

A. General

1. What is the Young Social Entrepreneurs (YSE) Programme?

The Singapore International Foundation (SIF) believes in equipping, enabling and inspiring young changemakers like you to make your social enterprise idea a reality. Through the YSE programme, we nurture a network of social entrepreneurs, where the power of ideas, know-how and resources can be harnessed to enrich lives and effect positive change for a better world. Launched in 2010, we have close to 700 alumni representing 27 nationalities.

2. What happens during the workshop?

The YSE 2018 workshop is put together with the intention of allowing participants to learn from and interact with leading social entrepreneurs, business professionals and other youth who are keen on social innovation, while expanding their network of contacts for collaborations and partnerships.

Throughout the first three days, you will participate in dialogues and business clinics to enable you to learn from the experience of different social entrepreneurs and gain feedback from professionals and practitioners on your business plans, so that you can refine your ideas and improve on your business presentations. On the last day of the workshop, you will present your business idea/proposal to a panel of judges. The presentation will determine the top 16 teams* that will be shortlisted to progress to the next components of the YSE journey that is spread across the next nine months – an overseas study visit, mentorship scheme and the final pitch (Pitching for Change session).

3. How much does the workshop cost?

SIF does not charge for the workshop. Participants based overseas are responsible for covering their own airfares and accommodation to attend the 4-day workshop in Singapore from 21 to 24 March 2018*. Meals and transport during the workshop will be provided by SIF. You will need to pay for transport cost to the assembly venue each morning and back to your accommodation each night. Overseas participants will need to cover your own airport transfers.

4. Do I need to attend the full workshop should I be admitted?

Successful applicants must attend all components of the workshop for their full duration. For overseas participants, you will need to make arrangements to arrive in and depart from Singapore in time for the workshop. Prior to the workshop, you can let us know if you require a letter of admittance from us to apply for leave from work/school.

5. Why should I apply early?

Early submissions are highly encouraged because we can still assist you if you have any questions and that gives you more time to work on your application details before the final cut-off. We will also be scheduling phone interviews as part of the review process. Early submissions will ensure that you complete your application in good time.

B. Application

6. What is my role as an applicant in the workshop?

Applicant(s) are expected to be committed to the key milestones of the programme and if you are an individual applicant, you should be the key driver of the SE.

7. Does every member of my SE need to submit an individual application form?

All applicants of the SE will have to submit your details through the online application form. If you are applying as a team, please fill up the information for all team members before submission.

8. Do I need an idea to apply?

Yes! We are looking for young changemakers with great ideas and looking to develop their social enterprise. We are interested to know more about your social enterprise idea but you do not need to have an incorporated/registered social enterprise before applying. As long as you have a viable idea, we want to hear from you!

9. Is there a specific industry for this programme?

No, we welcome ideas for all industries.

10. Do I need a business plan?

Yes, each team will have to submit a business plan overview based on the template provided. So gather your members together and work on it before the deadline.

11. English is not my first language, can I answer the questions in my native language?

Currently, we only accept applications in English.

12. Can there be a change in team member during the course of programme?

Teams are not allowed to change members once they embark on the programme.

13. Can my team submit more than one idea?

Yes, your team can submit more than one idea. However, in the interest of fairness to other participating individuals/teams, only one of your ideas may be selected.

C. Eligibility

14. Who is eligible to apply?

The YSE workshop is open to participants of all nationalities, aged 18 to 30 years old.

15. Can individuals apply?

Yes, individuals can apply but we highly encourage you to have more than one member for your social enterprise. We encourage you to build a team so that the other members can support you as you grow your social enterprise.

16. If I have an existing SE, am I eligible to apply?

SEs that are in operation for > 1 year AND generating profit are not eligible to apply. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please fill in the application form for our review. We will not be able to assess your eligibility over email.

17. Does my SE need to have operations in Singapore?

It is not necessary for your SE's operations to be carried out in Singapore. We welcome ideas from all over the world, and we want to help you launch be it in Singapore, Asia or beyond.

18. Can I reapply if my team or I have applied to YSE previously?

Yes, we would encourage you and/or your team to reapply as you may have changes to your social enterprise idea since then. We do have cases of YSE alumni who have reapplied and were shortlisted into the YSE programme.

D. Evaluation

19. Who evaluates the application?

Applications will be reviewed by an external panel of judges comprising of business professionals and practitioners, so that both the business and social impact of your SE idea will be assessed.

Your application is assessed based on:

a. Social impact

- ✓ The benefits that the community receives, and potential impact to the community/issue

b. Innovativeness

- ✓ Creative and enterprising ideas, as well as unique aspects of the business models

c. Feasibility and sustainability of the business idea/model

- ✓ Viability of business idea/model

d. Commitment

- ✓ Your team and/or your drive and willingness (attitude) to be committed to be a changemaker

E. Post-Workshop

20. What happens after the workshop?

Shortlisted teams will be announced on the last day of the YSE Workshop and will progress to the next components of the YSE journey which comprises the mentorship scheme, an overseas study visit, and the final pitch (*Pitching for Change* event).

All YSE 2018 workshop participants will become our YSE alumni. We will continue to support you through other resources and activities such as business clinics and networking events both in Singapore and abroad. The finalised programme and workshop content will be updated and shared once available.

21. If my SE is shortlisted, will I have to pay for the post-workshop components?

SIF will be covering the costs for shortlisted teams for post-workshop components. The costs include airfares (capped at S\$800 per round trip per person) and lodging for the overseas study visit as well as to attend the final pitching in Singapore.

F. Intellectual Property Rights

22. Does SIF or the participating partners have rights to my business plan?

No, participants and applicants retain the rights to their business plan. Business plan are solely shown to judges for evaluation purposes and SIF will not disclose it to any other parties.

If your questions have not been answered in this FAQ, drop us an email at yse@sif.org.sg. As we will be facing a high volume of emails during this period, please specify in the subject your name and the enquiry pertaining to the workshop e.g. *SE Name_YSE2018Workshop_ [your enquiry]*.