

Global Solvers Accelerator 2023

Application Guide

Why this Application Guide:

The online application is one of the primary materials taken into consideration when selecting top candidates for the [Global Solvers Accelerator](#). Thus, the form is comprehensive and takes some time to complete.

To allow interested candidates to prepare their applications diligently, we have put together this Application Guide. The below is a replica of the online application form and is meant as a resource for you to prepare your application offline and ahead of time before submitting the final application via the online form.

How to prepare?

- 1. Use a word document (or any other medium of your choice) to draft your answers to the application questions in your own time.*
- 2. Ensure that your answer adequately addresses the question and that the information you provide is coherent and can be understood by someone who may not be familiar with your context or project.*
- 3. Share that draft of your application with people (e.g., colleagues from your social impact project) who could give you valuable feedback and tips to improve your application.*
- 4. Compile all necessary documentation you will need to upload along with your answers.*
- 5. Once you have all the documentation at hand and your draft application is in a satisfactory state, upload (copy/paste) the final answers to the online application form by the deadline >> <https://meltonfoundation.typeform.com/GlobalSolvers23>*

The application deadline is 1 March 2023 (23:59 US-EST / New York)

APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Introduction

WELCOME TO THE GLOBAL SOLVERS ACCELERATOR!

Congratulations, you're about to apply to a collaborative leadership program that connects, empowers, and transforms emergent agents of social change globally. Completing this application form **diligently** and **by the deadline** is an essential step towards embarking on an eight-month impact journey that will transform you, the social impact project you bring to this program, and your community - if you allow for it.

If selected, you, together with up to 20 other community practitioners from around the world, will work together on refining the impact of the community projects everyone is spearheading. During a guided, experiential learning journey with intentional peer exchange, tailored subject matter advisory, and leading-edge thematic impulses, you will build the competencies, capacity, and network(s) to intentionally unleash the fullest transformative potential of your social impact work.

Collectively, we will strive towards you **becoming the catalyst for transformative change** who can leverage their global citizenship skills to connect and collaborate across boundaries of place, identity, and paradigms.

A signature program of the Melton Foundation, the Global Solvers Accelerator is deeply intertwined with our unique community of global citizenship practice. Upon successful completion of the **8-month program**, you will be eligible to join the **life-long [Melton Foundation Fellowship](#)**. *In addition, the program may include a **weeklong retreat** - fully funded for actively engaged participants - as a part of the program in July 2023.*

In other words, this application might be **your ticket to a transformative and impactful ride** that goes way beyond the duration of the program.

Before we get fully started, however, let's do a quick entry-level check!
*In this application, every click is intentional. If you're unsure or need to refresh your memory, **follow [this link](#)** to review the must-know details online.*

- I confirm that I have read through the program description and understand and meet this program's eligibility criteria.

USEFUL TIPS AS YOU FILL IN THE APPLICATION

In this application, you will be asked questions about yourself, your passions, the social impact project you want to accelerate as part of this program, and how you see yourself contributing to a collaborative learning and working environment.

Some questions invite you to showcase the great work you do. Other questions, in return, invite you to take a more reflective, sometimes even critical, stance. Both can be challenging, and yet we invite you to fill them in with dedication and care. The perfect application is the one that provides us with deep(er) insights into you and the work you do. Try to answer **EACH** question to the best of your knowledge with quality information.

Make sure to submit your finalized responses using this form by the **application deadline, 1 March 2023**, at 23:59 US EST (New York).

The application form is comprehensive and takes some time to complete. We encourage everyone seriously interested in joining this program to prepare their application offline and have someone - e.g., colleagues from their social impact project - review and help refine their answers **before submitting** the final application via this online application form.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE WE GET STARTED:

- >> All questions must be answered in *English*.
- >> The *word limit* indicated with each question must not be exceeded.
- >> We only accept applications that are *complete* or *submitted by the deadline*.
- >> For questions, doubts, or clarifications, visit our [website](#) or [contact us](#) directly.
- >> Your information is safe with us. We treat your data with the utmost care and do not share it with any third party unless authorized. But see for yourself in our [Privacy Policy](#)

Section 2: Your Personal Information

"Stepping onto a brand-new path is difficult, but not more difficult than remaining in a situation, which is not nurturing to the whole woman." - Maya Angelou.

