and strive to build a network of filmmakers who are willing to share the Myanmar narrative. Our film production is comprised of four members who are internationally experienced Myanmar filmmakers who aim to deliver unique stories and support the independent filmmaker community in Myanmar.

Tagu Films has a keen interest in the development of the independent film community in Myanmar. We provide funds, equipment, and expertise to help filmmakers bring their film projects into reality. We hope that the films we help produce and fund are circulated to international film festivals showcasing the growing independent film community in Myanmar. Our services range from production, animation, directing, translations, organization and coordination, obtaining filming permission, scouting of locations and subjects, photography, videography, and sound recording. Tagu Films aims to provide all of these services by connecting the local and international clientele to the professionals that would serve their interest.

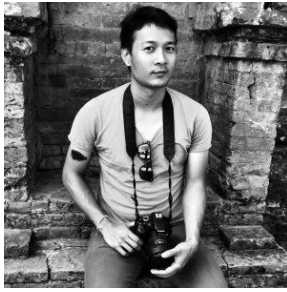
Our internships provide opportunity for motivated individuals to learn about the independent filmmaker community in Myanmar. We cater our internships to the interests of the individuals. The interns will have a hands-on experience of the industry. In addition we value our interns for their input in moving Tagu Films forward. Tagu Films founders work out of a fully equipped office in a residential neighborhood.



Sai Kong Kham Co-Founder | Filmmaker

Since receiving a diploma in audio engineering from SAE in 2005, Sai Kong Kham has gained extensive experience in audio and visual components of filmmaking. Sai Kong Kham worked as a sound engineer for a variety of local radio stations for about three years. Since then, he has directed two award-winning documentary films – Sweetie Pie and This Land is Our Land. This documentary film has been screened at International Film Premieres.





Lin Sun Oo *Co-Founder | Filmmaker | Producer*

Lin Sun Oo graduated from McDaniel College, Maryland, U.S.A in 2010. He has a B.A. in Environmental Policy and Philosophy. He also has a diploma in multimedia designs from the School of Audio Engineering (SAE), Yangon. In 2010, Lin Sun Oo worked as a research assistant at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. His work has been presented at film festivals such as the Art of Freedom Film Festival, Wathann Film Fest, and the Human Rights and Human Dignity International Film Festival.

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Lamin Oo *Filmmaker | Producer*

Lamin Oo graduated from Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, USA. He has a B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology. He has work experience in the United States as a Market Researcher and a Research Librarian. Upon his return, he has fully dedicated himself to documentary filmmaking. His first directing project titled *Homework* received the Special Mentions Awards at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wathann Film Festival in Yangon.

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Khin Maung Kyaw *Cinematographer*

Khin Maung Kyaw graduated from the Yangon Film School along with Sai Kong Kham in 2011. Since 2009, he has worked as a cinematographer in Than Phyu Zayat, Mon State. After graduating from YFS, he has concentrated solely on shooting documentary films and short fiction. From 2011 to 2013, he has shot over 15 films – five of which were chosen for local documentary awards including best director. His work has been shown at several international and local film festivals.

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We have a pair of internship posts for the Bonner students and the PCP partner:

**1) Production:** The pair of interns in production will work closely with the producer and will get the opportunity to learn about the “behind the scenes” work that is needed in order to produce a film. The job will require interns who are willing to do research on subjects, share stories, and have a keen eye for good storytelling.

**2) Film crew:** The interns working with the film crew will assist the cameramen, soundperson, and director in helping to visualize the film project. This post will provide an opportunity for the interns to learn about the intricacies of filmmaking in Myanmar.

We are looking for interns who have a demonstrated interest in the work that we do. While all other interns are proficient in both Burmese and English, the Bonner pair will be effective together. A strong Bonner candidate will have some experience working continuously and on a daily basis as part of a high energy team and in addition have knowledge of some aspect of filmmaking.

