

GENERAL

WHAT IS THE YOUNG SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS (YSE) GLOBAL?

The Singapore International Foundation (SIF) believes in equipping, enabling and inspiring young changemakers like you to scale your social enterprises. The Young Social Entrepreneurs (YSE) Global is a six-month programme that inspires, equips, and enables youth of different nationalities to scale up their social enterprises in Singapore and beyond.

Since 2010, YSE Global has nurtured a network of youth with innovative business models focused on social good. Together with established social entrepreneurs, business consultants and investors, we harness the power of ideas, know-how and resources to effect positive change for a better world.

HOW DOES THE YSE GLOBAL WORK?

The YSE Global spans six months, comprising the following components: an in-person YSE Global Workshop in Singapore, four-month remote mentorship, monthly capacity-building sessions and the Pitching for Change event finale where up to six teams can receive funding of up to S\$20,000 to start or scale up their social enterprise.

WHAT DOES THE YSE GLOBAL OFFER?

International Network

Join an international network of changemakers including like-minded individuals, corporates, practitioners, and successful entrepreneurs.

Mentorship

Gain access to industry experts and professionals for mentorship.

Regional Learning Sessions

Broaden perspectives on social entrepreneurship through capacity-building opportunities to connect, network and learn from key players in the social enterprise landscape.

Grants

Start or scale up your social enterprise with funding up to S\$20,000.

ELIGIBILITY

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 years old, you are eligible to apply. The YSE Global is open to participants of all nationalities.

DO I NEED AN IDEA TO APPLY?

Yes! We are looking for young changemakers with great ideas that harness enterprise solutions for social issues. You do not need to have an incorporated/registered social enterprise before applying. If you have a viable idea or are in the early stages of building your enterprise, we want to hear from you!

CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY OR DO I NEED TO FORM A TEAM TO APPLY?

Yes, individuals can apply but we highly encourage you to form a team. Having more than one member for your social enterprise allows you to maximise the benefits of teamwork and support as the work grows.

IF MY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR SOME YEARS, AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Yes, you are welcome to apply. Our programme is designed to best suit the needs of seed to early-stage enterprises. The selection process will also take into consideration the stage of development of your social enterprise, and whether you would be able to fully benefit from what the programme offers.

CAN I RE-APPLY IF MY TEAM OR I HAVE APPLIED TO A YSE PROGRAMME PREVIOUSLY?

Yes, we would still encourage you and/or your team to re-apply as you may have changes to your social enterprise since then. We do have cases of YSE alumni who have re-applied and were successfully shortlisted for YSE Global.

CAN MY TEAM SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION?

We strongly recommend that you submit only one application comprising the social enterprise idea that you are committed to.

IS THERE A SPECIFIC INDUSTRY MY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SHOULD ADDRESS FOR THIS PROGRAMME?

We welcome social enterprises addressing social issues of any sector or industry to apply. However, the programme will strongly consider social enterprises with an environmental focus and/or digital-related solutions.

DOES MY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NEED TO HAVE OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE?

No, it is not necessary for your operations to be carried out in Singapore.

ENGLISH IS NOT MY FIRST LANGUAGE; CAN I ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN MY NATIVE LANGUAGE?

Currently, we only accept applications in English.

APPLICATION

WHEN IS THE APPLICATION PERIOD?

YSE Global 2023 is accepting applications from 30 January to 12 March 2023, 11.59pm (GMT +8). Early submissions are highly encouraged and will ensure that you complete your application in good time. We can assist you if you have any questions and that will give you more time to work on your application before the final deadline.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

You can apply by completing the online application form [here](#). Only completed submissions through the online application form will be accepted. For a step-by-step guide on the application process, please refer to the [guidelines](#). If you encounter difficulties in creating or applying via Judgify, please contact us at yse@sif.org.sg.

IS THERE AN APPLICATION FEE?

Yes, there is an application fee of **S\$10** that you will have to pay through the online application form to successfully submit your application. We can only accept PayPal payments or credit card payments via the PayPal platform. Only applications with complete payments will be considered eligible.

IF I AM APPLYING AS A TEAM, DOES EVERY MEMBER OF MY TEAM NEED TO SUBMIT AN INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION FORM?