As you're about to encompass the Global Solvers pathway, we would like to get to know you a little better. So be prepared to tell us about yourself, as the first section is all about you :)

- **Email:**
Please indicate your current email address. Make sure to double-check for typos, your email is the primary point of contact we will reach you.

- Pronouns:
We want to ensure we're using the pronouns you prefer when we refer to you using pronouns (opposed to by my name). Which are the (gender) pronouns you'd like for us to use?
-- She/Her, He/Him, They/Them, Other (please specify)
- First (Given) Name:
- Last (Family) Name:
- Full Name in your native language:
If different from English or the Latin alphabet.
- Date of Birth:
- Phone Number:
Please submit your phone number together with the corresponding international calling code.
- This phone number belongs to a:
-- Cell Phone, Landline, Other (please specify)
- Alternative Contact:
Please provide an alternative contact in case your email or phone is out of reach so we can still connect with you for important updates.
- Nationality(s):
If you hold more than one nationality, please list them all.
- Current Residence:
Please name the city (or similar), state/region, and country where you live.
- Your Professional Background:
-- Working Professional, Student (or similar), Independent, Other (please specify)
- Place and Field of Work
Please state the organization you're currently working with, along with your professional field. If you're a university student (or similar), please identify the university and the field of your studies.
- Languages
Please share which language(s) you speak and at what level (beginner, intermediate, advanced, native/native-like)
- Do you identify with any underserved or underrepresented groups or communities in your country of origin and/or residence?
-- Yes, No, Prefer not to answer
 - If YES, please state which groups or communities you identify with.
- Please write a short autobiography (200 words max)
We want to get to know you - the human being behind this application. As you're opening a window into your life for us, feel free to share some more about your background, hobbies, engagement, what drives you, your achievements, as well as hopes and dreams for your future.

- Your favorite quote or inspirational phrase (50 words max)
Please share with us, and feel free to add why it means what it means to you.

Section 3: Your Education

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela.

At the Melton Foundation, we understand learning as a continued, multi-faceted process. Delivered in a non-formal educational setting (meaning not at school, college, or university), the Global Solvers Accelerator is such a space of learning - and a transformational one, we hope.

Please indulge us with some more details about your educational journey till now.

- Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed:
-- Primary Education, Secondary Education, Professional / Diploma (high school or similar), Graduate Degree (Bachelor’s or similar), Post-Graduate Degree (Master’s or above), Prefer not to answer, Other
- Are you currently enrolled in an educational program?
-- Yes (please elaborate), No
- Major field(s) of study or formation:
If multiple, please identify them all along with the intensity or duration (e.g., minor/major studies or similar)
- Have you ever received government financial aid, scholarships, or other financial support to pursue your education?
-- Yes, No
- Please tell us about your educational journey (200 words max):
How have you experienced education? How has your education shaped you? What are reflections on your education and the application of your learnings to date that you want to share?
Education is about learning, and learning happens through repetition and reflection. We are curious to hear some of the insights and reflections about your education - how you learn best, what you have learned, what you haven’t learned, what you may want to explore further, how you are applying what you have learned, etc. is what we’re after, and there is no right or wrong answer :)

Section 4: Your Social Impact Project

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead.

At the Global Solvers Accelerator, we aspire to pivot (a) capacity at the personal level, (b) transformative potential at the project level, and (c) networks for social change at the collective level. Over the course of eight months, you will work with peers from around the world to refine the impact of the community projects each of you is spearheading. Through intentional peer learning, subject matter advisory, and cutting-edge thematic contributions, we will intentionally build the competencies, capacity, and network(s) to unleash the fullest transformative potential of your social impact work.

