

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the CGI Fellowship?

The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Fellowship will engage a curated cohort of emerging entrepreneurs, providing critical tools and guidance as they build and implement programs that address urgent global challenges.

The CGI Fellowship program will select 25 individuals to develop CGI Commitments to Action — new, specific, and measurable projects that advance solutions to critical challenges including the climate crisis, global health inequity, humanitarian crises. Fellows will have a high-profile platform to showcase these commitments at the CGI 2025 Annual Meeting in New York City in September 2025.

What makes the CGI Fellowship different than CGI University?

While CGI University focuses on empowering current university students to develop and implement Commitments to Action, the CGI Fellowship is a distinct program targeting early-stage professionals, as well as current undergraduate or graduate students, who are in the implementation phase of their Commitment to Action. The CGI Fellowship is a fully funded, one-year fellowship, providing resources, mentorship, and community-building opportunities within the Clinton Global Initiative network, including access to the 2025 CGI Annual Meeting in New York (all expenses paid). CGI University is open to any student currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program. CGI University will be a fully virtual program.

How do you decide who is accepted into the CGI Fellowship?

Applicants for the CGI Fellowship are selected based on their commitment to making a positive impact on global challenges, collaborative spirit, and diverse backgrounds. The criteria include being at least 18 years old, regardless of nationality, and identifying a specific challenge within CGI's focus areas (Climate Resilience, Economic Inclusion, Health Equity, Humanitarian Response, and Women and Girls' Equality). The selection process involves a thorough review of application materials, including a Commitment to Action proposal, CV or resume, letter of reference, and responses to essay prompts centered on leadership, entrepreneurship, and partnership.

Who is eligible to apply to the CGI Fellowship?

The CGI Fellowship is open to early-stage professionals, as well as current undergraduate or graduate students who are at least 18 years old at the time of admission.

I have a co-founder/executive team, can they participate in the CGI Fellowship?

No. This is an individual Fellowship opportunity with one member from each organization or entity eligible to participate.

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Do you have tips for developing a competitive application?

To develop a competitive application, focus on articulating a clear and impactful Commitment to Action proposal aligned with at least one of CGI's focus areas (Climate Resilience, Economic Inclusion, Health Equity, Humanitarian Response, and Women and Girls' Equality). Showcase your passion for positive change, describe the unique perspective that you think you'd bring to the CGI Fellowship program, and emphasize your commitment to collaboration. Ensure your application includes a well-crafted personal statement, a strong resume, a letter of reference, and thoughtful responses to the essay prompts.

What is the timeline for the CGI Fellowship?

The CGI Fellowship plans to announce its 25 selected Fellows in March 2025 and commence the CGI Fellowship curriculum in April 2025. All engagement as a cohort will be virtual, except when Fellows gather at the CGI Annual Meeting in New York City in September 2025. The fellowship will run until December 2025.

What happens after I submit my online application?

After submitting your online application, you will receive an email from our application system and the selection process begins. Our selection process involves a thorough review of all application materials. If selected, you will become part of a small, diverse community of CGI Fellows. Because of the volume of applications we receive, we cannot offer personalized feedback. Applicants can expect to hear from our team regarding the status of their application in February and March 2025.

How competitive is this Fellowship?

This is a highly competitive Fellowship. In 2024, the acceptance rate was under 4%.

What is a Commitment to Action?

Commitments to Action, a unique feature of the Clinton Global Initiative, translate practical goals into meaningful and measurable results. Commitments are new, specific, and measurable initiatives that can be small or large, local or global, financial or nonmonetary in nature.

Can I apply for the CGI Fellowship without making a Commitment to Action?

No. The CGI Fellowship requires applicants to submit a Commitment to Action as part of their application. The Commitment serves as the foundation for the fellowship year.

Can I apply with multiple commitments?

No. Applicants are encouraged to focus on a single, well-defined Commitment to Action. This approach allows for a more in-depth and impactful exploration of the chosen pressing challenge.

Submitting multiple commitments will result in the nullification of all applications.

I've attended CGI University in the past, can I apply to the CGI Fellowship?

Yes. Individuals who have attended CGI University in the past are eligible to apply but it does not guarantee automatic acceptance.

I've served as a CGI University mentor in the past, can I apply to the CGI Fellowship?

Yes. Individuals who have mentored CGI University students in the past are eligible to apply but it does not guarantee automatic acceptance.