

Social Innovation Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 2011

Is the Fellowship only for the classes of '12 and '13?

At this time, the Fellowship is a program for graduating MBA2s and Sloan Fellows from '12 and '13, as well as GSB alumni who have graduated within 3 years of Fellowship application.

How far along should my nonprofit idea be to apply?

This Fellowship is considered early stage seed funding to encourage social entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams. While some applicants might be far along in their thinking and executing on a social startup, others may be only at the beginning. Business plans must clearly articulate the problem, the need, and the uniqueness of the solution being proposed. Applicants requiring further development of their business plan before being awarded a full year Fellowship may be awarded a Summer Research Fellowship first.

If I have already incorporated my non-profit, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as the non-profit has been incorporated within the past two years. Exceptions to this timing will be reviewed by the selection committee.

Must proposals give rise to a nonprofit?

Yes, at this time.

What type of resources and expertise will be available to the Fellows?

CSI will endeavor to support all Fellows to the extent possible with information, connections, and resources, such as assistance finding advisors & funders, strategic advising, and access to GSB/CSI students and programs.

When can students in a dual or joint degree program apply?

Students graduating in the spring should apply in the spring of the year they graduate. Students graduating in December have two options. They can apply in the spring prior to their graduation, and defer the Fellowship until the following January; or they can apply in the spring of the year following graduation.

What do you expect the Fellow to have done by the end of the Fellowship period?

We expect that the Fellow will have launched the nonprofit or have made significant progress towards that objective; however, each case will vary. The application and the Fellowship Year Plan should identify the specific goals for the Fellowship Year.

Are the Social Innovation Fellows still eligible for GSB loan forgiveness?

Please see [Loan Forgiveness](#) to determine eligibility.

What if, at the end of the Fellowship period, the Fellow decides not to proceed with the project/organization?

We expect that some Fellows may determine that their idea was not viable and will not continue. However, we expect Fellows to adhere to their Fellowship Year Plan or ask for formal changes to it should their plans change significantly during the Fellowship.

Are there any circumstances under which the Fellows would have to repay the money?

The stipend will be paid in 5 equal payments: one upon signing the Fellowship Year Plan, and the remaining 4 upon submission of a quarterly report. CSI reserves the right to discontinue Fellowship payments if the Fellowship is not progressing appropriately. Only in the case of malfeasance would the committee consider requiring re-payment.

What are the citizenship requirements for Fellows?

Fellows must have appropriate personal legal status for the country in which they will be working.

Can I use the Fellowship dollars for travel and expenses?

The dollars are to be used at the Fellow's discretion for the development of the nonprofit. They may be used for salary, travel, cost of goods, or other appropriate expenses.

Will Fellows get office space, telephones, computers, and/or health insurance?

No. Fellows will not be University employees.

Will there be any required group meetings?

Each Fellow will work independently and access CSI resources as appropriate.