



Young SDG Innovators Program MENTORS: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Young SDG Innovators Program?

A: The Young SDG Innovators Program (YSIP) is an exciting accelerator program designed to engage young professionals ('Innovators') working at Global Compact companies. YSIP aims to equip them with the skills and tools needed to drive sustainable innovation, and deliver tangible solutions/projects that advance the SDGs in their companies. Each team of young Innovators will, over the course of 10 months, work on an SDG challenge specific to their company and design more sustainable business models, initiatives or products to address it.

Q: What is the duration of the program?

YSIP is a 10-month long program that runs from September 2019 to June 2020.

Q: What will the program involve?

A: The program is designed to provide Innovator teams with a range of blended learning opportunities including:

- **5 Innovation Camps:** In-person workshops where Innovators will learn about SDG innovation and project development in a multi-team environment;
- **Virtual Learning Hub:** Various online resources, webinars, and exercises;
- **Mentoring & Coaching** with external Mentors for each team;
- **Leadership development** and opportunities to present ideas/projects within their companies;
- **Solutions Showcase event** where Innovators can showcase final project on a local/global platform.

Using these tools, Innovators will identify an SDG-related challenge facing their company and, over the course of the program, develop a tangible project to address it. To learn more about the program structure, please take a look at the [Program Outline](#).

Q: Who are 'Mentors'?

A: Mentors will work closely with Innovator teams as their advisors, providing them technical guidance. They will help shape Innovators' ideas and plans as they identify an SDG challenge relevant to their company, and develop a project to address it. Over the course of the program, Mentors will support Innovators with the technical expertise they would need to take their project from ideation to project development and final presentation of their solution to their company's senior management, and at the Solutions Showcase.

Q: How many Innovators will Mentors work with?

A: Each Innovator team on YSIP will consist of up to three Innovators from a given company. Each such team will be paired with one Mentor. Depending on the availability of Mentors and their willingness to coach more than one team, one Mentor may be paired with a maximum of two teams.



Q: What are the time commitment expectations for Mentors?

A: Applicants can choose to mentor one team or a pair of teams over the course of 10 months; or alternatively mentor teams during one or more of the program phases. Each program phase lasts a period of 6-8 weeks.

Participation as a Program Mentor combines 5-6 days of in-person meetings and an estimated 3-4 hours monthly of consultations with Innovator teams over the course of 10 months. Participation as a Phase Mentor combines 1-2 days of in-person meetings and an estimated 3-4 hours monthly of consultations with Innovator teams over the course of 2 months. For more information on the program phases, please see the [Program Outline](#).

Q: What are the benefits of participation for Mentors?

- Contribute to the development of real SDG business solutions working with a talented team of future business leaders and innovators;
- Serve as a role model and advisor to high-performing young professionals from leading companies
- Develop training and leadership skills on applying the SDGs to the innovation design process;
- Network with a global consortium of highly-accomplished thought leaders and professionals from a variety of industries and backgrounds;
- Gain access to exclusive professional development and capacity-building events.

Q: Do Mentors have to be from Global Compact companies?

A: No, Mentors can be from any company so long as they meet the desired qualifications, and can offer up the time commitment necessitated by their role.

Q: What are the eligibility criteria and desired qualifications for Mentors?

A: Key qualifications sought are:

- Professionals with knowledge of organizational change, business model innovation, product development or design thinking;
- Mentors from a wide range of industries and organizations are welcome;
- Should have deep knowledge of innovation, entrepreneurship or intrapreneurship as it relates to sustainable development;

To learn more about desired qualifications, please refer to Mentor Profile [here](#).

Q: What is the difference between Mentors and Champions?

A: **Mentors** are meant to be external advisors to Innovator teams who will work closely with the team providing technical guidance to develop their project through the course of the program.

Champions, on the other hand, are senior executives who belong to the same company as the Innovators, and are tasked with overseeing and promoting Innovators' projects internally. They will ensure that Innovators have the resources and opportunity to present their solutions to company management, and have high-level support within their company.



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Q: Can I choose the company/team I work with? Who pairs Mentors with teams?

A: Mentors will be matched with Innovator teams by Global Compact Network Canada after giving careful consideration to factors such as expertise, work styles of Mentors and Innovator teams, conflicts of interest, etc. based on the information we collect from Mentors and Innovator teams. Any suggestions coming from Mentors will be accommodated, on a case-by-case basis. We will certainly keep teams and Mentors informed in the process of pairing; should there be any concerns with the initial pairing, teams/ Mentors can share and address these concerns with the Network.

Q: Can Mentors continue in all their full-time roles in other companies while mentoring? How are conflicts of interest to be avoided?

A: Yes, Mentors can continue in their current commitments while participating in the program. In order to avoid conflicts of interest, Mentors will be asked to declare any conflicts that may exist at the time they apply, as well as, when they are being paired with Innovator teams - the pairing can then be done to ensure that conflicts are avoided.

Q: I am interested in becoming a Mentor, how can I apply?

A: Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume at programs@globalcompact.ca, or reach out to us at this email address to learn more. Once the candidate is approved, they will be asked to fill out an application form and sign a confidentiality agreement to join the program.

Q: Are there any other capacities in which I could get involved in the program?

A: Candidates who fit the description of Mentors can also offer up time to act as Facilitators and lead one/more of the in-person Innovation Camps. To learn more about these roles, please reach out to us at programs@globalcompact.ca.