

InnovatED

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is InnovatED a full-time commitment?

Yes. In order to be incubated, you must be working full-time on your early-stage enterprise. In case you are currently employed, you should be ready to leave your existing engagement and take up your enterprise full-time, to be eligible for InnovatED.

2. Can I attend part of the programme?

InnovatED is an 8-month full-time programme, and if selected, you must commit to being present for all parts of it - be it innovation bootcamps, webinars or any other part of the programme. Entrepreneurs are required to commit to 100% attendance across programme components.

3. What does the programme look like?

The programme has two main components: physical and virtual

- The physical component will include a series of innovation bootcamps and field visits for entrepreneurs
 - The virtual component will include webinars and video calls with the cohort
- This is of course over and above the other elements of support such as stipend, mentors and coaches

4. What does the selection process for InnovatED look like?

- The selection process has two main stages:
- The written application stage
- The in-person selection event (applicable to those who get shortlisted in the written stage)

5. What happens after the 8 months?

As Alumni of InnovatED, you will be part of a growing community of education entrepreneurs who you can lean on for learning, collaboration and support. In addition, you will have access to office hours with members of Teach For India's Leadership team (based on mutual availability).

6. What is the stipend amount?

- The stipend amount is 40,000 per month, subject to conditions - that include you spending an appropriate portion of your stipend on operationalizing your enterprise and taking it to the next level - month on month
- The incubation process will incorporate timely reviews to ensure that money is spent appropriately, towards the betterment of your enterprise

7. Can my team get incubated?

This programme is only for individual entrepreneurs (you must nominate the central person in your early-stage enterprise) and the idea is that we will enable that individual to gain the necessary skills and competencies through this programme to support the rest of the team and the enterprise going forward.

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8. What happens if the team has people who are from outside Teach For India?

The team can of course have people from outside Teach For India (diversity has its advantages), however the central entrepreneur leading the organization, who would be the person getting incubated by InnovatED needs to be a Teach For India Alumnus.

9. Is this programme open to Staff Alumni as well (People who did not complete the 2 year Fellowship program but worked directly on Staff)?

Yes, this programme is open to Staff Alumni as well - anyone who has worked on Teach For India Staff for a period of more than one year is eligible to apply.

10. Will I need to move locations for being incubated?

No, this is not a physical incubator but an incubation programme. You will work from your own location, and might need to travel only for the national innovation bootcamps and / or learning trips.

11. I have applied to InnovatED in a previous year. Can I apply again?

Yes, having applied earlier has no bearing on your application this year. Every application is looked at as a fresh one.

12. I have been previously selected to be part of an InnovatED cohort. Can I apply this year again?

Yes, since we have made some new additions to the programme this year (like adding a financial component, which we didn't offer before), we will be allowing Alums of past InnovatED programmes the opportunity to apply for this year's edition as well

13. I don't have a team or a co-founder. Can I apply?

Yes, you can apply. We will be incubating individual entrepreneurs in any case, not their teams. However, given how challenging it might be to run an enterprise alone, we recommend that you think about getting a co-founder or a team at some point.

14. Is there an ideal kind of applicant for InnovatED?

Broadly, we are looking for early-stage entrepreneurs with more than just an idea (at least prototype or pilot stage). You need to be a Teach For India (Fellow or Staff) Alumnus, willing to work full-time and working on a problem that directly relates to educational inequity.

15. I am a Teach For India Alumnus and I have come up with an innovation to help the community – but it is not related to educational inequity. Will I be considered for the InnovatED programme?

We do not discourage any kind of innovation. Whatever you are working on definitely has value. However, InnovatED might not be well-placed to incubate you in case you are working on a problem that is not directly related to educational inequity.

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16. We haven't formally registered as an organization yet. Can we apply?

Yes, you do not need to be an incorporated organization to apply. All you need is a prototype (some tangible proof of your work on the ground, underpinned by strong research). It just needs to be more than simply an idea in your head.

17. Our organization is already part of another funding/incubator program. Can we still apply?

If it is only a funding programme which does not require you to spend significant time attending events / components of the other programme, it should work out fine. If you're already part of another part time / full time incubator, we might not be able to accept you given your lack of full-time availability. In any case, we would love to hear a disclosure about the same during the application process itself so we can take a call on a case-specific basis.

18. Do I need to make my own travel and stay arrangements?

Events / transportation / accommodation will be covered by Teach For India. Either costs will be taken care of, or arrangements would be made for you so that you don't have to spend to participate in the programme components.

19. My project is not based in India. Can I apply?

Unfortunately, at this point, we only support entrepreneurs who are based in India. In fact, we are best poised to support individuals who are based in the 7 Teach For India cities as that significantly improves our ability to support you locally through our network. In case you are outside the 7 cities, we will assess our ability to support you in a meaningful way (given geographic constraints) and take a call on a case-specific basis.

20. I have some more questions. Whom can I contact?

If you have gone through the brochure and FAQs already, feel free to reach out to shayan.roychowdhury@teachforindia.org for any further information.