

Michelle P Chung-2012/2013 Scholar

I will be going to Mongolia after I graduate in June to serve as a volunteer at Lake Hovsgol. I am currently helping the Mongol Ecology Center with their environmental plan of the Lake Hovsgol National Park. Our work there is important because the lake is among the most pristine left in the world, but will not remain that way if it is not cared for properly.

I will be setting up in the office and meeting the staff in the capital, Ulan Bator. Then I will be going on site to the lake, which is about one full day's drive from the city, and living there until the temperature drops too low (I have been told that it is dangerous to stay there after the end of August because the temperature drops to -30C). Our site team of three ambitious young women will be conducting scientific assessments to measure the extent of the lake's health. We will also be interviewing the people who live nearby to see how they can better benefit from the social and environmental resources available to them. Finally, we will be integrating all of this information with our current geographic mapping work to analyze and write an environmental plan so that the lake is protected from unnecessary harm and the people in the area are able to enjoy their culture of living as best as possible.

That is the project in a nutshell. I am very excited for what is ahead.