

HGSE Education Entrepreneurship Fellowship Program Application

Application Guidance AY 2025-2026

General Information

The Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) is very pleased to offer the Education Entrepreneurship Summer Fellowship. The purpose of this Fellowship is to provide funding for students and recent alumni to advance their entrepreneurial ventures during the months of June, July, and August. A limited number of fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis. Ordinarily, award amounts will not exceed \$10,000 per venture. Proposals in the launch/start-up phase (as opposed to ventures that are in the ideation or scaling stage) will be prioritized.

Fellowship Eligibility

- Current master's and doctoral students at HGSE.
- Recent HGSE alumni with a graduation date in November 2025.
- Future HGSE alumni with a pending graduation date by May 2026.
- Team applications may include active students from other Harvard schools, with an HGSE student as lead. If applying with co-applicants, please be aware that the award will be split evenly among the applicants.
- Funds may be utilized as stipends for team members, with no individual to receive a stipend in excess of \$2,500 per month for the months of June, July, and August.
- In addition to stipends, funds can be used for the general operating purposes of the venture, with all budgets subject to final approval.

Fellowship Requirements

- Reflection reports of approximately 1,000 words will be due to the program administrators no later than October 1, 2026.
- Fellows agree to be interviewed and/or filmed to promote the program.
- Fellows may be asked to participate in entrepreneurship activities at HGSE during the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Applications are due February 23, 2026 at 5pm EST.

Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated interest in, and commitment to, education entrepreneurship.
- Viability of the entrepreneurial venture and identified success measures.
- Potential impact of the entrepreneurial venture.
- Progress to date such that the summer will advance the mission and impact of the entrepreneurial endeavor.

Please note, we cannot fund proposals for programs for a limited population if that group is based on a legally protected category (race, ethnicity, national origin, sex). However, proposals that are open and welcoming to all populations, but may be particularly beneficial or relevant to certain audiences, are permissible.

A committee of HGSE faculty and administrators, with the opportunity for consultation with the I-Lab, will review applications and make fellowship selections.

Harvard University Non-discrimination Policy

Harvard University's policy is to make decisions concerning applicants, students, faculty, and staff on the basis of the individual's qualifications to contribute to Harvard's educational objectives and institutional needs. The principle of not discriminating against individuals based on characteristics such as race, color, national or

ethnic origin, age, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political beliefs, veteran status, or disability unrelated to job or course of study requirements is consistent with the purposes of a university and with the law.

Export Control Disclosure

In order to comply with all applicable US laws and regulations, access to and use of HGSE educational offerings, programs and resources from countries or territories or by individuals where such access is illegal or sanctioned is prohibited, unless an appropriate license is in place.

Application Questions

Section I: Personal/Team Information

1. Name
2. Is this a team-based submission? Yes or No
 - a. If Yes
 - i. Please list additional co-applicants and their Harvard school affiliation, e.g., John Harvard- HLS, their email addresses. Please be aware that awards will be split evenly between the lead applicant and co-applicants.

Section II: Your Venture Proposal

3. Venture Title (125 character limit)
4. Venture Description - Please describe what your venture is, and what it will do. Please be as concrete and specific as possible. Please note that if your venture is selected, this description will be used for public announcements of award winners. (2500 character limit)
5. Please share your/your team's prior work and/or extracurricular experiences most relevant to your proposal. (1,250 character limit)
6. Please provide a short summary that highlights your and/or your team's interest in education entrepreneurship and participation in (or learning experiences related to) entrepreneurship activities at Harvard/HGSE and beyond. (1250 character limit)
7. How will this venture make a positive impact on the education sector? What challenge will it address? Please include data to support your assertion. What is your theory of action? Who is the target audience? (2500 character limit)
8. How will you measure the success of your venture when fully implemented? (1250 character limit)
9. What other programs/products are doing similar work in the field? What makes this different from what already exists in the field? (1250 character limit)
10. Please describe your target user as narrowly as possible. Who will pay for your product if there is a cost? If the user is not the same as the payer(s), please indicate who the payer(s) will be. (1250 character limit)
11. If you have a prototype/minimal viable product, please describe. (1250 character limit)
12. If you are selected for the fellowship, what are the three most important things you will accomplish during the summer? Please be specific and include a timeline. (1250 word limit)

Section III: Budget

13. What is your overall budget request? Please provide a breakdown of costs. How much will be allocated to stipends (max of \$2,500/team member)? How much for materials? Travel? Technology? Any other categories? Please be specific and give a detailed description of each allocation. If applying with co-applicants, please be aware that the award will be split evenly between the lead and co-applicants. Total funding request, not to exceed \$10,000 USD. (max 2500 characters)