



2021 COHORT
**ACUMEN INDIA
FELLOWS PROGRAM**



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.



QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

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



IN SHORT

**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**

THE SELECTION PROCESS & KEY DATES



THE FELLOWS SELECTION PROCESS

STAGE 1

ONLINE
FORM

16th Sept - 20th Oct

STAGE 2

PRACTICAL
ASSIGNMENTS

November

STAGE 3

SELECTION
CONFERENCE

January

THE PROGRAM STRUCTURE



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





1

MAKE IT PERSONAL

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.



2

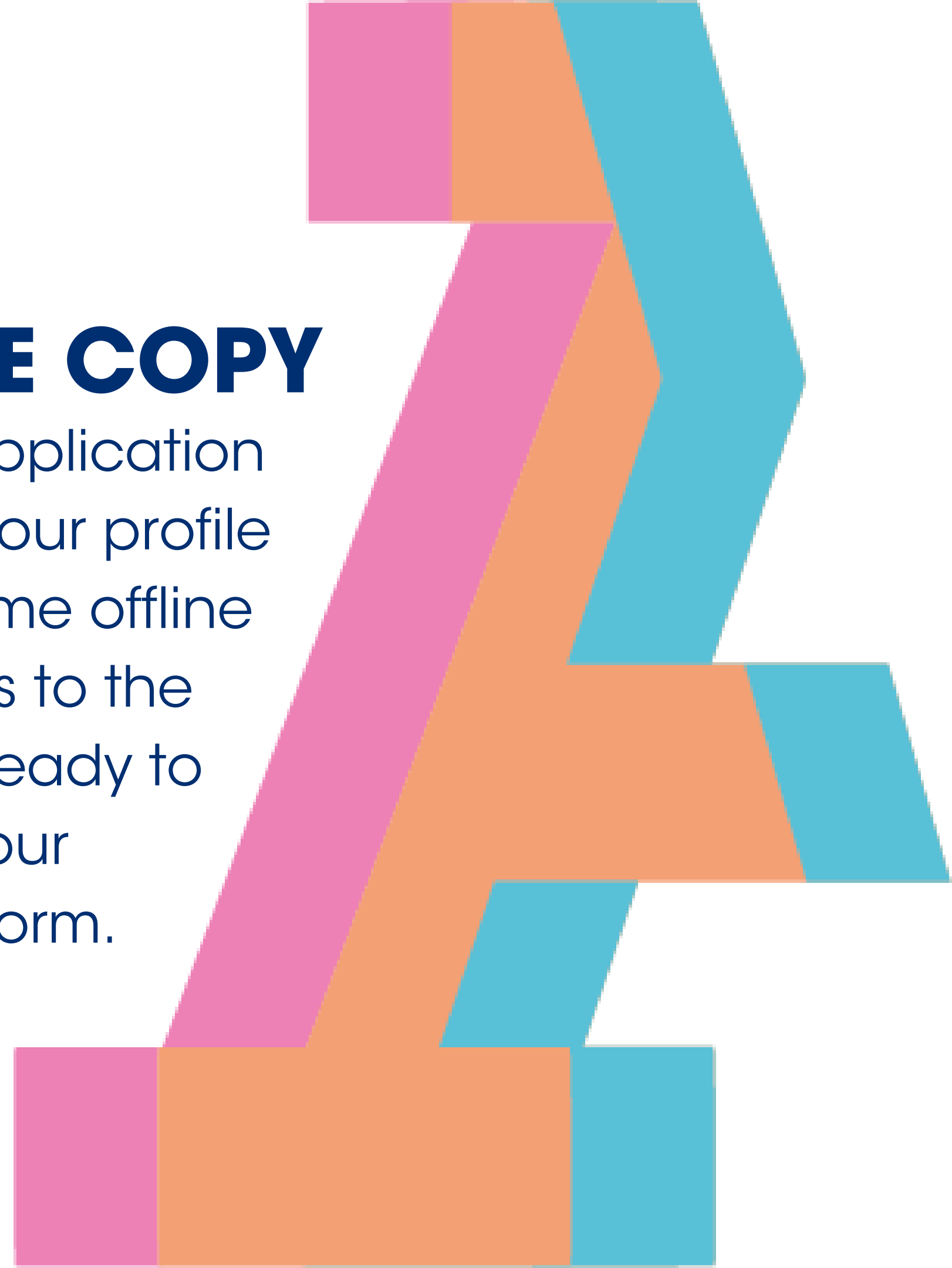
DO YOUR HOMEWORK

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.



4

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.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[HTTPS://WWW.ACUMENACADEMY.ORG/FELLOWSHIP/INDIA](https://www.acumenacademy.org/fellowship/india)

