

Open Field: Timofei Kharisov (MPIA '21)

Sports can provide a unique window into communities and be used as an engagement tool for development agencies. Timofei Kharisov (MPIA'21) is interning with Open Field, a sport for development nonprofit organization that operates in Pittsburgh, PA and Cameroon, West Africa. The organization supports underserved youth communities by using soccer as the vehicle to conduct life and character skill building programs. Over the summer, Tim's internship has focused on working with the team in Cameroon to develop an updated curriculum that will be used for the next two to three years.

Timofei says, "An ethical changemaker is one who is open-minded and can put themselves in the shoes of others. This notion has been especially evident in the work and research I am doing for Open Field—when discussing and developing topics like gender equality, it is imperative to frame possible solutions through a nuanced, African lens. The way we deal with certain issues in the U.S. will look drastically different from how those same issues would be addressed in other parts of the world."