ACUMEN INDIA
FELLOWS PROGRAM

2021 COHORT
WELCOME

We are excited that you will be applying to the Acumen Fellowship Program in India.

We want to help you learn more about the program, what to expect from the application process, and how you can be a successful applicant to potentially join the 2021 cohort of fellows.
THE FELLOWSHIP

The Acumen Fellowship starts with a year-long transformational experience focused on building the character and community needed to tackle long standing problems of poverty and injustice. After the completion of the program, you join our community of Fellows from across the globe, a group of more than 700 remarkable individuals committed to a lifelong journey of mastering the principles and practices of moral leadership and social action.
WHO BECOMES A FELLOW AND WHAT QUALIFIES THEM?
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Are building solutions based on a deep understanding of the issues they are tackling.
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Are finding ways to change and positively impact the system they are working in.
Are influencing change in their current work, formally or informally.
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Are ready to undergo an intensive, year-long personal and professional leadership journey.
FELLOWS TYPICALLY FALL IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

Founder of a for-profit or non-profit organization that provides critical goods or services to the underserved

Gayatri Jolly
Founder and Creative Director
MasterG
2017 India Fellow
ORGANISATION BUILDER

Supporting the growth of institutions from within

Mahesh Chandrasekar
Theme Lead - Homeless
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
2017 India Fellow
INTRAPRENEUR
Creating solutions from within existing institutions

Neeraja Kudrimoti
State Program Officer
Transformation of Aspirational Districts Program
2020 India Fellow
PUBLIC SECTOR LEADER

Working to enhance public services and/or working in government to create policy changes

Alex Paul Menon
IAS Officer
Government of India
2018 India Fellow
WE ARE LOOKING FOR DEDICATED LEADERS WITH AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ATTITUDE, MINDSET, AND APPROACH TOWARDS BRIDGING OUR DIVIDES AND TACKLING ISSUES OF POVERTY OR INJUSTICE IN INDIA

IN SHORT
### THE FELLOWS SELECTION PROCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE 1</th>
<th>STAGE 2</th>
<th>STAGE 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONLINE FORM</td>
<td>PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS</td>
<td>SELECTION CONFERENCE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Stage 1**: 16th Sept - 20th Oct
- **Stage 2**: November
- **Stage 3**: January
THE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

RESIDENTIAL 
6 DAYS 
FULL-TIME

VIRTUAL 
4 WEEKS 
8-10 HOURS 
PER WEEK

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Note: We are closely monitoring COVID in India and we will communicate any changes to this plan at the 3rd stage i.e. the Selection Conference.
WHAT DO THE FELLOWS SAY?
I was about to quit and move back to a conventional non-profit job when I became part of the Acumen fraternity, but during the course of the fellowship I not just started from scratch but also chose to work in India’s most challenging zone and have sustained through. The fellowship beyond everything gave me the courage to acknowledge my vulnerabilities and work accordingly. Along with that the strength of the fellowship for me is having 20 diverse individuals from different fields.”

ASHISH SHRIVASTAVA
2015 India Fellow
Co-founder, Shiksharth
“EVERYONE I MET AND EVERYTHING I EXPERIENCED DURING THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR, HELPED ME UNDERSTAND MYSELF ON A DEEPER LEVEL - WHAT REALLY DRIVES ME, WHAT MORALITY MEANS TO ME, AND WHY I DO WHAT I DO. THESE REALIZATIONS HAVE MADE DECISION MAKING, IN MY PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE SIMPLER. THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE ENTIRE ACUMEN TEAM MAKES THE EXPERIENCE REALLY TRANSFORMATIVE.”

SUHANI MOHAN
2015 India Fellow
Co-Founder & CEO, Saral Designs
APPLICATION ADVICE
The application is our first glimpse into who you are: the values, attitudes, and experiences that have made you the person you are today. Be authentic and bring your whole self to the application.

MAKE IT PERSONAL
Learn as much as you can about the program before applying. Review our website, reach out to Fellows, attend an information session, or take an Acumen Academy course online.
3 SAVE AN OFFLINE COPY
Read through the entire application form first. Enter and save your profile information, then spend time offline composing your responses to the questions. When you are ready to submit, copy and paste your responses into the online form.
Apply Early
Start well in advance to avoid any last-minute technical difficulties or connectivity problems. We do not accept applications after the deadline.
5

READ THE FAQ
Take time to carefully read through the frequently asked questions.