

# Global Scholars Program

## Program Overview for Applicants 2013 Program Singapore



### **Training next generation entrepreneurs world wide**

*Fostering the creation of enterprises by entrepreneurs that are transformative and born global*

In 2006, at the initiative of Gordon Brown, then UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation created the Global Scholars Program. The Program provides a world class opportunity for outstanding students who are aspiring entrepreneurs, selected through competitive national application processes, to develop their entrepreneurial skills and ideas, competences, and capabilities to start a business following completion of the Program. The Global Scholars Program provides a six month exposure to some of America's most innovative entrepreneurial professors, experts, universities, and companies.

The Program has hosted students and faculty sponsored by governments and organizations in six countries and representing twelve nationalities. Applicants to the Program are accepted through national fellowship competitions in collaboration with organizations abroad. The Program is, in collaboration with the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center, accepting up to three graduate students affiliated with Nanyang Technological University for participation in the Program. The scholarship provided by Nanyang Technological University will cover the costs of participation in the Program, lodging and travel expenses in the United States (U.S.), and a small living stipend.

Outstanding students from science (natural and physical), technology, and engineering fields who have innovative business ideas related to their academic backgrounds are invited to apply. Applicants with ideas that could translate into high growth and/or disruptive companies are particularly welcome. Applicants should have demonstrated excellence, leadership, and possess the qualities necessary to be a successful entrepreneur.

The Program has accommodated limited numbers of students from other academic backgrounds. Therefore, students from other backgrounds are welcome to apply and will be considered in light of the applicant pool. They should demonstrate an abiding interest in science and/or technology, and like other applicants, have ideas that could translate into high growth and/or disruptive companies.

### **The Global Scholars Program**

The program provides an unparalleled opportunity for NTU Scholars and other participants to examine, understand, and experience entrepreneurial culture in the U.S. Through the Global Scholars Program, they will meet and engage with leading scholars and intellectuals, policy leaders, innovative researchers, and business founders. Building on their strong backgrounds in

science, technology, business, or engineering, they will have the opportunity to further develop their skills with a view to turning their expertise in the direction of entrepreneurship and the creation of innovative businesses.

The Global Scholars group will create an important core network, a network that will support and sustain them through the program and advance their entrepreneurial venture upon their return home.

During the Program, participants will be encouraged to think systematically about entrepreneurship and the variables that may lead to the success of their venture. To facilitate and document the evolution of their thinking, participants will set personal learning and action goals that will reflect theoretical, practical, and creative understandings of science, technology, and entrepreneurship. At the close of the Program, they will return home with a resource that describes and documents their development and serves as an invaluable reference as they move forward with their studies and enterprise development.

The Program features several phases. First, the Global Scholars spend six weeks at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, immersed in an intensive course that explores a wide range of topics related to innovation, entrepreneurship, and business creation. Global Scholars will learn from some of the nation's most outstanding faculty from Harvard Business School, MIT, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, among others.

Once well-grounded in the literature and American entrepreneurial experience, the Kauffman Foundation and centers in technology and enterprise will host participants at universities in Boston and Silicon Valley. Participants will have the opportunity to observe, understand, and participate in different entrepreneurial cultures on the East and West coasts. They will receive exposure to high impact businesses that represent the most innovative work being done in the regions. A variety of workshops and site visits will further expose participants to the skills and knowledge they will need to pursue successfully their own endeavors.

During the next phase participants will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the day-to-day operations of an innovative firm. Working together, participants, the Foundation, and mentors will outline training goals specific to their academic discipline and innovation area of interest. The Kauffman Foundation has worked with small start-ups, as well as mid-size and large companies (both publicly and privately held) to create individually tailored placements with mentors from top levels of leadership including founders, CEOs, and Vice Presidents, as well as with leaders from various company divisions. During this approximately twelve week period participants will advance their scientific and entrepreneurial skills through this invaluable opportunity to learn about the challenges faced by innovative companies. ©Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation 2012

Following the internship, the Global Scholars reconvene in Kansas City to share lessons learned and prepare for their return home. The Foundation supports an alumni network and maintains regular contact between all of its alumni participants through required quarterly surveys.

The Foundation has dedicated both a full time educational specialist and administrative staff member to the Program. The Program is led by Nancie Thomas, manager of Higher Education Initiatives. The Foundation hosts the Global Scholars at its headquarters during the first phase of the Program. The Foundation recruits the nation's most outstanding faculty and accomplished entrepreneurs to present seminars, lead discussions, and conduct individual and small group meetings in Kansas City, Boston and Silicon Valley.

The Foundation works to ensure that the Scholars successfully navigate life in the U.S., providing a complete orientation and coordinating their travel, housing and transportation, and opportunities for exposure to American culture and social events.