In the following section, we invite you to tell us more about the project you are looking to accelerate as part of the program and how you see yourself contributing to an enriching learning journey for all.

- Project Name:
- Project Summary:
*In no more than **two sentences**, describe the overarching purpose and goal(s) of the project.*
- Web Reference:
Please provide web references to the project (e.g., a website, a page on social media, a youtube video about an event with their project, a document highlighting the project goals/aims, etc..)
- NEED ... What need is your project addressing? (200 words max)
Please outline the problem, how it affects your community and how it's perceived by the community, and other elements and aspects that you consider important to help us understand the need for your project and the context in which your social impact work unfolds.
- KEY-AUDIENCES Who are the people and/or groups of people you're working with? (200 words max)
Please identify the most relevant audiences and stakeholders who influence or are influenced by your work. Who are they, how do they relate to the NEED outlined above, and how are they relevant to your project?
- APPROACH ... How does your project address the need? (200 words max)
Please describe how your project works, what is done in it and how it addresses the need, how it engages the community (or not), etc. You may elaborate on technical or organizational details and possibly also outline why you chose or prefer this approach.
- BENEFITS ... What are the benefits of your project? (200 words max)
Please share how your project contributes to the well-being of the community. What are

the concrete advantages of your solution, and why would or should your target audience(s) and key stakeholders get engaged? You may elaborate on how you define success for the project and how you track and measure it.

- **COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE/COLLABORATION POTENTIAL ...** What are the unique features of your project? (200 words max)
What other initiatives with a similar target, goal, and/or approaches exist? How is your project similar and different? How do your target audience and key stakeholders perceive the other initiatives? How do you leverage that “competitive advantage” in pursuit of the greater good?
- **INFLUENCE ...** What is your role in the project? (200 words max)
Please elaborate on your role and the responsibilities you have in the project and how these relate to your (personal) strengths and weaknesses. Please also discuss your capacity or leverage to affect change in the project as a result of the program.
- **SDG Relevance of your work:**
*Which of the Sustainable Development Goals is your project connected to? Please **choose up to three SDGs** that your project caters to the most.*

>> Please elaborate on the previous question. (100 words max)

How are the SDGs you indicated represented in the project? How are they interconnected (or not)? How does your project contribute to furthering these SDGs? ... those are some impulse questions we'd like to hear your thoughts about.

- Please indicate the stage that the project is currently in:
To fully benefit from the Global Solver Accelerator program, projects must be already in existence, regardless of the stage they are in.
-- Planning, Analysis/Feasibility/Market research, Implementation Design, Development/Roll-Out, Testing/Monitoring/Feedback, Implementation, Maintenance, Scale

>> Please briefly explain your choice. (100 words max)

- **Your Aspirations ...** from the program (200 words max)
Please outline how you see the Global Solvers Accelerator benefiting your project and your work there. What does success look like for your participation in the program?
- **Your Contribution ...** to the learning journey (200 words max)
How do you see yourself contributing to the program? What experiences, capacity, resources, etc., from your work in the project described above and your professional journey so far can you bring to the program to create an enriching peer-learning experience for all?

Section 5: Commitment and Engagement

"A goal without a plan is just a wish." - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The Global Solvers Accelerator is thriving if everyone contributes - you, your global peers, our facilitators, and so on. In the following, we want to ensure you (a) are well aware and (b) can commit to the core program expectations.

