

School of System Change

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ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

When does the programme start and what is the length of it?

- The programme starts on January 29, 2018 with initial three week stay in London till February 16 that includes face-to-face learning time, fieldwork in teams working with UK organisation on sustainability challenge, and one-on-one coaching session with senior Forum practitioner
- A period of one month back in Russia, with online action learning sets every week
- A second face-to-face learning session in London from March 19 to March 23
- Continued applied learning in Russia with feedback sessions from end-March – end-June

Who are professors at the programme?

The programme will be taught by international and local specialists and practitioners from the field of system change, as well as visiting professors, covering the five capabilities addressed by the School of System Change.

Who am I going to be with in the class? What is the class profile?

A diverse cohort of promising international mid-career professionals and aspiring sustainability leaders from different sectors: business, NGOs, public sector, social entrepreneurs, media and the arts.

Will this become an accredited degree of some kind?

You will get a certificate delivered by the School of System change, but this is not an academic accreditation.

What does Fieldwork consist of?

You will be working part time on a live sustainability challenge for a UK organization, within a team of 3-5 participants on the School of System Change course. You will be applying your learning from the first week to this challenge, and the team will produce a systems diagnostic with the support of an experienced coach and a designer.

Can I choose the company for the Fieldwork?

You may voice a preference for the organization, but the final decision will be made by Forum for the Future

Is there an admission process for the Fieldwork?

Not beyond the initial selection

Do I get paid for Fieldwork?

No, but expenses for accommodation will be covered as for the rest of the programme.

What is expected from students during the learning application back in their countries between face-to-face sessions in London?

The participants will be expected to dedicate 5 hours per week to online learning and exercises concerning their own work challenge. You will also be expected to meet weekly for one hour with a small team to discuss content and progress.

Where I can read / watch more about the School of System Change and the programme?

More information is available at the Forum for the Future [website](#). Please follow the link to watch the short [video](#) on the programme as well.

FEES AND EXPENSES

What expenses the grant is covering?

The grant covers all fees for the course and Fieldwork, as well as travel costs and accommodation for the time in the UK, up to £80 per night for 31 nights in total.

Do I need an extra budget to stay in UK during the programme?

You will need an extra budget to cover meals and local transport, as well as sightseeing and leisure activities.

Who will be covering the expenses?

This has been made possible through generous funding from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TRAVELLING AND STAYING IN THE UK

Do I need UK visa to apply for the program? Do you provide the visa assistance?

- You will need a UK visa. All the information required to apply can be found here: www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa
- Forum for the Future and the British Embassy will be able to provide letters to chosen candidates to help the visa application process if necessary.

Do you provide accommodation in UK? Do you help to find it or it's on the student responsibility?

We provide a basic accommodation budget but it is the student's responsibility to find it.

Can I work during the programme?

- The course will require 12 business days for face-to-face learning and Fieldwork. You will be able to work part time from the UK while working on Fieldwork in February. We highly recommend asking for study leave to participate in this course.
- For the time between the UK sessions you will be expected to be working within a Russian organisation, either as an employee or on your own project.

THE ADMISSION PROCESS

How does the admission process work?

Our admissions process works in the following way: we read all applications and essays after the deadline, and a smaller percentage of applicants are selected based on those reads to move forward in the interview process with Admission committee for shortlisted candidates. Three candidates will be chosen for the programme.

There are four steps in the admission process:

- Stage 1: **October 9 – November 8, 2017** – fill in the application form – by filling the application form you identify your intention to take part in competition
- Stage 2: **October 9 – November 8, 2017** – prepare and send an essay – after sending an essay you become a part of the competition process and can be included in the short list of candidates invited for an interview

- Stage 3: **November 24, 2017** – Top 50% of applicants will be invited to join the workshop and networking session with sustainability experts from UK and Russia that will take place at the British Ambassador's Residence in Moscow. Short listed candidates will have a meeting in the afternoon with members of Admission Committee (conducted in English)
- Stage 4: **November 27 – December 2, 2017** – Short listed candidates will have an online interview with members of the Admission Committee (conducted in English)

Final results will be announced **by December 8, 2017**.

What is the event planned for the applicants?