- Trailers of Tagu's films will acquaint you with our work. <https://tagufilms.com>
- Our film on the 2016 election in Myanmar won by the National League for Democracy is on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu-2HzlvoK4>
- We also made the 5-minute video on the Pre-Collegiate Program on the home page of their website at [precollegiateyangon.org](http://precollegiateyangon.org)
- Four trailers are here. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfcdeRI0fXh31cbdA\\_iuNdw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfcdeRI0fXh31cbdA_iuNdw)
- Footage from our first documentary, This Land is Our Land. In 2013 this criticism of the military government was daring.  
[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=tagu%20films&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=tagu%20films&epa=SEARCH_BOX)

## 360°ed

*The pair of interns at 360°ed will form a team of three with an experienced staff member to develop and produce short, highly engaging educational videos of high school students performing physics experiments mentioned in the current national high school textbooks.*

Our company's mission is to visioneer learning and to democratize the 21st century learning skills in Myanmar and the region. 360ed warmly welcomes interns from Japan and America where we look to for their thoroughly thriving technology and well-established high standard of education. Some call their workplace an office. We call it a playground. We make. We hack. We share. We chill. Be prepared to explore our innovative playground, which is a habitat of mission-driven educators, hackers, techies, and makers. We push ourselves beyond our limits. Every day is a hackathon day, which means you will be learning and building at least one new thing related to education or technology each month. So be prepared to have an open mind and growth mindset on learning new things, and get yourself ready to burn out. Not only will you be learning to break rules to make things fast, but also to take full responsibility of your action. You will additionally be observing the largest city of Myanmar, Yangon, which is a culturally and economically diverse hub. Gaining mutual benefits, let's grow and have fun together!

The founder of 360°ed, Daw Hla Hla Win, earned a master's degree at Harvard's Kennedy School. At Singularity University in Silicon Valley she designed a VR project with two Europeans and then created multiple ways to launch Myanmar into using high tech to enhance education.

You, your Burmese partner, and a staff member of 360ed are charged with creating short videos to make 9th and 10th grade physics interesting to all students. Your team will find high school students to perform some of those experiments and aim to produce one quality video each week. The videos will be posted on YouTube, available to teachers and students alike. Because many young techies at 360°ed are working on a wide variety of projects, you and your PCP partner will need the ability to focus on your work.

A strong applicant for this position will have some experience with filming and producing short videos, an understanding of how to present material in an engaging way, a love of physics, experience in



working with and training high school students, and will have given thought to relating online materials to a textbook curriculum.

- <https://www.360ed.org>
- An up-to-date video of our team at the office: <https://youtube/vNFGWjiA-uw>
- <http://www.changemag-diinsider.com/blog/360ed-myanmar-using-technology-to-advance-the-country-s-educational-system>
- <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/360ed-democratises-education-virtual-headsets.html>

## Program Expectations and Timeline



Strong candidates have had some experience with independent travel, enjoy learning a foreign language, and have provided service in collaborative settings.

**If you have never lived in a tropical country during the rainy season, you have some surprises in store.**

In Yangon the monsoon rains during July dump about 22 inches. Last year July did have 5 days without rain. Some streets will flood straight across during a downpour. Black mold grows on sidewalks making them slippery. Mosquitoes breed.

**If you have never lived in a developing country, you are in for more surprises.**

Personal relations are the basis of society. For example, if you want to take a bus to Mandalay, you will not search companies on your mobile phone. You will ask advice of a friend.

Time flows. If your friend comes to meet you in a tea shop fifteen minutes late, that is no big deal.

Elders are respected. In your workplace you will need to hold your tongue if you disagree with the views of a man your father's age.

### Timing of selection

Friday, Jan 25 Every part of your application is due, including your two letters of reference direct from the referees.

Thursday, Jan 31 The finalists will be individually informed by email. Expect to be invited to a phone or Skype interview.

During the following 10 days you will be informed whether you have been selected. You will have 5 days to accept or decline the post. After the close of the selection process, all candidates will be informed of the outcome.

Saturday February 16 at 2:00 pm EST is the first Skype or Google Hangout meeting of the group.

### **Timing of orientation**

Your inoculations and other health preparations are your responsibility to complete and then to report to the Health Advocate. Deadline 1 May, but take care of your health in the tropics early.

During the rest of February and into mid March, there will be considerable reading and weekly discussions via Google Hangout or Skype. Topics include cross-cultural awareness, the Southeast Asian geographic region, historical, and cultural context, background on the sector you will enter, health and safety, and travel document preparation.

After Spring vacations, very little will be done as a group because of college obligations, but informally you can do a great deal to inform yourself about this fast changing country and your field of work there.

