

WISE LEARNERS' VOICE APPLICANT GUIDE AND CRITERIA

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE)

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative, evidence-based thinking, debate, and purposeful action in education. Through the biennial summit, collaborative research and a range of ongoing programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education.

The WISE Learners' Voice Program

Established in 2010, the Learners' Voice Program brings the perspectives of young people to the challenge of rethinking education, and equips them to take on leading roles in their fields and in the world of education. The program is based on the idea that when Learners are co-creators of their learning environments, they become active participants invested as stakeholders in the progress of their communities. Each year, WISE rigorously selects candidates from a diverse pool of applicants who, through their academic, professional and/or personal work, strongly demonstrate their commitment to and engagement in the field of education. In a key component of the program, the Learners are tasked with developing innovative, educational interventions to a pressing social issue identified by WISE.

This year the participants will be engaged in theoretical and practical components relating to the **Global Forced Migration and Displacement Crisis**.

First Residential Session

Participants will work with WISE partners on the ground to gain a practical understanding of the challenges facing the target demographic and the ecosystem in which they exist. Theoretical sessions delivered by expert faculty will complement the experiential component. The blend of experiential and academic immersion is designed to provide the participants with a holistic understanding of complex challenges, and to enable them to co-create relevant, feasible interventions focused on the real needs of the community they are supporting.

Online Project Development

In this component, participants will work in project teams. The project work will begin in the first residential session and will continue to be developed throughout the year with guidance from the Learners' Voice Team and expert mentors from the WISE community. After thorough evaluation, selected projects will be invited to pitch to an audience of relevant stakeholders, including potential donors and partners.

Since the introduction of the project development component in 2014, at least one project per cohort has progressed to the implementation stage.

Second Residential Session

The group will take part in experiential workshops on social entrepreneurship, innovation and communication delivered by expert faculty. The session will provide participants with the necessary frameworks and skills to refine and strengthen their project proposals, develop their entrepreneurial pitch and pilot their projects.

Piloting

Based on the strength of their project proposals, selected teams will have the opportunity to pilot their projects with the target community. The purpose of the pilot is to test the idea on a small scale and evaluate its benefits, risks and feasibility. The pilot phase will be conducted in partnership with organizations on the ground.

Pitch

Based on the findings from the pilot and the strength of the final submission, selected teams will be given the opportunity to pitch their projects to an audience of relevant experts, practitioners and stakeholders.

Program Timeline

- Summer 2017 – Selection of Cohort
- Fall 2017 – Announcement of Cohort
- December 2017 to March 2018 – Completion of online courses
- March 3-18, 2018 – First Residential Session
- March to June 2018 – Online project group work
- June 17 to July 1, 2018 – Second Residential Session
- July to August 2018 – Online project group work and Piloting
- August 2018 – Final Project Submission
- September 2018 – Selection of Successful Projects
- November 2018 – Pitch Session

Recruitment for the New Cohort

The current Learners' Voice community comprises over 130 Learners from many countries, including Qatar. They represent diverse backgrounds and disciplines but all share a passion for education.

WISE is now looking for the next cohort of 20 outstanding candidates to apply, or be nominated, to join this growing global community. The successful candidates will be between the ages of 21 and 30, and be able to strongly demonstrate their engagement in the field of education and their work on social issues. They must commit to participating fully in all components of the program, both onsite and online.

WISE - Qatar Foundation will only cover visa fees, flights, accommodation and in country transportation for the selected candidates.

On Applying

Candidates can **either** apply individually or be nominated*. Both forms are evaluated against the same criteria and are considered equal.

➤ **Individual application: apply personally to take part in the program**

WISE invites highly motivated and qualified candidates to apply for the Learners' Voice Program by submitting an application form that clearly meets our criteria and is endorsed by two professional referees.

➤ **Nominate a candidate to take part in the Program**

WISE invites representatives of institutions, organizations, programs and networks around the world to nominate engaged candidates with outstanding academic/professional and/or personal experiences in the field of education for the WISE Learners' Voice Program.

*Please **do not submit** more than one nomination form and/or application form per candidate. WISE will consider only the first application or nomination received for an individual.

Completed forms should be submitted through the online portal **by May 2, 2017, 1300 GMT.**

Learner Selection Criteria

1. Candidates must be between the ages of 21 and 30 on December 31, 2017.
2. Candidates must be able to travel and must commit to participating in all WISE Learners' Voice program components.
3. Candidates must be able to fully take part in two residential sessions from **March 3–18, 2018** in Athens, Greece and **June 17 – July 1, 2018** in Madrid, Spain*. Selected participants must provide letters from their school and/or employers confirming their ability to attend both residential sessions.
4. Candidates must engage in online project development work and deliver submissions in line with the program deadlines.
5. Candidates must hold a valid travel document. All candidates requiring a Schengen Visa must ensure their passport is in compliance with the criteria of the appropriate consulate.
6. Candidates must be able to demonstrate their academic and/or professional achievements and experiences to date. Candidates must declare that to the best of their knowledge all information provided is correct and complete. Any false statements or information will result in the rejection of the application.
7. Candidates must clearly demonstrate their engagement in the education sector through academic, professional and/or personal accomplishments.
8. Candidates must be able to demonstrate their interest and/or engagement in the thematic issue being explored.
9. Candidates must be able to work well in multicultural teams.

10. Candidates should be proficient in spoken and written English, and **should** be comfortable presenting and speaking in public. Participants should have strong active listening skills.
11. All nominators and applicants agree to respect final selection decisions made by the WISE Team. No appeal or claim can be considered. Should your application be unsuccessful, you can apply/nominate again next year.
12. By submitting this form, you are acknowledging the aforementioned terms and committing to them.

* WISE reserves the right to amend the program timeline and components at any time. If it does so, WISE will post an update on its website and notify all candidates.

For further information about the WISE Learners' Voice Program please visit the WISE website (www.wise-qatar.org) or contact the WISE Team at learnersvoice@wise.org.qa

The selection process will include a short-list of individuals who will be notified and interviewed in June and July.

The 2017/18 cohort list will be published on our website by September.

Due to the large number of submissions we receive, only the short-listed candidates will receive an email from the Learners' Voice Team on the status of their application.