Top 50% of applicants will be invited to join the workshop and networking session with sustainability experts from UK and Russia conducted November 24th where short listed candidates will be announced. The agenda of the event will be sent later to chosen applicants.

Can I send the essay later than application form?

Yes. Candidates can take some time to prepare and send essay separately from the application form. The deadline for essay is November 8, 2017. You can upload the essay through the [link](#).

Where the interview of short-listed candidates will be taken? Do I need to travel to UK for it?

We will conduct interviews in two stages. Short-listed candidates will be invited to join a small meeting on the afternoon of November 24 in Moscow, following on from the workshop. We recommend all applicants keep this whole day free to be able to attend the afternoon session if shortlisted.

Individual online interviews will be conducted the following week (November 27 – December 2) via a video-conferencing system. Timings will be suggested to candidates on November 24, and invitations issued accordingly.

What key attributes are interviewers looking for in candidates?

We conduct behavioral based interviews and we are looking at past experience and behaviors to indicate how you would handle a complex and systemic challenge in Russia and how you will benefit from the significant practical insights you will gain on the course to address it. Additionally, we're looking for English ability.

Can I still apply to the scholarship if I already applied last year but didn't win?

Yes, we encourage you to apply this year, even if you applied last year. In this case please state at the application form what new experience you have got over the last year that you believe helps you to progress in sustainability field.

QUALIFICATION / CRITERIA

Who is the ideal candidate?

We recognise you as an ideal candidate if you are:

- **Russian citizens**
- **have a university degree** (Bachelor, Master, Specialist)
- **already working in the field of sustainable development or social entrepreneurship, or related field** (have at least **2 years** of working experience and fairly well versed in sustainable development as a concept and recognise the interconnected nature of issues like climate change, water, technology and wellbeing that means that a systemic response is required)
- **facing a specific systemic challenge** that you are working on, or would like to work on and /or implementing a complex project in your area of sustainability that requires system thinking, partnerships building and change management skills
- **perceive yourself as a leader** and demonstrate leadership intention in your professional background
- **highly motivated** to bring positive impact within sustainable development concept and plan to develop your future career in this field
- **fluent in English**
- **committed to attend the full course** including face-to-face sessions, fieldwork, feedback session in London, UK.

Should I provide any certificate to prove my English level?

No. Certificates are not required to apply to the programme. However please keep in mind that the programme is conducted in English and it is considered by default that candidates are fluent in English in order to complete it. English skills will be tested informally at the interview.

Can I apply if I am Russian but reside in another country?

We are targeting Russian citizens who are working in Russia.

I don't have a background in sustainability. Can I get involved?

A background in sustainable development or social entrepreneurship, or related field will be a valuable addition to your application, but is not essential for application. We are looking for people with a strong motivation to bring change for a sustainable future, but this does not have to be directly through your professional experience.

I'm a complete beginner to system change. Am I eligible?

Absolutely. We are looking for people who are tackling complex challenges with a sustainability focus. Our programme includes an introduction to systems thinking which we consider the foundation module from which you can build your practice.

How important are extracurricular activities? Is it ok if some are work related?

You are welcome to share your extracurricular work activities and hobbies in the special field in the application. You may also want to include this information in your CV.

May I submit a letter of recommendation?

Applicants are not required to submit letters of recommendation. However if you feel that it would add value to your application, please send it along with the application form.

REGISTRATION TECHNICAL QUESTIONS**Can I send the application via e-mail?**

There is a special registration online form available at the [link](#). If you experience problems in filling it in, please send us an e-mail to drive_change@skolkovo.ru and we will work through it on individual basis.

What if the online form is not working or there are technical issues in uploading the documents?

Please send us an e-mail to drive_change@skolkovo.ru describing the problem you are facing and we will find a way to sort it out.

How can I see the status of my application?

You will receive an automated e-mail after you complete the application form and submit your essay. Candidates shortlisted for the interview will be notified additionally.

How the data and information provided about me will be used?

In order to submit the application you will need to check the box "agreement for personal information processing" which means that you give us the right to use the personal information provided and pass it to the 3rd party – Forum for the Future. All data will be used solely for admission purposes and will not be distributed further or in open sources.

Should you have any further questions on the programme or admission process, please send your inquiries to drive_change@skolkovo.ru