- Commitment to active program participation
The Global Solvers Accelerator is an engaging, collaborative, peer-learning program unfolding from April - December 2023. Participants are expected to contribute regularly, connect in bi-weekly meetings, and fulfill asynchronous assignments responsibly. The anticipated time commitment of 4 hours per week on average. Furthermore, the program may include a weeklong in-person retreat in July 2023 for active and engaged Global Solvers!
Please consider these aspects carefully before indicating your ability.
--Yes, No
- Commitment to connect program contents and social impact projects
The Global Solvers Accelerator is project-based and builds on participants' (a) willingness to open up their (own) experience, know-how, energy, resources, networks, resources, etc., for others to access. (b) eagerness to connect the project they bring to the program with the contents tackled during the program. (c) ownership (or mandate) to introduce changes at the project level (as a result of the acceleration process).
Please consider these aspects carefully before indicating your ability.
--Yes, No
- Commitment to paying the program fees
At the Global Solvers Accelerator, everyone contributes - also financially, with a program fee of 750 USD. The program fee has two primary purposes: (a) it helps to subsidize some of the program activities, which may include a week-long in-person retreat, and (b) it allows the set up of a collective fund that will be available to deserving projects during the 2nd half of the program.

Selected participants must settle the program fee within three weeks of being accepted into the program.

Scholarships of up to 80% are available to participants with proven needs.
If you require a scholarship, you must present the following documents together with

your application so that our selection committee can study your case and determine whether or not a scholarship can be offered and to what amount:

- *a personal statement outlining the need for support*
- *an endorsement letter from a trustworthy reference (e.g., a supervisor or co-leader of the project you're applying with)*

Please consider these aspects carefully before you indicate your ability.

--Yes, No

- If selected for the program, I will require a scholarship to co-finance my program fee.

--Yes, No

- If YES, please indicate the type of scholarship you would require.
-- 20% - 50% - 80% of the program fee
- If YES, please upload your personal statement outlining the need for support below.
This is one of two required documents that the selection committee will consider when reviewing your scholarship appeal.
- If YES, please upload your endorsement letter from a trustworthy reference, e.g. your supervisor or co-leader of the project you are applying with or from a supporter or collaborator of the project.
The referee's identity must be proven, and that person's relationship with the applicant must be stated explicitly.
This is the second required document the selection committee will consider when reviewing your scholarship appeal.

Section 6: Final Considerations and Next Steps

- Exposure to the Melton Foundation and/or collaborative programs
Please choose the option that best describes your current exposure to the Melton Foundation. Please note: previous exposure is not a requirement for this program.
-- I have no previous exposure to the organization, I follow the Melton Foundation's social media, I form part of a change community/network that the Melton Foundation belongs to (please specify), I am connected through a Melton Foundation Hub region (please specify), I have participated in a program that was spearheaded or supported by the Melton Foundation (please specify), I am a Melton

Fellow, Other

- How did you hear about the Global Solvers Accelerator?
Choose as many answer options as apply.
-- Referral, Melton Foundation Website, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Online Search, Advertisement, Mailing list or Newsletter, Other
- I would like to receive news and updates from the Melton Foundation.
With your permission, we shall add you as a recipient of our bi-monthly newsletter to keep you in the loop about the latest on global citizenship practices and upcoming opportunities.
--Yes, No
- ***I hereby declare that the information provided in this application is correct and truthful.***

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” - Harriet Tubman

Congratulations, you're one click away from submitting your application form.

By clicking the “SUBMIT” button below, you will send your application form our way.

What's left to say at this point are two things: thank you for your application, First (Given) Name, and best of success!!

(Submit)

And it's done! Your application is on its way - thank you for accepting the invitation to embark on this journey with us.

Following the application deadline, our selection committee will get to work to identify the best-suited candidates to participate in the [Global Solvers Accelerator](#) 2023.

*Please note: The selection process spans multiple evaluation stages, the last one being a 120 min virtual **assessment center** for shortlisted candidates (tentatively scheduled for 18 March at 1:30 pm GMT). After that, up to 20 well-suited candidates will be selected for the program. If selected, you will receive detailed information about the next steps, including how to pay the program fees, materials to prepare, and the onboarding process for the program. Watch out for a message with an **update** on your application - and possibly an invitation to the assessment center - in **mid-March 2023**.*