Participants are currently hosted in the U.S. by the Kauffman Foundation on a J-1 training visa sponsored by the American Immigration Council.

## **Candidate Requirements**

Candidates should be NTU masters or doctoral students who have excelled in science, technology, or engineering and have an innovative product or business idea related to their area of study. Ideally their idea should have the potential to launch and scale a business, high growth venture, and/or one that represents a significant innovation in their field. They should have the appropriate background to develop their product or business.

If the applicant will be more than one year out of a degree program by the start of the Program they will be required to provide documentation of at least one year of work experience in their intended field. Candidates must be 21 years of age or older to participate in the Program. If the candidate has been to the U.S. previously on a J-1 training visa, participation may not be possible (evaluation would take place on a case-by-case basis). Candidates must demonstrate intent to return to their home country. Each candidate will be expected to demonstrate fluency in written and spoken English.

The selection committee will be looking for candidates with demonstrated maturity and leadership in his/her academic program, university, or extracurricular pursuits, and who aspire to be successful entrepreneurs. Candidates should demonstrate the ability to embrace new ideas, approaches, attitudes and beliefs and relish the opportunity to study, from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Candidates will be expected to complete readings and assignments, attend all seminars, workshops, site visits, and cultural events throughout the fellowship.

In addition, ideal applicants will be free from university course, study, or writing requirements during the Program, and be committed to starting a business following the completion of the Program. Those selected will be expected to respect confidentiality and adhere to non-disclosure agreements and be willing to share their experience with others in their home country.

## **Application process:**

1. Submit an application. Applications are available from the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center ([ntc@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:ntc@ntu.edu.sg)).
2. Submit two (2) letters of recommendation – one from a member of your academic institution and one from a colleague who can speak to your entrepreneurial aspirations. These recommenders should address your suitability for an international experience, potential to execute your idea, and potential for adaptability, creativity, professionalism and leadership.
3. Submit a current resume
4. Submit copy/ies of your academic transcripts.

Finalists will be selected for interview and should expect to meet with an interview panel in person in September.

Successful applicants will be asked to complete several documents prior to the Program. They will be expected to provide an e-mail address and phone number for continued correspondence and communication.

## **Expenses and other considerations**

Program costs including domestic Program-related travel and accommodation, as well as Program costs including those related to visa sponsorship and visa-required sickness and accident insurance, are arranged and paid for by the Program. A stipend will be administered to

participants directly by the sponsoring country/organization; this is a small sum that covers reasonable living costs such as food and personal expenses. The stipend does not cover home country expenses related to getting the J-1 visa. In addition, NTU will provide round trip airfare to the U.S. The Program does not cover expenses participants may incur at NTU or in their home country during the period participants are in the U.S., nor does it provide funds for the visas, travel, accommodation, or expenses of spouses, partners, significant others, dependent children or other family and friends. Funds for leisure travel in the U.S. or travel during the 30-day visa grace period at the conclusion of the Program is the responsibility of the participant. Participants considering visits from family or friends during the Program must consult with the Program manager. We recommend visitors plan their travel to the U.S. during the internship period of the Program. Visa and accommodation costs for visitors would be the sole responsibility of the participant and/or visitor.

The sickness and accident insurance required by the visa will be provided by the fellowship. Participants are responsible for understanding whether and how their health insurance covers them abroad and for ensuring that they have health, disability, life, or other insurance (on personal items, for example) that suits their particular needs and circumstances. NTU will provide assistance with some supplemental insurance.

All participants must ensure that they have valid credit cards. In the U.S., credit cards will be required to secure a variety of Program extraneous costs. It is suggested that if you have not established credit that you begin this process right away and ensure that you have a credit limit appropriate for travel abroad. Bank debit cards will not serve this purpose nor will a credit card belonging to a parent, family member, or friend.

## **NTU Singapore**

Rick Tay  
Deputy Director  
Nanyang Technopreneurship Center  
[ricktaywh@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:ricktaywh@ntu.edu.sg)  
(65) 6316 6774

Gwendoline Lee  
Higher Executive Officer  
Nanyang Technopreneurship Center  
[GwendolineLee@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:GwendolineLee@ntu.edu.sg)  
(65) 6790 5841

Nanyang Technological University  
RTP/BX 02-00  
50 Nanyang Drive  
Singapore 637553

## **United States**

Nancie Thomas  
Manager, Higher Education Initiatives  
Education Specialist, Global Scholars Program  
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation  
[nthomas@kauffman.org](mailto:nthomas@kauffman.org)  
(816) 932-1067

Nancy Walker  
Executive Assistant  
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation  
[nwalker@kauffman.org](mailto:nwalker@kauffman.org)  
(816) 932-1074

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation  
4801 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City MO 64110  
United States of America