You want to make a difference.
But you know that it’s going to be a long hard slog towards having a real impact.
We think that an entrepreneurial approach is one of the best ways to make a dent in society’s problems. It empowers you to take control and build something fast. Plus you’ll learn lots in the process.
It’s important that this journey starts with insight – serving and building relationships with people who are at the margins of society and making sure that they are at the centre of everything you build.
Whether it’s a new social enterprise, a service innovation, or a game-changing product, it takes a bold and hard-headed approach to build solutions that work. We give ambitious people like you frontline insight, a rigorous social innovation curriculum, practical business support and a supportive network to do just this.
In the last five years our 114 Fellows have contributed more than 70,000 hours of their time in frontline services across London and gone on to setup 18 new social ventures that have collectively generated more than £750,000 revenue. They’ve started to make in-roads in areas like homelessness, youth justice, health inequality and community development.
But this is just the start. We need more energetic, compassionate and entrepreneurial people to join us on our journey.
Good luck with your application, and I hope to meet you soon.

Jack Graham
CEO & FOUNDER

"Year Here is not only inspiring the next generation of social innovators, but it’s also training them in the art of rolling up your sleeves to create and deliver effective solutions for complex real-life problems."

- Rob Trimble, Chief Executive, Bromley By Bow Centre
Inequality in Britain has been rising for 30 years, with the gap between rich and poor at near-Victorian levels. The poorest 10% of households have an average net income of less than £10,000 while the figure for the richest 10% is £83,897. Wealth is even more unequally divided than income; the poorest 50% of households own just 8.7% of all wealth in Britain.

People’s life chances are systematically diminished by poverty. We know that poorer people can expect to live fewer years of their lives in good health, that their housing situation will be far more precarious and that poor children, or those who grow up in care, will fare much worse than average at school.

INEQUALITY DEMANDS INNOVATION

The state and the market have failed to tackle this inequality and the social problems associated with it. Government’s often short-termist policy-making fails to tackle the root causes and its inability to move nimbly means we miss opportunities to improve people’s lives in the here and now.

When politics fails us, when some of the biggest protests of our lifetimes don’t result in the change we hope for and when the charitable business model increasingly leaves well-intentioned organisations hamstringed, it seems that our traditional vehicles for social change have become ineffective.

We have to find new ways to tackle intractable problems.

Fortunately, developments in fields like technology and design mean that opportunities are emerging all the time to respond to social challenges with ingenuity.

SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS STARTS WITH UNDERSTANDING THEM

Sometimes the hype around innovation can be deceptive. We are led to believe that tough, longstanding problems can be solved quickly with some elegant solution or other. The truth is that it’s a much harder endeavour than that.

Sadly, not many of society’s efforts to solve social issues come from a deep understanding of how problems manifest. Too many policies and programmes fail because they don’t respond to people’s needs, motivations and complex contexts effectively.

It’s not about sitting in an ivory tower, designing policies and solutions for people. We believe that progressive change comes from the insight gained from working one-to-one with people. It’s only when you spend time in a homelessness hostel, a community centre or a Pupil Referral Unit that you really get to grips with the architecture of a problem and the lived experience of those who find themselves in difficulty.

Whether it’s the clumsy callousness of benefit traps for people living in temporary housing or the traumatising experience of visiting an elderly parent in a care home, understanding and feeling these experiences is a critical first step for anyone who’s moved to try their hand at leading social change.

STARTING SOMETHING COULD BE YOUR BEST SHOT AT IMPACT

Entrepreneurship offers young people who often have the time, space and risk appetite to go for it – an opportunity to act quickly without the constraints that come with working within large institutions.

Entrepreneurs have given the world solutions like Aravind Eye Care, a social enterprise that has revolutionised eye cataract surgery in India by emulating the service efficiency of fast food restaurants. In Britain, June O’Sullivan’s London Early Years Foundation offers thousands of poor families exceptional childcare by operating a ‘Robin Hood business model’.

And while entrepreneurship is a high-risk path to choose, with no guarantee of success, it can be a profoundly developmental experience for the entrepreneur, preparing them for their next big project.
The link between low family income and poor educational attainment in the UK is greater than in almost any other developed country. This impacts career prospects and future earnings: over the course of a lifetime, a graduate from a Russell Group university will earn on average £371,000 more than someone who left school with fewer than 5 good GCSEs.

Educational Inequality Fellows work in schools across London and go on to establish innovations like Career Accelerator, a careers programme helping school students from underrepresented backgrounds prepare for jobs in the tech sector.

