



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here we have outlined some of our more frequently asked questions regarding the application process, Fellowship and financial support.

APPLICATION PROCESS

What are the basic professional & academic requirements for applying?

While the majority of our Fellows are graduates, we understand that academia is just one path in a career journey and is certainly not a requirement for becoming a Fellow. We'll look at your experience holistically, including volunteer work and personal ventures. You'll be best equipped to take part in the Fellowship with a few years' professional experience and/or study under your belt and the average amount of experience that our Fellows have is 7 years. If you can demonstrate your passion for social justice, entrepreneurial inclination, learning mindset, curiosity and professional skillset, we encourage you to apply.

What are the stages of the application process?

- 1) Written Application
- 2) 15-minute intro interview with a Year Here alumni
- 3) Half-Day Selection Workshop with our team

I require additional support for my application, can you accommodate this?

We recognise that interviews and job application processes can be inaccessible and at YH, we're trying to make our ways of working more inclusive. We know that not all disabilities are visible, and not all needs are obvious. If there are ways, we can make this process more accessible for you, please let us know. We can't promise we will be able to meet your needs, but we promise to listen and learn.

Here's how we can support you, please inform us if you require

- Captions for your video interviews
- Transcript from workshops
- Extra time for interview questions
- Sending reading materials in advance.
- Sending interview questions in advance.

I have a disability or additional learning need; can I still apply to the Fellowship?

We actively encourage people from Disabled communities or those who have additional learning needs to apply for our Fellowship. We recognise the value of lived experience and recognise that social innovation spaces have an underrepresentation of these communities. We hope to play our part in correcting this. If there are ways we can make our Fellowship more accessible for you please us know.

I have spent criminal convictions can I still apply for the Fellowship?

We recognise the value of lived experience and recognise that social innovation spaces have an underrepresentation of this community. We thus actively encourage people who have come into contact with the criminal justice system to apply for our Fellowship. We hope to play our part in correcting this.

THE FELLOWSHIP

How are Frontline Placements decided?

In order to ensure you and our Frontline partnerships get the most out of our placement, Frontline Placements are decided from a variety of factors:

- 1) Your preferences.
- 2) Your skills, expertise and experience
- 3) Commute time

Is Year Here a full-time commitment?

Year Here is a full-time course totalling a combined 1500 hours across 10 months. If you are chosen for our incubator you will then stay on for an additional 2 months.

Am I guaranteed a social enterprise at the end of Year Here?

Unfortunately, no, at the end of our Venture phase of the programme any ventures that would like to take part in our Incubator must apply. That being said, some great ventures have come out of Year Here without being a part of our incubator. Our incubator, however, provides you with additional support and funding in the early stages of your operation.

What if I don't have a business idea?

That's great. Most of our Fellows don't have a social business idea before they join us. That's why our programme is 10 months long to provide you with the experiences and insights necessary to build an idea.

What if I already have a business idea?

That's ok. Hopefully we will provide you with the tools and insights necessary to take your idea to the next level. Who knows your idea may very well change once you've done our programme.

What if I already have a business?

A few of our Fellows in the past have come in with a business idea already. However, we are not an accelerator programme so if you're looking for a programme to help scale an existing organisation, we recommend looking into some of our partners like Bethnal Green Ventures, FounderVine or Nesta.

Can I do only part of the programme?

At this time our programme takes place in 3 successive stages, Frontline, Consulting and Venture phase. All three stages are mandatory for the Year Here process and these stages cannot be completed separately.

If I am offered a place on the programme will you allow me to defer?

If you are offered a place on our programme, we will allow you to defer for any of the following reasons:

- Unexpected change in life circumstances (bereavement, caring responsibilities, change in health status) meaning that you can no longer participate the programme.
- Financial need: allowing you to have 6 more months to save for the programme.
- Logistical complications: We understand those moving to London permanently may need a longer lead up time to sort out accommodation, bank accounts, etc...

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Do you offer bursaries or scholarships?

For each programme, we offer a small number of bursaries of up to £5000 for those who could not otherwise afford to participate. If you secure a bursary, you will receive it in 4 equal instalments during the programme. Our bursaries are funded by donations from our advisors, faculty members, and wider network.

We provide bursaries on a means-tested basis, which takes into account applicants' family income and access to savings. Full details are at the end of this factsheet.

Do you offer paid work to support Fellows?

Most of our Fellows work during the course, in the evenings and on weekends and during scheduled holiday weeks. Previous Fellows have utilised their pre-existing experience – including advertising, management consulting, facilitating, event management, design and writing – to find freelance work alongside to complement the Year Here programme.

We have a partnership with tutoring company Tutor Fair who have employed Fellows and are keen to do so again. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, alongside your commitments as a Fellow, we can put you in touch with these agencies as soon as you are offered a place on the programme.

You'll find more information in the paid work factsheet which you'll have access to if and when you're offered a place.

Does Year Here hire Fellows for any work?

Recognizing that current Fellows are often best placed to spot new talent for forthcoming programmes, we pay Fellows to help us with recruitment twice per year.

