The U.S. Embassy in Cyprus is pleased to accept applications for the 2021 Summer Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship and Leadership program for secondary school students.

*Two separate, intensive virtual training programs will take place in July 2021, exact dates to be announced soon:*

- **Course A:** Eight-days of classes for up to fourteen (14) students, ages 16-18
  Daily sessions: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Cyprus time

- **Course B:** Eight-days of classes for up to fourteen (14) students, ages 12-14
  Daily sessions: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Cyprus time

**THE PROGRAM**
Each course will provide students the opportunity to work in groups to explore and develop an idea into a new social entrepreneurship venture. The instructor, a professor from a prestigious U.S. university will guide students through this process, teaching key concepts of business leadership, marketing, research, finance, ethics, and strategy, and how each applies to each proposed team project. Virtual classroom lectures and discussions will be supplemented by guest discussions and case studies to connect course concepts with current business practices. Students will be required to prepare reports on their social venture through blogs and in-class presentations and will have the opportunity to interact with previous Summer Institute and other U.S. government program alumni.

**Applications are accepted through the online form only.**

**CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS**
Candidates for each program must show an interest in entrepreneurship and convey a genuine desire to learn how to create an entrepreneurial venture. All candidates are expected to have strong English language skills. They should possess the academic aptitude for a program of this nature and the personal qualities needed to be successful, including strong social skills, flexibility, and open-mindedness. Selected applicants are expected to fully participate in the academic program and the follow-on activities, and should be committed to following the program, attending all lectures, and completing all assigned readings and coursework.

**FUNDING**
Both courses are fully funded by the U.S. Government through a full scholarship covering participants' tuition fees.

*Please review the eligibility requirements and grading information below before submitting an application.*

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**To be considered for Course A (ages 16-18) candidates should:**

- be born between July 1, 2002, and July 1, 2005 (i.e., be 16, 17, or 18 years of age at the time of the program start);
- be highly proficient in English, as demonstrated in a personal online interview;
- demonstrate strong entrepreneurial and leadership potential;
- demonstrate a high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- demonstrate a commitment to community and extracurricular activities;
- have had little or no prior participation in U.S. Embassy Cyprus programs;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;
- be willing and able to commit to fully participate in an intensive summer program; and
- be comfortable with interacting with participants from both communities in Cyprus, in a one-on-one or a group setting.

**To be considered for Course B (ages 12-14) candidates should:**

- be born between July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2009 (i.e., be 12, 13, or 14 years of age at the time of the program start);
- be proficient in English, as demonstrated in a personal online interview;
- demonstrate strong interest in entrepreneurship and display leadership qualities;
- demonstrate a high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades and teacher recommendations;
- demonstrate a commitment to improving their community;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;
- be willing and able to commit to fully participate in an intensive summer program;
- be comfortable with interacting with participants from both communities in Cyprus, in a one-to-one or a group setting.

PLEASE NOTE:
- U.S. citizens are not eligible to apply for this program.
- Applications need to be fully filled using Latin characters. Any applications submitted using Greek or Turkish characters will not be reviewed.
- Violations of program rules, including insufficient participation, can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

**GRADING**

The following factors will determine whether a student passes or fails the course:

- **Active participation:** Active involvement during class discussions and activities is a key factor in making the overall learning experience a success. Therefore, students will be expected to participate through meaningful, quality participation in class discussions and prompt attendance.
- **Negative participation:** Lack of involvement, chatting during class or speaker presentations, personal computing / texting during class, late arrivals and early departure will negatively affect a student's grade.
- **Assignment completion:** Students must complete and submit all assigned work in a timely fashion. Assignments include an individual presentation, substantive and thoughtful blog postings, and the team presentation by the due date.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Will students be traveling to the U.S.?** Unfortunately, due to current COVID-19 restrictions, the program will not include travel to the U.S. this year.
2. **What degree of English proficiency should an applicant have?** All participants must be highly proficient in English.  Throughout the Institute, they will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English.
3. **Can an individual who is not a citizen of Cyprus apply?**  Yes. However, the programs are designed to further mutual understanding between Cypriots.  If you are not a citizen of Cyprus, please explain clearly on the application the reasons for your application.
4. **I have taken part in a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Government program before; would I be disqualified?**  U.S. Embassy program alumni may be considered for the program.  However, priority will be given to nominees with no previous experience or participation.  If you are an alumni of a U.S. program, please be sure to clearly indicate the program you attended, the year it occurred, and the length of the program, as requested on the nomination form.
5. **How much time will the participant have to dedicate to the program?** The program is scheduled to be 8-days long, including over a weekend.  During this period, participants are required to attend all 2-hour daily sessions and will be required to dedicate supplemental time to prepare and submit individual and group coursework.  It is important that all participants understand that this is an intensive academic program and they are expected to fully participate in all lectures, activities, and scheduled events throughout the duration of the course.
6. **How important it is to nominate a gender-balanced group?** Very important! We strive to have the best possible diversity and gender balance in both programs.
7. **Can a participant miss one part or component of the course?** All participants are expected to participate in all scheduled lectures.  Unless there is a serious reason, participants who fail to attend scheduled sessions may be disqualified or may receive a failing grade.
8. **Will applicants with disabilities be considered?** Yes, we welcome nominations for individuals with disabilities.  We are committed to working with students to facilitate attendance for all participants.  We may ask that you identify special accommodations you need during the nomination process. Notification of a disability will not impact selection.

## INTERESTS AND PERSONAL STATEMENT
Applicants must complete all application questions including Interests and Personal Statement to be considered.

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (OPTIONAL)
Applicants may request someone to submit a recommendation on their behalf.
**Recommendations can be submitted through the [online form](online form) only.**

## APPLICATION DEADLINE
**The [online form](online form) and optional [letter of recommendation](letter of recommendation) should be submitted online by 23:59, Sunday, April 11, 2021.** The form will close at midnight and late applications will not be accepted. Eligible applications will be reviewed, and selected applicants will be invited via email to a personal interview, scheduled approximately two weeks following the application deadline.

| TO APPLY: | TO RECOMMEND: |
| --- | --- |
| SCAN ME | SCAN ME |