Homelessness is on the rise. In England, more than 81,000 households are homeless (DCLG, 2013/14) and each year over 4,000 people end up sleeping rough (CHAIN, 2013/14). Many homeless people are spending years in so-called ‘temporary’ accommodation – in part due to the sheer lack of affordable homes. Poor housing can lead to financial difficulty, health problems and family breakdown.

Initially placed in homeless hostels and supported accommodation services, our Housing Crisis Fellows work on innovations that help people move on from temporary accommodation and into independent living. One such venture, Fat Macy’s, is a rowing restaurant that trains homeless young people to run supper clubs, with profits going into a savings scheme helping them raise a deposit for their first flat.

At their worst, Britain’s council estates can be places of unemployment, social isolation, apathy and low levels of civic participation, and places where attitudes to migrants and refugees can threaten community cohesion.

Community Resilience Fellows are placed in community centres and employability projects in the heart of these communities. They lead innovations that help diverse neighbours come together, gain skills and improve their local areas. Projects in this field have included Juta Shoes, that works with migrant women at the St Hilda’s East community centre to give them an income by making upcycled shoes.

Since the NHS was founded in 1948, life expectancies have grown and the health service today is grappling with an ageing population that increasingly lives with chronic conditions like diabetes, arthritis and dementia. Dealing with that shift – and the huge mismatch between tightening budgets and increasing demand – requires imaginative and radical redesign.

Our Health and Wellness Fellows start the course in health centres, elderly care homes and community-based health charities where they lead innovations like Appt, an SMS platform that uses behavioural economics to help patients manage their long-term conditions.

Fewer than 1% of Britain’s children are in care, but they make up over half of the children in secure training centres and almost two-fifths of children in young offender institutions. And whether or not they are in the care system, vulnerable young people who are excluded from mainstream education often face mental health issues and unemployment in later life.

After spending time in Pupil Referral Units, for young people who’ve been expelled from mainstream schools, youth justice initiatives and services for young people in care, our Vulnerable Youth Fellows establish innovations like Cracked It, an enterprise programme training up young people in gangs to fix cracked iPhones, as an entrepreneurial route away from crime.
OVERVIEW

Our course takes a different approach to education. It combines frontline service with an expert network, skills training and a chance to create your own ventures that stimulate social change.

Your major projects start with the Insight Assignment, an opportunity for you to bring together your understanding of the system you are placed within and the insight you’ve gathered on the ground.

Your second major project is the Innovation Project. After spending a few weeks on placement, you’ll build on the insight you’ve gathered to design and deliver an initiative to enhance the impact of your host organisation.

Then, you’ll work in groups on a Consulting Project, where you’ll respond to a brief set by a real client – from local authorities to national charities – to undertake service design, community engagement or social enterprise development projects.

Finally, you’ll develop a Social Venture, working alone or in groups to come up with a new product or service with a sustainable business model.

The course is structured to enable you to achieve great things with your major projects and you’ll leave us with a portfolio that is packed full of projects, ideas and experiences.

In a year’s time, we expect you to leave us with a promising startup venture idea, some seed funding and client relationships – or a great job with another social enterprise startup, in social innovation or frontline delivery.

“Year Here Fellows work on really complex social problems. I’ve seen first-hand how they leave the programme with the skills to design innovative solutions to solve them. Their projects and ventures are making a genuine difference.”

- Caroline Mason CBE, Chief Executive, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
OUR FELLOWS

Year Here is for creative young professionals who are passionate about reimagining how society can work for everyone.

Most of our Fellows have already begun their careers – whether it be in technology, science, finance or the arts – and bring an incredibly diverse set of skills and experiences to the programme.

We look for Fellows who are frustrated about how society isn’t working for everyone, but who are determined to reject apathy and cynicism. Instead they channel their energy into social action, innovation and entrepreneurship.

To be eligible to apply to Year Here, you will need to satisfy the following minimum requirements:

- Demonstrable academic achievement
- Eligibility to work and volunteer in the EU
- Ability to commit to the dates of the programme and live in London for the duration
- Willingness to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check

What unites our Fellows are their brilliant personal qualities:

- **Humility** - Knowing that the world doesn’t revolve around you.
- **Resilience** - The ability to persevere through the tough times.
- **Courage** - The boldness to go against the grain and push yourself out of your comfort zone.
- **Ingenuity** - Creative, inventive thinking when faced with tough problems.
- **Resourcefulness** - Readily taking responsibility and grabbing every opportunity to make things better.
- **Curiosity** - A love of learning, in and outside of the classroom.
- **Compassion** - Empathising with and caring about other people

DIVERSITY

Year Here aims to bring together high calibre young professionals from a range of diverse backgrounds. Difference, whether it’s in our cultural background or our political beliefs, gives us all opportunities to challenge our own assumptions and take on new perspectives. Given the nature of our work – stepping out of our own experience to understand the lives of others – diversity isn’t just a ‘nice to have’, it’s essential.