Fellows are paid for writing for careers-related publications, speaking at relevant careers and social innovation events and meeting with prospective applicants.

These opportunities are shared with Fellows during each recruitment campaign.

Can Year Here cover my travel costs?

Along with covering your travel expenses during your placement and consulting project, we can offer a 30% discount on Transport for London Travelcards for the duration of the course – so your evening and weekend travel is cheaper than usual.

On being offered a place on the programme, you'll be given an enrolment number that you can quote when applying for a student Oyster card. You pay a one off £20 fee for the card and notify us when you've applied so we can confirm your eligibility with TfL.

Do Fellows qualify for council tax exemption?

As Year Here is a full-time educational course, some councils will provide discount or exemptions from council tax. We will provide you with a letter once the programme starts. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that councils will grant you council tax exemption.

I'm applying for financial aid, but I don't come from the UK. How do I fill in the application?

Please fill in the form with as much detail as possible (e.g. dates, places, and a brief mention of your nationality, hence the non-UK system). For example, where it asks about parental benefits, you could explain any welfare benefits you received in the earlier years, and your family situation. We are also assessing your personal financial situation, so if in recent years you individually have received any aid or benefit, do also note that down.

I come from a country which until recently didn't keep online records of financial support. What do I do?

Please try to find hard copies of the documentation and scan them through. We may in future ask for a hard copy. If you're running out of time before the financial aid deadline, you can initially submit the documentation in the original language if necessary, and that will give you a bit more time to source a translation. In the box at the bottom of the form, I'd suggest explaining that your state support happened before online records began and that you're doing your best to source the documentation.

How do I fit part-time work around the demands of the course?

Juggling part-time work and freelancing with the course itself can be challenging and tiring for Fellows. You need to take responsibility for not taking on too much and making sure you find a balance that works for both your financial position and your physical and mental health. The course is full time and you can assume to be working on Year Here projects 9am to 5pm during the three phases. Part-time and freelance work must be taken up out of hours, during the evenings and on weekends, and/or during scheduled holiday weeks. There are 5 scheduled holiday weeks through the programme. For those that progress to the incubator, there are a further 2 holiday weeks between Capstone Week, the last week of the programme, and the first day of the incubator. Typically, Fellows work part-time through the incubator while building up income to pay themselves through their fledgling venture.

COVID-19 & REMOTE WORKING

How will COVID-19 impact my placements?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with government regulation, YH has transitioned components of our learning experience online. The specifics of each placement is unique to the organisation, their sector and the teams. This has meant some of our placements are completely virtual, while others have been hybrid, and still others have been completely in-person. Year Here has always put the health of our Fellows first and foremost and thus placements have cooperated alongside our Fellows individual needs. While we are hopeful that the face-to-face components of our programme will return back to normal, we are confident running a hybrid and virtual programme having delivered this programme successfully to 4 cohorts since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also helped new ventures successfully launch like [Living Proof](#), [Aim Hire](#), [Spedal](#), & [Dream Green](#).

I am currently residing abroad can I be do the Fellowship remotely?

During the COVID-19 pandemic YH in accordance with government regulation has transitioned components of our learning experience online however, we are a London based programme and require our Fellows to reside in London to maintain face to face interaction when possible.

VISA SUPPORT & LIVING ABROAD

Can I apply to your Fellowship programme if I DO NOT have the right to work in the United Kingdom?

Unfortunately, at this time we can only accept Fellows who have the right to work in the United Kingdom prior to applying to our Fellowship. We do not sponsor applicants for visas. There is no exception to this policy.

I have the right to work in U.K., but I am currently living abroad, what support can Year Here provide to help my move to the United Kingdom?

For applicants who already hold the right to work in the UK, you may apply to the Fellowship however the responsibility of relocating to the UK falls on to the applicant. We can support you to make this transition easier when appropriate.

MEANS-TESTING

Applications for bursaries and discounted accommodation are means-tested so that we prioritise Fellows who demonstrate need for support.

Eligibility

As a guideline, those applying for a bursary and/or accommodation should meet one or more of the following criteria, or be in the equivalent financial position:

- You have received free school meals in the past.
- While at university, you received a means-tested bursary or hardship grant and/or took out your maximum fee and maintenance loan entitlement.
- You are in receipt of Jobseeker's allowance, income support or universal credit.
- Your parents are in the receipt of Jobseeker's allowance, income support or universal credit.
- You, or your parents, have received any other type of financial assistance based on your circumstances such as carers allowance, child benefit or child tax credit, employment and support allowance or housing benefit.

If you are not a UK citizen, we will ask you to provide comparable evidence of your need for financial assistance.

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and you will be asked to provide evidence (e.g. scans of original documentation) of any financial assistance you have received in the past.

Process

Bursary and accommodation application forms will be sent to those who are invited to a selection workshop (and requested financial assistance in their application). You will then be expected to complete this by the time you attend your selection workshop. We will decide who receives a bursary and/or accommodation based on two factors: demonstrated financial need and performance during the selection process.

All information provided to Year Here will remain confidential and only used by Year Here for the assessment of the bursary. If you are awarded a bursary this information will remain confidential for the entirety of the programme.