Face-to-face group orientation will take place in Santa Clara, CA from 1 to 4 June. Because you will fly across the international date line you will lose a day. Orientation in Yangon will take place from 6 to 9 June.

A good deal of work will be done, and there are wonderful people to be met! You, as selected Bonner/PCP Interns will also have time to travel in country, and visit stunning and culturally significant sites, such as the Shwedagon Pagoda and Bagan.

Additional details of the posts and other aspects of the internship will be announced on the Bonner website and the website of the Pre-Collegiate Program of Yangon, [precollegiate.org](http://precollegiate.org)

*For more information please contact:* [BonnerPCPMyanmar@gmail.com](mailto:BonnerPCPMyanmar@gmail.com)

- Min Thein, Internship Coordinator, Yangon, [mthein@mail.roanoke.edu](mailto:mthein@mail.roanoke.edu)
- Lin Phyu Sin (Betty) Selection Committee Chair, Franklin & Marshall Senior, [linphyusin23@gmail.com](mailto:linphyusin23@gmail.com)
- Aung Khant, Internship Hunter, Yangon, [alex.aungkhant@gmail.com](mailto:alex.aungkhant@gmail.com)
- Dorothy Guyot, Pre-Collegiate Program Co-Founder, [dguyot@aya.yale.edu](mailto:dguyot@aya.yale.edu)



Send this application form to [BonnerPCPMyanmar@gmail.com](mailto:BonnerPCPMyanmar@gmail.com) .

Bonner Foundation/  
Pre-Collegiate Program  
Partnership  
Myanmar, Summer 2019



## Application Form

Please complete the following and submit *along with a copy of your CV, your transcript including fall 2018 grades, and any additional supporting material. Ask two people to write a reference letter and give us permission to phone them.* Send them a copy of your completed application form so that they will be able to write stronger reference letters. Ask them to comment on your innovation and resilience. [BonnerPCPMyanmar@gmail.com](mailto:BonnerPCPMyanmar@gmail.com) is the address for your application and their letters of reference, to come separately. Alternatively, you may also use Google Forms.

The deadline to submit application materials and reference letters is Friday, January 25, 2019. Finalists will be notified on Thursday January 31st.

Interviews will follow.

The first online meeting of the interns will take place on Saturday February 16 at 2:00 pm EST.

We expect most applicants to be qualified for and keenly interested in one post. If two posts strongly attract you, check your preference and explain your two choices in the box called OTHER at the end of the application form.

Note that the text boxes are dynamic, so that you can write as much as you wish in answer to any question. A scroll bar will appear to the right of the text box.

## Applicant Information

Name (Last name, first, middle    Passport style):  College & Major/Minor:  Contact Email:  Contact Skype:  Contact Phone:  Street Address:  Family/Emergency Contact (Please indicate relationship):  When I told my parents about this application, they supported my decision. <input type="checkbox"/> True	
1.	Please indicate the internship for which you are applying.  <input type="checkbox"/> Health Digest - Public health journalism. <input type="checkbox"/> Lumbini Academy - Elementary school, teaching a two week curriculum you co-develop. <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Collegiate Program - Developing a new website for PCP. <input type="checkbox"/> Tagu Films - Documentary filmmaking. <input type="checkbox"/> 360ed - Making educational videos of HS students performing physics experiments.
2.	Explanation of coursework and any projects relevant to living in Myanmar or to this internship:            

3.	<p>Please elaborate on specific community issues you may currently support or would like to develop a greater understanding of and why. In what ways might this experience help you serve your community?</p>
4.	<p>Please describe your Bonner or other capstone project (if applicable). How will this internship support your aims for your senior year?</p>
5.	<p>What internship site-specific skills do you offer? Examples include prior teaching or curriculum development experience. Please see organization descriptions above for details.</p>
6.	<p>Please share relevant cross-cultural experiences, including ones with different cultural groups in the United States:</p>

7.	How could this experience be important to your future learning?
<p>OTHER - Please use this space to share any other experiences or thoughts that you judge would support your application (e.g, project leadership, mentorship experience, interest in comparative religions, travel, family responsibilities, work, language experience.) If you must apply for two posts, explain here your second choice.</p>	