While the figures below show we are successful in recruiting some under-represented groups, we know there is still work to do.

- **White** 68%
- **Black & Minority Ethnic** 32%
- **Male** 30%
- **Female** 70%
- **LGBTQ+** 9%
- **Heterosexual** 91%
Eighteen ventures have been founded by Year Here Fellows. This portfolio has collectively generated over £750,000 revenue and reached over 2000 beneficiaries – from gang members and homeless teens to isolated older people and refugee women.

These ventures are businesses with a social purpose, attacking thorny social issues from different angles. Some use employment as a way to empower – like Juta, an ethical shoe company that employs marginalised women in Tower Hamlets. Others are drawing on the power of tech to create social change – like Ally, co-founded by Sagar Gupta and Pavlina Draganova, a chatbot that gives people in precarious housing situations the tools they need to escape the cycle of homelessness. And others offer small fixes within broken systems – like Settle, a social enterprise that offers targeted one-to-one support to vulnerable young people moving into their first flat to break the pernicious cycle of youth homelessness.

Four of these ventures have joined prestigious social venture accelerator Bethnal Green Ventures (Birdsong, Ally, The Hard Yard, Chatterbox), while seven have won a place on Investec’s Beyond Business accelerator programme (Settle, Ally, Cracked It, Fat Macy’s, Appt, The Hard Yard, Juta).

These ventures have received national coverage in The Guardian, Independent, New Statesman, BBC London and Evening Standard – as well as being recognised with Stephen Lloyd Awards, Housing Excellence Awards, Tech for Good Awards and WeWork Creator Awards.
LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

You get out what you put in. It’s such an overused adage – but we really believe it. To make the most of this course, and for us to have impact on the ground, Fellows need to embrace our learning philosophy. Our approach is quite unlike traditional educational practices, and it might feel different to what you are used to.

THE MOST POWERFUL LEARNING HAPPENS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Most traditional educational experiences take a purely didactic approach: an all-knowing teacher imparts his or her wisdom to the ignorant students. We think that the most powerful learning experiences happen in the real world, not in a lecture hall or seminar room. This isn’t radical, it’s called experiential learning and it’s based on the research of educationalists like David Kolb and John Dewey.

Real-world projects will challenge and test you, and occasionally you’ll fail. But your efforts will be rewarded with a transformative and developmental 10 months.

YOU ARE THE ENGINEER OF YOUR OWN EDUCATION

We believe that a learning experience can only really work if you, the learner, help guide it proactively. In experiential learning pedagogies, responsibility for the learning lies with the learner not the teacher. Unless you are actively engaged in the learning process – asking questions, having the courage to try out new approaches and seeking feedback from others – you’ll slip behind.

Our Fellows take responsibility for their own learning. And we take responsibility for creating the best conditions for that learning to happen.

IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT YOU

Working with some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised people in the country comes with a responsibility to put your own ego, needs and preferences aside for someone else’s. We’re trying to make society better with people who face huge barriers to success in life, who have suffered serious injustices or who struggle to get by day-to-day.

We encourage our Fellows to keep this perspective throughout the programme, even when they are pushed to the edges of their own comfort zones.
EXPERIENTIAL

Year Here is about experiential learning: learning by doing rather than being stuck in a lecture hall. We believe that real-world learning, where failure isn’t just a poor grade, can be messy and frustrating but ultimately more powerful than traditional education.

NO TEACHERS

Our faculty are not academics. They are practitioners who run businesses, design policy and work directly with communities. We think this keeps the course cutting edge and gives you access to a network of relevant collaborators and opportunity-brokers.

NO CAMPUS

The course takes you all over the capital. Our learning sessions have taken place in everywhere from the Cabinet Office to Makeversity’s Lab and from a homeless shelter in Crouch End to the Google.

AUTODIDACTIC

The world is changing so rapidly that the skills you’ll need for tomorrow are not being taught anywhere today. The best thing you can do for yourself is to learn how to teach yourself anything. We push fellows to be entrepreneurial about the way they teach themselves new skills and approaches.

COLLABORATIVE

We believe that a peer group can be a powerful tool for personal growth. It gives you a sounding board for new ideas, a source of well-intentioned honest feedback and a safe environment for personal reflection.

