

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, an Overseas Study Visit 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 enterprises.

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.

Overseas Study Visit

Embark on an overseas study visit to gain insights into 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 ideas that harness enterprise solutions for social issues. You do not need to have an incorporated / registered social enterprise before applying. Teams that have a viable idea and are in the seed stage are welcome to apply. However, we will prioritise teams that already have prototypes or existing products and/or services that create social impact and are in the early stages of building their social enterprise.

HOW MANY MEMBERS CAN I HAVE IN MY TEAM?

Each team can form up to a maximum of 3 members.

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 has to offer.

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?

No, we welcome social enterprises addressing social issues of any sector or industry to apply.

DOES MY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NEED TO HAVE OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE?

No, it is not necessary for your operations to be carried out in Singapore. We welcome social enterprises from all over the world, and we want to help you reach your impact in Singapore, Asia and beyond.

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

Currently, we only accept applications in English. The YSE Global programme will also be conducted in English.

APPLICATION

WHEN IS THE APPLICATION PERIOD?

YSE Global 2024 is accepting applications from **18 December to 2 February 2024, 11.59 pm** (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 per team** that you will have to pay through the online application form to successfully submit your application. The fee is non-refundable, and 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. High-Res Logo (if available)
4. Any supporting documents (optional)

Please note that the SIF may contact you to conduct clarifications. We strongly advise you to submit your application as early as possible so that we have ample time to assist you in your queries.

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 2024?

You will receive an email notification on the outcome of your application **by early April**. 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 2024?

Once selected, you are expected to be committed and attend the first component of the YSE Global 2024 held in Singapore, which includes a series of in-person workshops, business clinic mentorship and an in-person 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 2024. Similarly, once you are shortlisted, you will be expected to commit and attend all remaining components of the programme, to derive maximum gains and a chance to pitch successfully at the *Pitching for Change* for funding.

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

Teams are **strongly discouraged** from changing members after submitting their application to participate in the YSE Global 2024 programme.

Teams will be required to inform the SIF in writing with valid reasons to add, remove or change team members, and this will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis. All confirmed team members who are accepted in the programme will be expected to **display commitment, participate fully and attend all the sessions**.

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 2024 – WORKSHOP?

Selected applicants who receive an invitation for YSE Global 2024 will get to attend a five-day YSE Global 2024 – Workshop, which will take place in **early May 2024 in Singapore**. We look forward to meeting you in person and welcoming you to Singapore.

WHAT IS THE YSE GLOBAL 2024 – WORKSHOP ABOUT?

The YSE Global 2024 – Workshop is put together to allow 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 2024 – 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 2024 – 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**, **Overseas Study Visit**, and the **Pitching for Change** event finale.

DO I NEED TO PAY FOR THE YSE GLOBAL 2024 – WORKSHOP?

The SIF does not charge for the YSE Global 2024 – Workshop. However, as it will be conducted physically in Singapore, participants will be required to bear all travel and accommodation costs.

All confirmed team members who are accepted into this YSE Global 2024 - Workshop will be expected to display commitment, participate fully and attend all the sessions.

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 on the website <https://www.ica.gov.sg/enter-transit-depart/entering-singapore> to ensure a smooth journey. There are no longer any COVID-19 measures for travellers arriving in Singapore from 13 Feb 2023, regardless of vaccination status or traveller profile.

DO I NEED TO ATTEND THE YSE GLOBAL 2024 – WORKSHOP IF I AM SELECTED?

Yes, successful applicants must attend all sessions of the YSE Global 2024 – Workshop. Prior to the YSE Global 2024 – 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 2024 – WORKSHOP?

You are required to inform the SIF in writing with valid reasons and documentation for not being able to attend the YSE Global 2024 – Workshop.

- A **minimum 75% attendance of all team members** is a prerequisite for the team's eligibility to pitch for funding and participate in the Overseas Study Visit.
- If you are unable to attend the Workshop due to an emergency and are the sole representative of the team, you must find a replacement who can commit and attend the Workshop. You are to inform the SIF team as early as possible and furnish the team member's name and email address. The confirmation of the replacement team member would be subject to the SIF's approval. The replacement team member accepted in the programme will be expected to display commitment, participate fully and attend all the sessions.
- If you are feeling unwell during the YSE Global 2024 – Workshop, you may visit a clinic and produce a Medical Certificate. Your attendance will be accorded as excused with medical reasons, and will not affect your team's eligibility to pitch for funding.

The SIF reserves the right to assess and determine the team's eligibility to pitch and continue in the YSE Global Programme, on a case-by-case basis.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE YSE GLOBAL 2024 – WORKSHOP?

Shortlisted teams will be informed and will progress to the **next phase** of the programme which comprises customised **mentorship, Overseas Study Visit**, 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 enterprises. 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 2024 – 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 TO THE NEXT PHASE, ARE THERE ADDITIONAL COSTS I NEED TO PAY FOR?

The SIF will be covering the costs of participants that have fulfilled the minimum attendance requirement of 75% during the YSE Global 2024 - Workshop for the Overseas Study Visit. The costs include meals, accommodation and airfares (capped at S\$700 per round trip per person, max 3 pax per team).

For the online four-month mentorship and *Pitching for Change*, participants are required to have online access and stable internet connectivity to participate fully in these programme components.

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 industry professionals 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 *Industry/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 the SIF team, which will count towards their team commitment score at *Pitching for Change*.

OVERSEAS STUDY VISIT

WHEN IS THE OVERSEAS STUDY VISIT?

The Overseas Study Visit is an experiential trip of up to five days, that our shortlisted teams will get the opportunity to participate in, which takes place after the YSE Global 2024 – Workshop (i.e., August / September 2024).

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE OVERSEAS STUDY VISIT?

The Overseas Study Visit is curated for shortlisted teams to gain insights into the social entrepreneurship landscape of another country. Shortlisted teams are required to join all components during the study visit programme, which include workshops, visits to enterprises and organisations, networking opportunities and more.

DO I HAVE TO PAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OVERSEAS STUDY VISIT?

The SIF will be covering the costs of the Overseas Study Visit for team members of shortlisted teams. The costs include meals, accommodation and airfare (capped at S\$700 per round trip per person, max 3 pax per team). The SIF will not cover costs for substituting and/or new team members who were not present at the YSE Workshop.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME DURING THE OVERSEAS STUDY VISIT?

Participants are expected to be fully present and involved in the Overseas Study Visit. You will be expected to conduct yourself honourably, which includes showcasing positive values like respect and honesty, keeping private/sensitive remarks to yourselves, being culturally sensitive and dressing appropriately.

Participants will also be required to submit a report on their key learnings from the Overseas Study Visit to the SIF.

PITCHING FOR CHANGE

WHAT IS *PITCHING FOR CHANGE*?

Pitching for Change will take place in November 2024, 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_YSEGlobal2024_ [your enquiry]*.