

WISE ACCELERATOR

2017-2018 GUIDANCE NOTE

Please read the Program Guidance Note carefully before applying to the 2017-2018 WISE Accelerator.

This document addresses the following questions or topics:

1. What is the WISE Accelerator?
2. What type of projects are invited to join the Accelerator?
3. How are the projects selected?
4. What are the application requirements?
5. What is the application deadline?
6. How will the Accelerator support selected projects?
7. General terms and conditions

1. WHAT IS THE WISE ACCELERATOR?

The WISE Accelerator is a program designed to support the development of innovative projects in the field of education. Selected projects receive the guidance and expertise of qualified mentors and partners who provide effective strategies and practical support for their further development.

Each year, five projects are selected to join the one-year program, during which time they benefit from tailor-made mentorships to address their specific needs. In addition, the WISE Accelerator assists the selected projects to connect with an international network and create opportunities to share knowledge and find support among donors and investors.

2. WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ACCELERATOR?

The WISE Accelerator supports innovative projects that have a high potential for:

- scalability
- a positive impact in education

Projects addressing education challenges through the use and/or design of technology in all sectors and regions are welcome to apply. Projects in this particular field may cover a wide range of activities. From the conception of apps and digital games to the creation of online platforms or the design of new curricula and pedagogies integrating technology, all education projects that are using or linking technology to their DNA are invited to apply.

Ideal candidates for the WISE Accelerator will be existing projects at an early stage of development, with the following attributes:

- Established for at least two years;
- A significant and growing number of beneficiaries or customers;
- A record of activity with a product or service that has been successfully implemented and beyond proof of concept;
- Existing, stable revenues, and new opportunities for growth;
- A dedicated team, with an established physical space or office;
- Deep knowledge of the market or educational context and of their beneficiaries' or customers' needs;
- Clear future objectives and motivation to further develop;
- Good understanding of the project's current challenges in scaling.

Projects from all sectors and regions of the world are invited to apply to the WISE Accelerator.

3. HOW ARE THE PROJECTS SELECTED?

The WISE Accelerator Committee, composed of leading experts in education and social entrepreneurship, will conduct a rigorous selection process.

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Solution and innovation;
- Strategy and management;
- Development beyond proof of concept, and potential for growth.

Due diligence with shortlisted projects may be organized to further clarify information about the project. Project representatives will be contacted to schedule calls, if needed.

Projects will be selected in September and announced in October 2017.

4. WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

Applications must be from **original projects related to the field of education and technology** only.

Projects must be formally constituted and must have progressed beyond proof of concept. The WISE Accelerator is not intended for new and untried ideas. Any such applications will not be considered.

All applicants must complete, in English, the official online application form fully and provide detailed information on the educational activities of the project, as well as areas in which support may be required.

Representatives of shortlisted projects will be contacted for an interview in which they may be asked to provide quantitative and qualitative evidence of the ways in which the project has delivered results.

Selected projects will delegate a project representative who will personally engage with the WISE Accelerator program team and mentors, participate and represent the project in the residential sessions and international conferences over the course of the year.

Applications must be submitted online in English using the official application found at this site: www.wise-qatar.org/wise-accelerator.

Applications not submitted on the official application form, applications with inaccurate or incomplete information, applications not submitted in English, applications without valid references, applications received after the deadline, or more than one application for the same activity or project will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered.

Prior to any decision by the Committee and during the one-year program, the WISE Accelerator, the Committee and/or the mentors reserve the right to ask for clarification or complementary information or documentation from the applicants. In the event of any false or inaccurate information, the application will be deemed invalid. If the project has already been selected for the WISE Accelerator, the decision may be revoked.

Once selected, projects should commit to facilitating the needs assessment and providing any information or clarification that may be required by the WISE team or the mentors.

Contact details and complete information on two references (e.g. former donors, local governments, other organizations, etc.) must be included in all applications. Valid referees include individuals from organizations who can comment knowledgeably on the activity of the project. The referees may be contacted and asked to provide a letter of support, if needed. Failure to include details of references will automatically lead to the rejection of the application.

5. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

The application deadline for the 2017-2018 WISE Accelerator is Wednesday, June 14, at 12.00 Noon GMT.

6. HOW WILL THE ACCELERATOR SUPPORT SELECTED PROJECTS?

The year-long program is designed to assess and meet project needs as fully and precisely as possible in order to bring them to the next stage of successful development.

Key milestones in the 2017-2018 program are:

❖ Kick-off

Selected projects participate in the kick-off of the program to be held during an international conference, where they benefit from workshops and unique networking opportunities.

❖ **Needs Assessment**

The WISE team and recognized partners will work to evaluate the projects' priority needs and identify optimal ways to address them.

❖ **Tailor-made Mentorship**

This phase corresponds to the rollout of the mentorship and training provided by the mentors, combining both face-to-face meetings and mostly distance, personalized sessions.

❖ **Ongoing communication and visibility**

Projects benefit from ongoing communication and international exposure, as well as from unique networking opportunities throughout the year.

❖ **Conclusion Program and Pitch to Investors**

Following the end of the one-year program, all project representatives reconvene to present and evaluate the progress made, as well as to pitch their initiatives to potential investors, donors, and partners.

❖ **Follow-up and Evaluation**

Following the conclusion of the program, the projects will be evaluated on the implementation of the strategies designed and their overall development.

7. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COMMUNICATION

WISE reserves the right to publicize the selected projects by means of any kind of communication (internal and/or commercial advertising), through any promotional media (press, magazines, catalogues, websites, etc.) all over the world.

This communication may be in the form of pictures, recordings (audio and visual) and texts supplied by each of the selected projects.

By applying for the WISE Accelerator, contestants agree to provide photos and descriptions of their projects for a period of at least two years following the selection process. They also acknowledge the right of WISE to use this material.

Selected projects agree to provide WISE with information on any developments of their projects that may be a result of, or linked to, the WISE initiative and the WISE Accelerator.

DATA PROTECTION

By taking part in this program, applicants agree that their personal details will be included in a database owned by WISE, which will be the exclusive custodian of the said details for the purpose of managing the specified selection process. The WISE initiative will not sell or distribute applicants' personal data to third parties.

Applicants have the right to access and modify any personal data concerning themselves. Applicants also have the right to decline inclusion in a database, and may exercise these rights at any time by making the appropriate request in writing to accelerator@wise.org.qa.

LIABILITY

QATAR FOUNDATION reserves the right to modify the conditions of the call for projects and/or the Accelerator at any time.

QATAR FOUNDATION shall not be liable if the call for projects is extended, shortened, modified or cancelled, or if problems arise with the website or due to loss of materials in e-mail and/or postal services.

Applicants may not contest the choice of the selected projects.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

QATAR FOUNDATION owns the intellectual property rights for texts, photos, films, documentaries, etc. made for the WISE initiative and also for the trademarks and logos appearing in various supporting media. Consequently, the applicants cannot use them, in whole or in part, unless they have received specific authorization from the WISE Team.

GOVERNING LAW – JURISDICTION

These rules for the WISE Accelerator are governed by Qatari law and, in the event of a dispute regarding their interpretation or performance, such dispute shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts in Doha, Qatar.

INFORMATION AND QUERIES

For application forms and further information about the 2017-2018 WISE Accelerator, please visit the official website www.wise-qatar.org/wise-accelerator. For any queries, please contact the WISE Team through the website or by email: accelerator@wise.org.qa

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES OF THE 2017-2018 WISE ACCELERATOR

Applying for the 2017-2018 WISE Accelerator indicates the applicant's full acceptance of these rules. Interpretation of these rules falls within the exclusive competence of QATAR FOUNDATION.