HOLISTIC

We believe that social change involves intellect, compassion and a propensity for action – the head, the heart and the hands respectively. These are all critical pieces of the puzzle and Year Here gives attention to each.
CURRICULUM

We aim to create the conditions for you to learn across two areas of focus: leadership development and social innovation. Leadership development is about you and how you interact with the world. Social innovation skills will enable you to design projects, services and ventures that genuinely make a difference.

At the heart of the Year Here learning journey is your leadership development. This might sound less tangible than financial modelling or prototyping but we believe it is the most fundamental cornerstone of your capacity to drive change. We’ll push you to develop a reflective practice, an enquiring mind and a bias towards action.

Around leadership development sit our 3 innovation pillars: design, enterprise and impact.

Traditionally, design’s relevance to business was seen as limited to ‘posters and toasters’, that is graphic design and product development. These days, the design approach is being adopted to reimagine service experiences and social programmes. Designers and non-designers alike have been inspired by our partner IDEO’s human-centred design approach. Design methods and principles are woven throughout the Year Here programme.

Building your enterprise toolkit is crucial if you are to launch a venture or understand what makes a social enterprise tick. We help Fellows understand and critique various social business models and develop their own according to the lean startup methodology. Fellows also leave us with literacy in the fundamental components of successful social business.

Ultimately Year Here is all about maximising your potential for social impact. By learning methods for developing impact strategies, exploring how we can measure impact rigorously, and interrogating dozens of impact models, we examine what changing society for the better really means in practice.

“Innovation Skills

Design, Enterprise, Impact

Leadership Development

Purpose, Self-Awareness, Autodidactism, Compassion, Criticality, Imagination, Agility, Resilience

To get the most out of design, the social sector should move beyond the mindless use of design tools to embody the principles of design thinking – having empathy for the people you’re trying to help, trying something with real users rather than thinking about it in an ivory tower, running tests, and iterating solutions.

– Jack Graham for the Royal College of Art
ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

LIFE LESSONS FROM EXCEPTIONAL SOCIAL LEADERS

To be effective social leaders we need to know who we are, what we care about, and what we are capable of. This is a challenging task. *On the Shoulders of Giants* gives you the tools to discover your best selves, building character strengths that will support you over a lifetime of social action.

We will learn from the experiences and insights of great social leaders from the past including Mahatma Ghandi, Dorothy Day, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Augusto Boal, Cesar Chavez and Wangari Maathai, as well as many of today’s most courageous activists and entrepreneurs.

We’ll dive into the theory of behavioural science and use diverse learning approaches from Socratic dialogue to Theatre of the Oppressed to inculcate these 8 qualities.

**PURPOSE**
We want to help you enhance your focus on, and clarity about, the purpose of your activities so that everything you do has a clear guiding objective and rationale. As Nietzsche said “He who has a why to live can bear almost any how”.

**SELF-AWARENESS**
We facilitate personal reflection as an essential part of the learning process. Reflective practice involves asking yourself challenging questions and feeling comfortable with constructive and critical responses.

**AUTODIDACTICISM**
This is about learning how to learn, whether you’ve got a great teacher or not. We push you to observe the world around you with insatiable curiosity and to take yourself out of your comfort zone to explore unfamiliar fields – from macroeconomics to how to write a great email campaign.

**COMPASSION**
Compassion starts with empathy. We’ll push you to listen harder and deeper than ever before – from the head, heart and gut. You’ll tell other people’s stories and learn to see the beauty in lives that are far different to your own.

**CRITICALITY**
Criticality starts with the question ‘Why?’ This should be resonating in your mind throughout the course as you seek to understand how social issues come to be and how we might be able to tackle them. We encourage you to examine underlying assumptions and challenge received wisdom.

**IMAGINATION**
We’ll fire up our imaginations by exploring creative approaches to social change from around the world, from boxing gyms in Brazilian favelas to theatre companies with homeless actors in London. In Augusto Boal’s words “It is forbidden to walk over the grass. It is not forbidden to fly over the grass.”

**AUDACITY**
We want you to leave with the courage to aim high, the resourcefulness to make a lot happen with a little, and the perseverance to see your efforts through. As a leader, we will expect you to take the bold decisions that don’t always result in the easiest or most conventional course of action.

**PERSEVERENCE**
We’ll explore the difference between starting power and sticking power and encourage you to find your own approach to self-care as you venture out into an uncertain world.
INNOVATION SKILLS

During every placement, project or bootcamp we encourage you to engage intellectually with these three fields, gathering the expertise and mindset you need to launch great social projects.

