

Frequently Asked Questions

What is “social enterprise”?

Social enterprise brings together the nonprofit, private, and public sectors - and utilizes best practices from across industries and around the globe to work toward the common good. New Sector’s approach to social enterprise leverages the unique talents and skills of people and institutions across sectors to share resources, learn from each other, and work collaboratively in pursuit of social change.

How would you describe the typical Summer Fellows class?

Last year, New Sector received applications from over 600 students representing nearly 50 universities. The selected class included sophomores, juniors and recent graduates; students of all academic disciplines; and individuals with both limited and extensive experience in the nonprofit sector. Though their projects allow participants to take on significant individual responsibility, it is the group experience that is unique to our Summer Fellows program. We construct a class that represents a wide diversity of viewpoints, backgrounds and passions that will encourage our Fellows to reexamine their views and values while they explore the intersection of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors firsthand. At the same time, our workshops and group events foster a cohesive environment that allows our Fellows to form bonds that endure long after the end of their summer experience.

Is this program only for people who want to work in the nonprofit sector?

New Sector Alliance Summer Fellows learn skills that are transferable to a career in any sector. We intend for the Summer Fellows program to be a formative experience for all participants, during which Fellows will be given the chance to take on significant responsibility while thinking strategically about the challenges facing the social sector. New Sector Alumni are currently doing innovative work at private sector organizations including Google and McKinsey, nonprofits like Health Care for All and the Global Fund, and prestigious graduate schools such as the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Alumni have also gone on to found their own organizations and work for our partnering organizations and corporations.

What types of projects do Summer Fellows do?

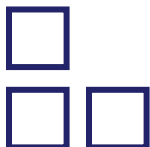
Each Summer Fellow will work independently on-site at Boston-based social impact organization to complete a capacity-building project in a variety of functional practice areas including growth and scaling, marketing, performance management, strategy, and operations. All projects will engage the talented, young leaders of our Fellows class on a strategic level with the social sector, employing the analytical frameworks at use in the private sector to help enterprising organizations better serve their stakeholders.

What compensation will I receive?

Compensation for Summer Fellows has several components, including a living stipend of \$1000, an AmeriCorps Education Award worth \$1250, which can be used to pay tuition or school-related loans at any accredited institution in the United States and travel stipend (in form of subway/bus pass) totaling \$180.

What topics should my application address?

Your resume should include your major, GPA, and relevant standardized test scores (e.g. SAT or ACT scores). You should also choose to mention any work experience or extracurricular activity that demonstrates your dedication to civic engagement and social responsibility.



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while developing leaders for tomorrow



Your cover letter should answer two questions: What do you hope to gain through your participation in the New Sector Summer Fellows program? What unique qualities will you bring to the experience?

There is no "ideal" résumé or cover letter. We seek to recruit a class of Residents made up of individuals with different goals, backgrounds, and talents. We read your cover letter to get a sense of your personality and your passions, and as such, there are no correct answers. Please be clear and candid in your discussion.

What is the application process like?

Our written application, consisting of your résumé, a cover letter (see above for topics to address in the cover letter), and the Summer Fellows Application form is due March 6, 2009. After we have received all applications, we will invite qualified candidates to interview either in-person or over the phone. In the interview, you should be able to demonstrate a well-structured approach to problem solving and organized thinking. You should be ready to discuss experiences in which you have set goals, planned out the means to achieve them and measured the results. There is no need to bring anything, and there will not be a case.

After the interviews, we will extend offers to qualified candidates selected for the New Sector Summer Fellows class of 2009. If you receive an offer, you will have approximately two weeks to accept or decline that offer. In accepting our offer, you accept an offer to the program as a whole, and not to any one particular Host Site or project. Once you have accepted our offer, we will match you with a Host Site.

Do I get to choose my Host Site?

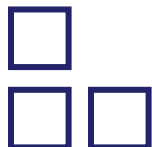
Before the start of the program and after candidates have accepted their offer, New Sector will provide accepted Fellows an opportunity to indicate their preferences for Host Site characteristics, subsector, and project type in an effort to make a mutual match between the Fellow and Host Site. At the same time, Host Sites will provide us with their list of preferred skill sets. Then, to the best of our ability, we will place you with a Host Site based on your preferences and the needs of the Host Site. It is important to note that it is likely each accepted Fellow will end up at one of his or her preferred sites, but it is in no way guaranteed that even the most qualified applicant will end up at his or her first choice site.

Can non-US Citizens apply to the Summer Fellows program?

Not at this time. Summer Fellows is funded through AmeriCorps and Fellows in the program are enrolled as AmeriCorps members. We must therefore comply with AmeriCorps regulations, which stipulate that AmeriCorps members must be U.S. citizens, Nationals, or Legal Permanent Residents of the U.S. New Sector does sometimes have positions available outside of AmeriCorps funding, but due to the current condition of the economy we do not expect the availability of such positions for the upcoming program cycle. We encourage non-citizens to check back for our 2010-11 program year, when such positions may be available.

Are there other eligibility restrictions?

Our Summer Fellows positions are funded through AmeriCorps, so we must comply with AmeriCorps regulations which only allow an individual to participate in any AmeriCorps State or National program for a total of two years. If you have already participated in such a program (e.g. Teach for America) for two years, you are not eligible for the 2009 Summer Fellows program. You may, however, be eligible for other opportunities that we post on our website throughout the year.



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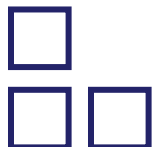


How often will I see my Fellows classmates?

One of the most valuable components of the Summer Fellows program is the caliber of our participants. As such, we go out of our way to provide both formal and informal events through which Fellows are able to form a network of talented, socially-motivated peers. Before our Fellows arrive for the summer, they are invited to join our message board so that they can begin to get to know each other. Over the course of the program, the whole class comes together every other week for workshops on topics relevant to their professional development. Fellows also participate in small group Learning Teams, which provide a forum for the sharing of ideas, knowledge, and approaches to their own specific projects. In addition to these workshops and Learning Teams, there are opportunities to spend time with your classmates at events including community service days, social outings, and career development and networking programs.

Does New Sector provide housing?

New Sector does not provide housing for our Summer Fellows. In general, most Host Sites will be easily accessible via public transportation. Fellows often use our Message Board to coordinate housing with other Fellows. We suggest the following resources to help you find housing: www.craigslist.org, www.sublet.com, and www.tosublet.com. Also, there is often affordable, though less glamorous, university housing available at Tufts, MIT, and Suffolk University.



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