No, if you are applying as a team, only one representative from your team will need to apply by completing the online application form. In your application form, you will be asked to include information about all the team members.

DO I NEED TO PREPARE ANYTHING FOR THE APPLICATION?

Yes, each team will have to submit the following items:

1. Business Plan Overview – click [here](#) to download the guidelines and template
 - Business Summary
 - Business Model Canvas
2. Team/Individual Photo
3. Business Logo (if available)
4. Any supporting documents (optional)

Please note that the SIF may contact you for clarifications. We strongly advise you to submit your application as early as possible so that we have sufficient time to assist you in completing your submission where necessary.

DOES THE SIF OR THE PARTICIPATING PARTNERS HAVE RIGHTS TO MY BUSINESS PLAN?

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

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM / MY TEAM IS SELECTED TO JOIN YSE GLOBAL 2023?

You will receive an email notification on the outcome of your application by the end of April 2023. Both successful and non-successful applicants will be notified of their application outcome respectively.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM / MY TEAM IS SELECTED TO JOIN YSE GLOBAL 2023?

Once selected, you are expected to attend the YSE Global 2023 – Workshop, which includes a series of in-person workshops, business clinic mentorship and a business presentation pitch to a panel of judges. The top 15 shortlisted teams from the business presentation pitch will move on to the next phase of the YSE Global 2023 programme. Participants are expected to be committed to all components of the programme, to derive maximum gains and a chance to pitch successfully for funding.

CAN THERE BE A CHANGE IN TEAM MEMBERS DURING THE PROGRAMME?

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

WHO EVALUATES THE APPLICATIONS?

Applications will be reviewed by an external panel of judges consisting of business professionals and practitioners, so that both the business and social impact models of your social enterprise will be assessed. Your application will be assessed based on:

A. Social Impact

The benefits that the community receives, and the potential impact on the community/issue.

B. Innovativeness

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

C. Feasibility and Sustainability of Business Idea

Viability of business idea.

D. Commitment

Capacity and dedication towards being a changemaker.

WORKSHOP

WHO GETS TO ATTEND THE YSE GLOBAL 2023 – WORKSHOP?

Selected applicants who receive an invitation for YSE Global 2023 will get to attend a virtual welcome and business clinic session which will take place at the end of May followed by the four-day YSE Global 2023 – Workshop, which will take place in **early June 2023 in Singapore**. We look forward to meeting you in person and welcoming you to Singapore.

WHAT IS THE YSE GLOBAL 2023 – WORKSHOP ABOUT?

The YSE Global 2023 – 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 YSE Global 2023 – Workshop, 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 YSE Global 2023 – Workshop, you will present your business idea to a panel of judges. The presentation will determine the top teams that will be shortlisted to progress to the next five months of the YSE Global, including **mentorship, regional learning sessions**, and the ***Pitching for Change*** event finale.

DO I NEED TO PAY FOR THE YSE GLOBAL 2023 – WORKSHOP?

The SIF does not charge for the YSE Global 2023 – Workshop and will provide three meals for all participants over the duration of the YSE Global 2023 – Workshop. However, as it will be conducted in person in Singapore, participants will be required to bear all travel and accommodation costs. Accommodation costs in Singapore for a hostel (4 to 6-bed dorm) range from S\$55 to S\$131 per person per night, and hotels (twin sharing) range from S\$109 to S\$144 per room per night. Singapore's MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) and bus systems have an extensive network of routes that will help you zip around the city – a single trip costs between S\$2 and S\$4. For mobile and data needs, prepaid SIM cards costs between S\$15 and S\$50.

WHAT ARE THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER SINGAPORE?

Travellers seeking to enter Singapore should comply with the prevailing Public Health as well as Entry Requirements listed in the website <https://www.ica.gov.sg/enter-transit-depart/entering-singapore> to ensure a smooth journey. As of January 2023, travellers may enter Singapore without testing or quarantine, only if they have taken minimum WHO-EUL vaccine dosage at least two weeks before arrival, and can show proof of vaccination. This may be subject to changes, and travellers are advised to check the website listed above for latest advisories.

DO I NEED TO ATTEND THE YSE GLOBAL 2023 – WORKSHOP IF I AM SELECTED?