We use ‘design thinking’ methods to help you explore and interrogate people’s experiences, motivations and challenges, to generate ideas to better meet people’s needs, and to iterate and refine services and products.

Working with partners like IDEO, the Design Council and Snook, Fellows learn methods like user journey mapping, rapid idea generation, service design prototyping and the value proposition canvas.

Fellows learn about a range of leading social business models and pick up the tools to develop their own, developing financial models to test their assumptions about income and expenditure. Fellows also explore the key building blocks of business—like strategy, legal structures, financing, product development, sales, marketing and operations.

Throughout the course, we meet founders who have set up their own businesses and social enterprises for candid accounts of entrepreneurship.

We share strategic tools for thinking about and measuring social impact like theory of change. Fellows understand more about the sector they are operating in and interrogate specific social issues to understand the scale and nature of the problem, the policy landscape and market opportunities for new initiatives.

We also explore new frontiers like tech for good and open data methods to root out the best opportunities for innovation and impact.

There is no shortage of problems to solve and they are right on our doorstep: our education system is failing our young people, our government is purposefully causing harm to our most vulnerable and we send the old people we love into concrete boxes to sit in front of a television as they grow old. None of this is okay. These are our problems to tackle. If you want to learn how, join Year Here.

– Lauren Currie OBE, Founder of #upfront
FACULTY

Year Here doesn’t have teachers. Our faculty members have all led practical social impact work. They include several founders of social enterprises and charities, senior policy-makers, community organisers and philanthropists.

OUR SENIOR FACULTY INCLUDES:

SOPHIE HOWARTH
Sophie is a writer and social entrepreneur. She was the co-founder of The School of Life and founder of Department Store for the Mind. She was also Curator of Public Programmes at Tate Modern and Number 10’s Advisor on Social Action. She is the co-author of bestselling photography books Street Photography Now and Family Photography Now. Sophie is our Faculty Lead.

NICK NIELSEN
Nick is an entrepreneur, trainer, coach and a Director of the social change agency, Osca. He is also a UN advisor.

After graduating from university, he founded the award-winning youth social action charity Envision.

Nick facilitates much of Year Here’s leadership development curriculum.

ROB TRIMBLE
Rob is Chief Executive of the Bromley By Bow Centre, an award-winning community centre that includes a GP surgery and social services. Rob is also a partner in the Bromley By Bow Health Partnership, director of social investment charity Allia, patron of reading charity The Reader and chair of Year Here venture Settle. Rob is Year Here’s patron.
Alongside our faculty of trainers, facilitators and mentors, we benefit from hearing from a wide range of guest speakers throughout the course.

**SPECIALISTS**

Our faculty comprises over 70 leaders in social innovation across the worlds of government, business, design and charity.

**SPEAKERS**

Alongside our faculty of trainers, facilitators and mentors, we benefit from hearing from a wide range of guest speakers throughout the course.

**INNOVATION PANELS**

Our innovation panels, made up of entrepreneurs and domain experts, help Fellows dive deep into the specific social issue they are exploring.

- **LAUREN CURRIE OBE**
  Founder of #Upfront and co-founder of Smook.

- **JOHN CREMER**
  Founder of improvisation troupe, The Maydays.

- **NISSHANT LALWANI**
  Director of Investments at Omidyar Network

- **JESS STEELE OBE**
  Community activist and community organising expert.

- **DAIANNA KARAIAIN**
  Founder and CEO of Thoughtful

- **LEMN SISSAY**
  Poet & Chancellor, University of Manchester

- **CAROLINE MASON**
  Chief Executive, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

- **NICK DAVIES**
  Author and journalist

- **LADY EDWINA GROSVENOR**
  Prison Philanthropist

- **ANDRE BANKS**
  Co-founder of All Out

- **JAN MATERN**
  EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY PANEL
  Jan is the founder of Emerge Venture Lab, an EdTech startup accelerator.

- **KIERON BOYLE**
  HEALTH & WELLNESS PANEL
  Kieron is the CEO of the Guys and St Thomas’ Charity and former head of Social Investment at the Cabinet Office.

- **KATHY MOHAN**
  HOUSING CRISIS PANEL
  Chief Executive of Housing Justice, Kathy Mohan, has decades of experience in the homelessness sector.

- **LAURA BILLINGS**
  COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PANEL
  Co-Founder of Trade School London and Community Builder at the Government Digital Service.

- **JOSH MACALISTER**
  VULNERABLE YOUTH PANEL
  Josh is a Teach First alumnus and the Founder of Frontline, a graduate scheme for children’s social workers.
PROGRAMME
FRONTLINE PLACEMENT

Your Frontline Placement may well be the most challenging part of the course as you spend 5 months getting to grips with the delivery of critical social services and making a contribution in some of the most disadvantaged corners of London.

