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 a part of the programme?

InnovatED is a 9-month full-time programme, and if selected, you must commit to being present for all parts of it- be it innovation bootcamps, virtual learning circles 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 modes of engagement: physical and virtual- The physical component includes a series of national innovation bootcamps held across India, the virtual component includes virtual learning circles and other online correspondence with peers in the cohort and the InnovatED team. Beyond this, the programme will include a stipend and a personalized mentorship component.

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 9-month period?

As an alumnus 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, the InnovatED team will try to support you on a case basis, to the best of our ability

6. What is the stipend amount?

The stipend amount will be at least 40,000 per month. The incubation process will incorporate timely reviews to ensure that the 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 one person from your early-stage enterprise)- and the idea is that we will support that individual to develop the necessary capacity, knowledge and connections through this programme to support the rest of the team and the enterprise going forward.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 core team in place at some point.

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

Broadly, we are looking for early-stage entrepreneurs with more than just an idea (i.e. you must have tested the idea in some form at least, possibly through a prototype or pilot). 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.

12. 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?

InnovatED is an incubation programme focused on education. If your idea is related to education in any form, we are happy to consider you and we recommend you to apply.

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

InnovatED takes care of the travel and accommodation for only its incubatees for all bootcamps it hosts. Therefore, if your co-founder(s) / partner(s) also wish to attend any of our conferences then those travel and stay costs will have to be borne by you.

16. 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.

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

The team can definitely have people from outside Teach For India (diversity has its advantages), however the incubated entrepreneur needs to be a Teach For India Alumnus.

18. 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 or siddharth.a@teachforindia.org for any further information.