



March 21–28, 2027

EXPLORING SOCIAL INNOVATION

San Francisco & Silicon Valley



Join **Exploring Social Innovation (ESI)** with university students and young professionals from around the world for an exploration of social challenges and innovative solutions. Discover your own changemaker potential in San Francisco & Silicon Valley!

INNOVATION
SOCIAL CHANGE
DESIGN-THINKING
BERKELEY STARTUPS
DIVERSITY **STANFORD**
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



INNOVATION IN ACTION

- Silicon Valley tech companies
- Startups & social enterprises
- Social impact organizations



HANDS-ON LEARNING

- Workshops with innovation tools
- Changemaker mindsets
- Expert speakers & mentors



PERSONAL GROWTH

- New & diverse perspectives
- Greater self-awareness
- Reflection & goal-setting



LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS

- Peer mentorship & collaboration
- Cultural exchange
- Personal storytelling

“The program really helped me get to know myself better, opened my mind and enhanced my communication skills. It also made me feel confident that I have the ability to make a social impact and opened my eyes to new possibilities of my future. And the most precious thing was becoming friends with people from diverse backgrounds!”

– Participant from Japan
(Feb 2024)



QUESTIONS? CONTACT

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Program Director

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The Exploring Social Innovation program is offered by VIA, an educational nonprofit organization founded at Stanford in 1963.

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TIMELINE (ASIA DATES)

Priority Application Period

- Application Deadline: Nov 9
- Discovery Interview: Nov 10–21
- Acceptance Notice: Nov 24
- Confirmation Deadline: Nov 30

Final Application Period

- Application Deadline: Nov 30
- Discovery Interview: Dec 1–12
- Acceptance Notice: Dec 15
- Confirmation Deadline: Dec 19

Program Participation (US Dates)

- Travel Preparations: Dec–Jan
- Online Orientation: Late Jan
- Arrival Date: Mar 21
- Departure Date: Mar 28

WHO IS A GOOD FIT FOR ESI?

We welcome university students and professionals from all fields with at least intermediate English skills interested in networking with global peers and exploring pathways to social impact!

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- At least 18 by program start date
- Connection to or experience in Asia (all nationalities welcome)
- Able to travel to the US
- Eligible for entry into the US
- Able to meet all public health requirements for US entry or re-entry to home country

PARTICIPATION COSTS

\$3,000 VIA program fee includes:

- Accommodations (7 nights)
- Local transportation (including airport pickup/drop-off)
- Site visits, guests speakers, workshops, and other activities
- Breakfasts; arrival and farewell meals
- 24-hour on-site staff support

VIA program fee does not include:

- Passport/visa/ESTA (~\$130–220)
- International airfare (~\$1,300)
- Travel health insurance (~\$100)
- Most meals (~\$200)
- Optional activities & personal shopping (~\$200)
- Personal health care expenses

Cost Summary (USD)

Total estimated cost to participate:

- \$3,000 VIA Program Fee*
- \$2,020+ Additional Expenses
- **\$5,020+ Total Expected Cost**

**LEARN
MORE
& APPLY
TODAY!**



viaprograms.org/esi

**VIA is able to offer a limited number of financial need-based fee reductions. Applicants who wish to be considered for a fee reduction must complete a few additional questions in the application form.*