Straight after Kickoff Bootcamp, you’ll be placed (on your own or in pairs) with a host organisation, stepping into the shoes of a homelessness support worker or of an assistant in a Pupil Referral Unit. You’ll have a supervisor to give you direction and provide feedback. It is here that you will develop your Innovation Project.

FIRESIDE FRIDAYS

Every other Friday, the whole cohort comes together for a day of training, reflection and project work.

Fireside Fridays take place in venues all over London and could be anything from a chance to work on your projects during studio time, to a ‘crit’ where external experts offer their critique of your innovation project ideas.

“Year Here asks its Fellows to put working with people before working for them. This approach leads to deeper working relationships and a much more meaningful and shared experience.”

– Neil Jameson CBE, Executive Director of Citizens UK
BOOTCAMP

Exhausting but exhilarating, our five bootcamps will put you through your paces and help you build the skills and knowledge you need to build great solutions to society’s problems.

KICKOFF BOOTCAMP

Kickoff Bootcamp is part welcome, part initiation. This action-packed week involves live social innovation briefs, specialist training to prepare you for your frontline placement, goal-setting and a handful of evening events around London to unwind and get to know the other Fellows.

INNOVATION BOOTCAMP

This is where you start developing your toolkit for action. You’ll learn about moving from insight gathering to coming up with ideas and prototyping new services. We’ll challenge you to turbocharge your Innovation Project ideas.

CONSULTING KICKOFF

The Consulting Kickoff is where you’ll start work for a real client to deliver a project of social value. Be it community consultation or a service prototype – we will challenge you to hone your professional skills fast. Working with top strategy consultants Bain & Company, you will learn about how to work with clients, manage fast-paced projects, and hone your productivity.

VENTURE LAB KICKOFF

As we enter the Venture Lab, we’ll get you set up to design and develop your own social venture. We’ll explore different methods, markets and approaches, discover some of the best social action initiatives around the world and come up with an idea to take forward and prototype during the venturing phase.

CAPSTONE WEEK

In education, a capstone is a culminating experience in which people integrate their learning to apply their knowledge in new ways. Capstone Week is a chance for Fellows to consolidate what they’ve learnt – professionally and personally – over the year, set goals for the future and prepare to tell their stories to the world. We also celebrate the cohort’s achievements at GradFest, your graduation ceremony.
MAJOR PROJECTS

Your Insight Assignment is a chance to investigate the issues you try to tackle in your placement. Fellows explore the national picture, the key problem drivers, examples of innovation in the area and perspectives from experts you’ve met along the way. The insight assignment becomes the foundation for the Innovation Project.

Year Here gives you opportunity after opportunity to try your hand at building something that matters. Whether it’s a new training workshop, a grassroots community project or a global tech platform, we’ll push you to develop ideas that are viable and high-impact.

INSIGHT ASSIGNMENT

With your Innovation Project you develop and execute an idea that improves outcomes for the people you work with in your placement. Previous Fellows have launched everything from Repair and Care, a system that helps housing association repairs contractors spot the early signs of vulnerability in older tenants, to Odyssey Workbook, a therapeutic aid for female survivors of sexual violence and trauma.

CONSULTING PROJECT

The Consulting Project is where you work for a real client to deliver a creative project of social value. You’ll work in small teams, supported by Year Here staff and our partners, Bain & Company, to deliver high-quality outputs for the client. You might work with residents to co-design a new childcare service or come up with imaginative regeneration plans for a run-down area. This project will give you a taste of the consulting role, insight into the interface between government, business and society, and a chance to flex your creative muscles.

SOCIAL VENTURE

Our Venture Lab is an opportunity for you to try your hand at social entrepreneurship. We will take you through a creative process of idea generation and prototyping, ensuring you create something with the potential for sustainability. You’ll receive training, support and critique from the Year Here team, your mentor, and specialist organisations like New Philanthropy Capital, FutureGov and Forward3D. In just a few weeks we expect you to find co-founders among your cohort and get your product or service out there with real users and paying clients.

MURSAL HEDAYAT PRESENTING ON EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY

ARTHUR WAITING (JOANNA HAMER, 2016) BROUGHT ART INTO GP WAITING ROOMS

FEMINIST FASHION BRAND BIRDSONG (SARAH BECKETT, SOPHIE SLATER AND RUBA HULEHIEL, 2014)

A FELLOW-PRODUCED FOOD WASTE INNOVATION EVENT FOR SAINSBURY’S
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

COACHING
Throughout the year, you’ll benefit from coaching to help you find your own leadership path, build your professional network and receive feedback about your performance.

