

2 Semester Internship at Innovative Nonprofit

Kizuna Across Cultures

Mid-August 2025 – Early March 2026



Passionate about international youth exchange and US-Japan relations? Are you hoping to utilize your bilingual (English and Japanese) and bicultural skills? Interested in learning about virtual exchange, a cutting-edge field in education? Would you like to work with people who have an entrepreneurial spirit and love their work? If so, then Kizuna Across Cultures (KAC) has a great internship opportunity for you to combine your talents and interests!

What does KAC do? Co Founded in 2011 by several Japanese and their JET alum friends, KAC, an educational 501c3 nonprofit, has connected over 16,000 high school students in Japan and the U.S. through their 6-month (Sept – Feb) virtual cultural and language exchange program, *Global Classmates*. As a leading practitioner of virtual exchange, KAC pairs up a Japanese-language class from a U.S. high school and an English class from a Japanese high school and creates an e-classroom for each pair on a secure and monitored platform. Using both languages to communicate, students exchange messages, photos, and videos on a weekly basis. The program not only allows students to strengthen their interest in and understanding of one another's culture while also improving their foreign language skills and global mindsets, but it also fosters friendship between them.

What do KAC interns do? Interns monitor the exchange and interact directly with students who are participating in the Global Classmates program via the online platform. They guide and support students to get the most out of the exchange by:

- Promoting deeper, more substantial dialogue by posting conversation-advancing questions and comments
- Encouraging students to become confident about communicating in a foreign language with their new classmates
- Inspiring interest in exploring cultures, study abroad, and internationally-focused careers
- Sharing their own bicultural experience



Who is an ideal KAC intern? Someone who is:

- Passionate about promoting international youth exchange and US-Japan relations
- Bilingual/bicultural in Japanese & English
- Globally minded with strong communication skills
- Flexible and adaptive to a fast-paced start-up environment
- A self-starter that can work well alone and in a team



What are the details of the internship? The internship is a 12-hour per week, two-semester internship (mid-August through early March). Interns work 10 hours per week remotely and 2 hours per week in virtual meetings. This is an unpaid internship. As KAC is a small startup, interns will get to experience firsthand all that goes into running and growing a nonprofit.

What have past interns loved about working at KAC?



Emma Maconaughey, University of Rochester

Working with KAC gave me opportunities that I believe no other internship would provide. The fact that it was remote allowed me to fit the work in easily into my schedule, and the high schoolers both from the U.S. and Japan taught me many new things about their respective cultures! It was an unforgettable experience.



Casper Ko, Oregon State University

I think anyone looking to develop meaningful, multicultural relations can find them KAC. As an intern, I was granted the chance to help inspire students, and in turn be inspired by them! There is no doubt that at KAC, seeds of friendship are sown between America and Japan.



Emily Howard, George Washington University

My time working with KAC was truly incredible. Working remotely meant that I was easily able to fit the internship in with my schedule at university. I loved working so closely with the students and watching how they grew as the program progressed. These students are an inspiration!



Akari Kamiya, University of Tokyo

My internship at KAC provided me with invaluable experience! I was able to support high school student exchanges and help them develop an international mindset in a fun way, as well as learn a lot myself from the exchanges. I encourage everyone to give it a try!

How do I apply?

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all intern positions are filled. Please send your letter of interest and resume as one PDF file to Yoko Eshita (yeshita@kacultures.org).

In your letter of interest, please include: (1) your availability to work for two continuous semesters from mid-August to early March, (2) the geographic location you will be working from for the duration of the internship (Washington, DC; Chicago; etc.), and (3) your level of proficiency in Japanese and English. Those candidates who are selected for an interview will be contacted via email.

To find out more about KAC and the *Global Classmates* program visit our website.



English Website: <https://kacultures.org/en/>
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