



## **TOKYO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM**

### **TCU, ACTS-es, and the International Fellows Program**

A fundamental goal of TCU is to serve as a bridge among Christians in Japan and Christians in other nations. TCU and its predecessor schools have a long history of more than 130 years of sending Japanese missionaries, aid-workers, and those in secular occupations from Japan to the world on behalf of Christ. More recently, TCU has also welcomed many students from around the world to Japan as degree-seekers at the University. So now the flow runs in both directions – from TCU to the world, and from the world to TCU.

One of the central aims of the ACTS-es Program is to help TCU achieve the above-stated goal. From the beginning, therefore, TCU's ACTS-es Program has aimed for its international students to serve as bridge people between Christian communities in their home countries and Christian communities in Japan.

In order to highlight and better achieve this important goal of TCU and its ACTS-es Program, TCU will distinguish certain students by appointing them as International Fellows. Fellows will include:

1. ACTS-es students awarded scholarships amounting to more than twenty-five percent of the total cost to live and study at TCU.
2. Other ACTS-es students who apply and are accepted into the International Fellows Program.
3. Students in the Japanese-language track who apply and are accepted into the International Fellows Program (both Japanese and international students).

### **The Home Communities, Churches, and Families of the International Fellows**

1. A bridge connects two different sides of a river or canyon or valley. For the International Fellow, one side is the student's family, home church, and community.
2. TCU expects the student's family and home church (or denomination) to approve and support the student through prayer and, if possible, some financial contribution.
  - (a) The student's family should express in writing their understanding that the International Fellow will be a full-time student at TCU and that study will be the student's primary "occupation" while at the university.
  - (b) The student should receive formal approval from the home congregation (or denomination) for his or her study at TCU. Some expression of this approval should be sent in a letter to TCU. If the congregation has a governing board or council, then that group should formally approve the student to serve as their representative at Tokyo Christian University and in Japan. It is expected that the congregation will have a formal time of prayer in which the congregation blesses the student and promises to keep the student in their prayers.
  - (c) If there is some reason why formal approval from the student's family or congregation is not available, a suitable substitute should be arranged.

3. The International Fellow is expected to maintain contact both with his or her family and home congregation. For example, it is recommended that the Fellow send a prayer and information letter to the family and home congregation at least four times a year.

***If I am awarded an International Fellowship, what are my privileges and obligations?***

1. To remember that being an International Fellow is a high honor. TCU and the Japanese church have great faith in your integrity and your potential. By accepting an International Fellowship, you are pledging, to the best of your ability, to fulfill the high honor given you.
2. To maintain a lifestyle and witness that is in accordance with the student's home congregation, the student's church community in Japan, and the Christian community at TCU.
3. To maintain high academic standards.
  - (a) International Fellows are expected to maintain a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
  - (b) If an International Fellow's cumulative or trimester GPA falls below 2.75, the student will be placed on Academic Probation. At the point of being placed on Academic Probation, any scholarship is subject to immediate financial penalties and/or partial or full revocation. Though penalties apply only to the period of Academic Revocation, any partial or full revocation of scholarship funds may be permanent.
  - (c) If an International Fellow continues on Academic Probation for more than one trimester, the student may be asked to voluntarily withdraw from TCU and to return to his or her home country immediately. By signing the pledge for scholarship recipients, an International Fellow agrees to voluntarily withdraw from TCU and return to his or her home country in such cases.
4. To recognize that being a university student is a full-time job, and to arrange your time accordingly. In particular, this means that you must limit your part-time employment according to the rules stated elsewhere (generally speaking, students will not be allowed to engage in part-time work exceeding 10 hours a week during regular school terms).
5. To build bridges by engaging in community service.
  - (a) This community service includes interaction with Japanese people for approximately 4 hours per week during the school year and at least one to two weeks during summer breaks.
  - (b) Community service may include such things as serving as an assistant in English classes at TCU, tutoring Japanese and/or other international students, serving as a camp counselor in the summer, participating with Japanese Christians in relief work for victims of natural disasters, etc.
  - (c) TCU will approve, and in many cases, assign such community service. You are also free to suggest forms of community service for which you are particularly well suited or which hold a particular interest for you. The university's approval will, however, be required.
  - (d) Some expenses incurred for community service (such as for volunteer trips) may be paid by TCU and/or supporting organizations. The student should confirm

- which expenses are covered and which expenses are not covered before participating in any community service.
- (e) Paid employment does not meet requirements for community service.
  - (f) As a Fellow, you will provide the University with records of your community service and add these to your student portfolio.
6. To be willing, faithful, and regular participants in the TCU community. By this is meant:
    - (a) Being faithful in attending daily chapels and special events, such as TCU's Prayer Day, Foundation Day, small group chapels, etc.
    - (b) Being a faithful participant in the spiritual life of the community by attending or creating prayer groups and the like.
    - (c) Being faithful in cooperating with other students in keeping the dormitories clean, serving in the cafeteria, and the like.
    - (d) Being faithful in attending and actively cooperating in the ministries of your local church.
  7. To teach your campus and church community in Japan about your home country/region and the Christian community / Church there, and to seek opportunities to build bridges between them.
  8. To teach your home community about the Christian community / Church in Japan, and to seek opportunities to build bridges between them.
    - (a) This obligation would apply especially after you have graduated and returned home. But if the opportunity arises – such as welcoming Christian guests from your home community and connecting them to TCU and/or your local church – this could apply even while you are still a student in Japan.
  9. To remember, represent, and honor TCU in your life after graduation as an alumnus/alumna by serving effectively as a witness to Jesus Christ in your career, in your community, in your ministry – whether as a clergy or as a lay person – and in your personal life.
  10. To be an active member and supporter of the TCU Alumni Association after you graduate from TCU.
  11. International Fellows will be asked to sign a document agreeing to voluntarily withdraw from TCU and to return home immediately if requested by the TCU administration for one or more of the following reasons:
    - (a) The student violates the Christian code of faith and ethics at TCU.
    - (b) The student withdraws from active participation in campus and church life.
    - (c) The student continues on Academic Probation for more than one trimester.
    - (d) The student commits academic fraud.
    - (e) The student is found to have falsified official documents concerning part-time work, financial records, etc.
    - (f) The student is found to have falsified his or her application to TCU.
  12. If an International Fellow withdraws from TCU before graduation for any reason (e.g., to transfer to another school, to work, to get married), the student will agree to repay all scholarship and grant money received up to the time of withdrawal from TCU.