You will have three coaching sessions with a member of the Year Here team during the course. The first will be to help you find your feet in your placement. The second will be focused on your innovation project and the third will be to help you plan for life beyond Year Here.

MENTORING
You will be allocated a mentor, a leader in the field of social innovation, with whom you’ll meet monthly. Fellows use their mentoring time to get advice and critique on their projects and to make useful professional connections.

BUDDYING
Each Fellow has a buddy, one of Year Here’s alumni, to catch up with and get advice from.

EVENTS

LAUNCH
Each programme kicks off with a formal launch event to welcome the new Fellows into the family, introduce them to their mentors and placement hosts, and celebrate the completion of Kickoff Bootcamp.

OFF THE RECORD
Our annual speaker series sees Fellows interview some of the most interesting innovators in the country who will share stories of social entrepreneurship, activism and impact – totally off the record. No photos. No tweeting. Previous speakers to have bravé the Off The Record hot seat include:

Roman Krznaric
Philosopher and Author

Ruth Ibegbuna
Founder and CEO of Reclaim

David Cohen
Campaigns Editor at The Evening Standard

Sarah Ellis
Head of Corporate Responsibility at Sainsbury’s

Mat Hunter
Head of Design at The Design Council

NETWORKING
Year Here is intense but we make our own fun along the way with regular socials. You’ll have lots of opportunities to attend social innovation events and get to know other Fellows, faculty and alumni.

WILDCAMP
Towards the end of the programme we’ll escape to the countryside for Wildcamp, our personal development retreat. Fellows take the lead in curating activities on Wildcamp with the ethos being about space and time to reflect on what will have been an intense, transformative year.

GRADFEST
Year Here culminates with GradFest, our graduation show, where Fellows present their work to friends and family, industry leaders and the Year Here faculty. Fellows select their valedictorian to represent them as we round out the year with a celebration of everyone’s achievements.

CROSS-CUTTING ELEMENTS

Across the whole course, you’ll find various sources of support, inspiration and challenge.
COSTS AND FUNDING

Year Here is totally unlike other postgraduate courses. Rather than spending a year in a lecture hall, and paying £10,000 for the privilege, we challenge you to learn by doing – working on real social impact projects with clients as diverse as community centres, local governments and national charities. Our partners pay us to be involved and that means we don’t need to charge you a tuition fee.

This approach to learning is more accessible than traditional higher education and, we believe, so much more powerful than traditional ‘chalk and talk’ approaches. But, while there may be no tuition fee, a year without a salary is undeniably tough. Even though Year Here is a full time commitment, most Fellows work alongside the programme in their evenings, weekends and holidays – as graphic designers, tutors or journalists, for example. Some also take out loans or receive a bursary to pay their living expenses, and many benefit from cheap accommodation options.

FUNDING

Some Fellows take out Professional and Career Development Loans – bank loans of between £300 and £10,000 available to people who are on eligible courses, such as Year Here. These loans are usually offered at a reduced interest rate and the government pays interest while you’re studying.

An alternative approach to traditional student loans is to join our partners EdAid, a new crowdfunding platform offering interest-free loans. You raise money from family and friends then start paying back – as 10% of your income once you’ve started earning. Year Here will match fund the first £1,000 that you raise on the platform.

We also offer a small number of bursaries of up to £3,000 each year. These are funded by donations from our advisors, faculty members, and wider network. To be awarded a bursary, you will need to submit evidence of any means-tested financial assistance you have received in the past.

PART TIME WORK

Most Fellows work alongside the programme. We can introduce you to tutoring agencies and point you in the direction of other great opportunities to make a side income. We also occasionally offer our Fellows ad hoc paid work – as photographers, graphic designers and to help us recruit the next generation of Fellows.

KEEPING COSTS DOWN

Your daily travel costs will be covered during the frontline placement and consulting project phase – plus you’ll benefit from 30% off public transport costs in your free time too, thanks to our partnership with Transport for London. Your lunch costs will also be covered during the frontline placement phase.

ACCOMMODATION

We’ve been working with social enterprise Dot Dot Dot to house our Fellows as property guardians for the past three years. Fellows stay in a home that would otherwise be empty for a guardianship fee, which is much cheaper than rent.

“Year Here is unconventional as it has no lecture halls, no teachers and no fee. The course maintains its zero-fee structure because its Fellows create value for external institutions, who cover the costs of the programme.”