Successful applicants must attend all sessions of the YSE Global 2023 – Workshop. Prior to the YSE Global 2023 – Workshop, you can let us know if you require a letter of admittance from us to apply for leave from work or school.

WHAT IF I CANNOT ATTEND THE YSE GLOBAL 2023 – WORKSHOP?

You are required to inform the SIF in writing with valid reasons and documentation for not being able to attend the YSE Global 2023 – Workshop. You must find a replacement for each member who is unable to attend the Workshop, subject to the SIF's approval.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE YSE GLOBAL 2023 – WORKSHOP?

Shortlisted teams will be informed and will progress to the **next phase** of the programme which comprises customised **mentorship, regional learning sessions**, and the ***Pitching for Change*** event finale where teams can pitch for funding of up to S\$20,000 each to start or scale up their social enterprise. Shortlisted teams are expected to stay committed to all key components. Teams' commitment demonstrated during the programme will be considered towards their final scores at *Pitching for Change*.

All YSE Global 2023 – Workshop participants will become part of our global YSE alumni network. We will continue to support you through other resources and activities such as networking events, information-sharing, and opportunities for funding and publicity where possible.

IF MY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IS SHORTLISTED, ARE THERE ADDITIONAL COSTS I NEED TO PAY FOR?

There will be no additional participation costs for shortlisted teams. Participants are required to have online access and are recommended to have stable internet connectivity to participate fully in the programme components, namely the four-month mentorship, regional learning sessions, and *Pitching for Change*.

MENTORSHIP

WHAT IS THE MENTORSHIP ABOUT?

Mentorship is one of the most well-received and valuable components of the programme. Shortlisted teams will be matched with volunteer mentors who are leading business consultants and entrepreneurs from relevant fields to work on strengthening business strategies.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE MENTORSHIP?

Each team will be matched with up to three *Business Model Mentors* and/or *Entrepreneur Mentors* for a duration of four months. Mentoring will be conducted remotely, and teams are to commit two to four hours per month to check in with their mentors on their progress. Each team and their mentors will also conduct a mock-pitching session in preparation for *Pitching for Change*, where mentors will provide their respective teams with practical pitching advice.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS OF SHORTLISTED TEAMS?

Teams are expected to be proactive in consulting with their mentors. As the YSE mentors are industry leaders with vast experiences, teams are highly encouraged to define clear objectives and goals to work on with their mentors to maximise learnings and results from the mentorship experience. Teams are also required to submit to the SIF a monthly update on their mentorship progress.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SHORTLISTED TEAMS DO NOT ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENTS DURING THE MENTORSHIP DURATION?

The conduct and commitment of the team during the mentorship will be assessed by the mentors and SIF team, which will count towards their team commitment score at *Pitching for Change*.

REGIONAL LEARNING SESSIONS

WHEN IS THIS?

Shortlisted teams will get exclusive opportunities to expand their perspectives on social entrepreneurship through monthly learning and insights from key regional and local players in the social enterprise landscape. The series of four online sessions of up to four hours each will take place from July 2023 to October 2023 and will offer a chance for shortlisted teams to engage with the international YSE network and community.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THESE SESSIONS?

Shortlisted teams are required to join all the online learning sessions which include opportunities to connect, network, collaborate and learn from key eco-system experts, social entrepreneurs, and impact leaders.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

Participants are expected to attend and participate actively in all the sessions. Participants are encouraged to utilise this platform to learn, ask questions, network, get inspired by new ideas and develop collaboration.

PITCHING FOR CHANGE

WHAT IS *PITCHING FOR CHANGE*?

Pitching for Change will take place in November 2023, when all shortlisted teams will pitch to a panel of judges online. Up to six teams will emerge as winners to receive up to S\$20,000 in funding to start or scale up their social enterprises.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER *PITCHING FOR CHANGE*?

Winning teams are required to submit a grant proposal to the SIF with their planned use of the S\$20,000 grant over a period of one and a half years. The SIF will work together with the winning teams on their planned objectives, outcomes, and effective utilisation of their funds. The grant funding will be disbursed to winning teams in tranches upon achievement of their intended outcomes and expenditure utilisation. Teams may also be assigned a mentor to guide them in the utilisation of funding and to support their enterprise development.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

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_YSEGlobal2023_ [your enquiry]*.