VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AT NARYN STATE UNIVERSITY IN KYRGYZSTAN

Academics Without Borders (AWB) is a Canadian nonprofit organization. Its mission is to help developing countries improve their universities so that they can train their own experts and conduct research to assist in their countries’ development. AWB’s projects are involved in the full range of university activities from expanding and improving existing institutions and programs to helping create new ones. AWB fulfills its mission by sending volunteers on projects that originate in and are owned by developing world institutions. AWB volunteers are reimbursed for their expenses but are not paid a salary.

This AWB project is a component of the Aga Khan Development Network’s University Improvement Program.

Project Reference: Agriculture Programs Development Plan

Number of Volunteers: 1

Partner Organization: Naryn State University

Naryn State University was founded in 1996 by the decree of the first President of the Kyrgyz Republic. The main purpose of the university is to train highly qualified and competitive specialists to raise the intellectual, scientific and economic potential of the Naryn region. The University consists of four faculties for undergraduate studies, Agro-Technical, Pedagogy, Philology, and Economics, Business and Management; a Distant Learning Department; and two colleges, Naryn Agro-Economic and Technical College and Naryn Pedagogic College. In addition, NSU hosts several language and culture centres: American Studies Centre, Arabic Language and Cultural Centre, Korean Language and Cultural Centre, Chinese Language and Cultural Centre, German Language and Cultural Centre, and Turkish Language and Cultural Centre.

Location: Naryn, Kyrgyzstan

Language:
The language of instruction in Kyrgyzstan is Russian. The volunteer will be provided with an interpreter and translation as necessary to complete the assignment.

Job Description:
Improving the quality of education in agriculture is a priority for Naryn State University. Eighty-seven per cent of the population of the Naryn province lives in rural areas and twenty-two per cent of gross regional product of the region comes from agriculture. Agriculture and animal husbandry have become the main source of employment in the region.

Currently, the University offers agriculture-related programs both at the undergraduate (within the Agro-Technical Faculty) and college (within the Agro-Economic and Technical College) levels.
The University seeks the volunteer expertise necessary to: review the existing curricula of the Agro-Technical Faculty and the Agro-Economic and Technical College; conduct a series of meetings with faculty members to better understand how the curriculum is delivered, what the content of the curriculum is and what learning materials are used; and attend and observe a number of theoretical and practical sessions/lectures. The volunteer will identify areas for improvement and provide recommendations for the future development of the programs.

**Requirements:**
Minimum of a master’s degree in Agriculture or a related discipline and experience teaching in and overseeing an agriculture-related higher-education program. Applicants with extensive knowledge and practical experience in processing and production of agricultural products are particularly desirable for this assignment.

**Start Date and Duration:**
The onsite engagement for this project will take place over 3 weeks in Naryn in the spring or summer of 2019. It may be necessary for the volunteer to engage remotely prior to and following the onsite assignment.

**Benefits:**
All expenses: flights, accommodations, local transportation, travel and medical insurance, vaccinations and medications, and other incidentals will be covered by the Aga Khan Foundation and AWB.

**Applications:**
Please send to Corrie Young, cyoung@awb-usf.org:
- Your CV, including your contact information
- A statement of your motivation in seeking the position
- Dates of availability
- Names and contact details of two (2) references

**Deadline:** March 11, 2019