



Interns and fellows at Proximity Designs

Who we are

Proximity Designs is a Myanmar based social enterprise that designs, creates and distributes affordable, income boosting, products and services for rural families and smallholder farmers. Our line of products includes foot pumps, drip irrigation sets and water storage tanks, all of which are designed and manufactured in our own design lab in Yangon. Most recently we have added a line of solar lanterns to this product line, and look forward to expanding out rural energy offerings. Our services include large-scale micro-credit options, farmer advisory services and community-built village infrastructure opportunities. We aim for quality and scale and, since 2004, we have helped over 250,000 rural families across the country to increase their incomes.

Proximity Designs partners with leading organizations from around the world like the Hasso Platner Design Institute at Stanford University and IDEO for product design, the Harvard Kennedy School for economic research and d.light Designs for solar lighting products.

Opportunities

Our internships and fellowships are an opportunity for motivated and talented individuals to really get stuck into the work Proximity does in Myanmar and gain exposure to the practical challenges and rewards of working in large-scale poverty reduction.

Interns are typically Myanmar speaking school leavers and undergraduates.

Fellows are typically studying for, or have completed a post-graduate degree, or have considerable professional experience. Fellowships are open to all nationalities.

In the past, we have had opportunities in all of our teams, engaging in almost aspects of our work. This has included:

- Creating and conducting rural economic impact surveys of customers across the country
- Assisting the Media Team on video filming and editing projects
- Helping to devise innovative irrigation product testing equipment
- Participating in the entire product design process of our plastic pressure pump, the Baby Buffalo, and Sturdy Boy water basket, from idea to distribution
- Taking the lead in the design of product packaging and marketing collateral
- Planning and organizing Proximity's month-long training academy

Myanmar is now changing rapidly and there are a number of new opportunities we are looking to explore. In particular, we are looking:

- to expand our rural energy services to include other product options and further scalability.
- at the use of mobile technology to improve our services.
- for assistance in expanding our innovative agricultural micro-finance services.
- at the improvement and scaling of our Farm Advisory Services.

For these reasons we're particularly interested to hear from candidates with experience or proven interest in the above areas.

Details

- We normally accept a limited number of interns and fellows during the monsoon months of June-September. At certain other times of the year we may have an opportunity for talented applicants to join one of our teams.
- Interns and fellows work closely with Myanmar and expatriate professionals on projects that match interests and skill sets.
- We typically expect a full-time commitment of at least 8 weeks for office based roles, and 3 months for engineering and manufacturing positions.
- Positions are in Yangon, with the possibility of travel to rural areas. Interns and fellows will either be working from our city headquarters, or in our design and manufacturing workshop an hour from the center of the city. We provide transport for workshop positions.
- All internships and fellowships are unpaid, but we may be able to provide expenses or a living stipend dependent on the candidate's situation.

The ideal candidate has...

- a demonstrated interest in the work that we do, in social enterprise, and in design for social change.
- experience in rural travel and communicating with rural families.
- willingness to help out across the organization with any projects that might need an extra pair of hands.
- deep empathy for our customers.
- an enthusiastic go-getter attitude, even in unfamiliar environments.
- demonstrated maturity and flexibility in cross-cultural contexts where misunderstandings and setbacks happen frequently.
- excellent critical thinking abilities and an ability to solve problems without excessive oversight.

To apply

Fellowships and internships are limited and the application process is competitive. To apply please email the following documents to jobs@proximitydesigns.org.

- A cover letter telling us why you are interested in the fellowship, or internship at Proximity, and why you're the ideal candidate. Please remember to tell us which team, or project you would like to be working on, and what dates you will be available. Let us know the relevant skills that you'd bring to the teams, and the relevant experience you have, especially in overseas contexts. If it's related to Proximity's work, tell us about your long-term career goals. Finally, be sure to mention which dates you'd be available to work.
- A resume that details all of your academic and previous work/volunteering experience.
- Work Sample. Show us, or describe, something you've done that showcases your unique skills and abilities. If you did the project as part of a group, describe what you were personally responsible for. Tell us why you're proud of it, and what you think it shows about you.