– Geoff Mulgan, Chief Executive, Nesta
BEYOND YEAR HERE

Year Here isn’t just about the time that you’re on the programme. It’s about building a much bigger and longer-term movement for change in Britain. Once a Fellow, always a Fellow.

GRADUATION

Year Here is unaccredited. We don’t believe that a piece of paper can ever fully reflect the learning and achievement that we hope you’ll have during the course.

However, to join our alumni and benefit from all that entails, it is important that our Fellows uphold high standards. To graduate from Year Here you will need to participate fully throughout the programme, and document and present your four major projects.

ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Graduation isn’t the end. Our alumni remain central members of the Year Here family. After the programme, cohorts meet up regularly with each other, the Year Here team and other alumni.

As one of our alumni, you’ll get access to an online jobs board for some of the best roles in social innovation and we’ll provide you with professional references. Plus, your Year Here coach will always be available for a coffee and a chat.

We also invite our alumni to become buddies for our new fellows, share their stories as part of future programmes and attend events like Off The Record, GradFest and Crowdbacner.
OUR ALUMNI

Our 100+ alumni include CEOs and activists, service designers and journalists, innovation consultants and social workers. Together they’ve a small but growing force for change in British society.

96% of our Fellows find paid employment within three months of graduating from Year Here.

Twelve months after the programme:

32% LEAD THEIR OWN SOCIAL VENTURE
48% WORK FOR ANOTHER SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OR CHARITY
13% ARE IN A GOVERNMENT, INNOVATION OR FRONTLINE ROLE
7% WORK IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

XENIA MOSELEY

Xenia is a designer interested in how design and society relate. She was recently named one of the UK’s five freshest talents for socially useful design by The Independent.

During the 2014 programme, she developed Curiosity Club, an initiative that challenges school students to follow their curiosities in bold and creative ways. Xenia has since produced work for Roman Krznaric’s Empathy Museum, the Department Store for the Mind and Terence Conran – and she has been exhibited in the V&A as part of the London Design Festival.

JOSH BABARINDE

Josh is the CEO and Founder of Cracked It, a social enterprise that trains at risk young people to fix cracked iPhones, as an entrepreneurial route away from gang crime. He has won a Shackleton Award and been recognised as an Ashoka Changemaker for his work.

Post-Brexit, Josh’s call for an independent office to monitor political campaigns was backed by over 160,000 and he became a founding convenor of More United, a non-partisan campaign for progressive politics. He is also a trustee of the African Health Policy Network.

SOPHIE SLATER

Teenage model turned ethical fashion entrepreneur Sophie worked with vulnerable women during Year Here 2014 and saw how cuts were posing an existential crisis to the charities that supported them. In response she co-founded Birdsong, a fashion brand selling clothes handcrafted by women’s groups, generating new revenue for them. The brand counts Lauren Laverne and Ruby Tandoh among its fans.

She has been interviewed by Dazed, written for the Guardian on ethical fashion and feminism and served as a jury member for D&AD.
The Year Here team has been a huge source of support since leaving the programme. Their sage advice and extensive network in the sector really helped us get off the ground. Starting up your own social venture is tough and there are so many challenges and curveballs, so it’s great to know that the guys at Year Here have got your back. Plus, with more ventures emerging from the programme each year, it feels like a really exciting movement to be part of.

— Rich Grahame, 2014 Fellow and Co-Founder of Settle

VENTURE INCUBATION

We’ve established a great track record of launching social ventures that tackle society’s challenges in creative and entrepreneurial ways – and we’re hungry to set even more in motion.

Because building a venture that has national impact takes serious commitment and perseverance, our support doesn’t stop when you graduate from the programme. We aim to give those that are in it for the long haul the best support possible to turn their ideas into reality.

THE INCUBATOR

At the end of the programme, Fellows will be invited to pitch to join our incubator and venture network in exchange for a small stake in their businesses. We take on social enterprise ideas that have been prototyped in our venture lab, have a viable business model and real potential for scale.

The incubator kicks off with Crowdbacker, our live crowdfunding event run in partnership with The Funding Network and RBS. Amounts raised are variable – from £5,000 to £12,000 per venture in the past two years.

VENTURE NETWORK

Ventures also benefit from 8 weeks free desk space, intensive business support and introductions to further investors, funders and clients.

Those that are accepted onto our incubator will also join our venture network, which includes award-winning social businesses like Chatterbox, Storeys and Appt. On an ongoing basis, our alumni entrepreneurs benefit from introductions to relevant clients and investors, online resources to get started in business and marketing support to promote their services.