Social Enterprise and Innovation Fellows (SEIF) Program

Global Human Development, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service

Professor Holly Wise, Director

Georgetown team, including GHD Fellow Rushika Shekhar, claims first place prize at the March 2018 Vatican Hack in Rome.
Introduction

Georgetown University's Social Enterprise and Innovation Fellows Program offers graduate training in the role of the private sector in promoting sustainable development. In so doing, it prepares students to become leaders and change-agents in a rapidly changing world. Fellows work together to apply entrepreneurial skills and know-how to develop solutions for the world’s greatest challenges, such as poverty reduction, clean air, and education, and health systems that work for all.

Uniquely positioned at the intersection of global public affairs and the private sector, the Fellows program forges a two-way path between the private sector and major international development goals and outcomes. Students emerge from the program with the core building blocks, skills, and cross-disciplinary knowledge to:

- Infuse public sector aid initiatives with private sector capital, fundamentals, technology and innovation (start-ups), and,
- Infuse private sector activities with new social goals - driving businesses towards a triple bottom line of sound financial, social and environmental outcomes (social enterprises).

Curriculum

The curriculum provides multi-disciplinary training in international development, business, innovation and entrepreneurship. Learning happens via courses that combine rigorous academic training with hands-on, skills-building experiences and client-engagement. Fellows follow the core course series at the Global Human Development Program, which builds foundational training in international development theory and policy, economics, political economy, statistics, project management, and monitoring and evaluation skills.

This foundation is supplemented by courses designed specifically for Fellows: Global Social Enterprise and Private Sector Approaches to International Development; and Global Social Innovation Lab.

Through these specialized courses, SEIF Fellows experience:

- Human-centered design
- Business model canvas methodology
- Lean start-up creation
- Project pitching
Sample Elective Offerings, Social Enterprise and Innovation Fellows Program

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<th>Finance</th>
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<td>● Social Finance</td>
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<td>● Human-centered Design</td>
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Fellows round-out their academic experience with a personalized set of electives, chosen from three major categories: finance, entrepreneurship and enterprise design, and private sector in development (see Table above). Fellows use electives to tailor a course of study that deepens their engagement in cutting-edge topics such as impact investing and multinational innovation, while also allowing them to hone specific, high-demand skills such as cost-benefit analysis and data visualization. Fellows can choose to take electives at the wider School of Foreign Service, the McDonough School of Business, the McCourt School of Public Policy, and serve as student analysts at the Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation. Not all electives are offered each year, but the table above provides an example of the types of courses offered under each category.

**Beyond the Classroom**
SEI Fellows lead the *NetImpact* chapter for the School of Foreign Service, and host speaker events given by experts on topics from digital pensions and blockchain technology/bitcoin to extractive sector community engagement in Mongolia. They engage with private-sector mentors, exposing them to multiple networking opportunities with leaders in impact investing, social entrepreneurship and the private sector. One of the program’s most distinguished features is the immersive Innovation Lab weekend. At this signature event, students work with external mentors to put teamwork, creativity and human-centered design methodologies to work in designing and pitching innovative solutions for low-resource settings. A slate of external judges from finance, government and international development rank and review team products.

Through this and other extra-curricular experiences, Fellows develop strong intrapreneurial and entrepreneurial skills, and become equipped to design and assess business proposals for viability and impact. As one recent example, Georgetown University’s winning team at the March, 2018 Vatican Hack included students representing five different disciplines and programs, including Fellow Rushika Shekhar (class of 2018).

**Where do Fellows land?**

Graduates from the Social Enterprise and Innovation Fellows Program are putting their expertise to work all over the globe at multinational corporations, small business start-ups, national and international government organizations, and NGOs. The following list provides a sampling of organizations at which Fellows currently work and the positions they hold:

- **Acceso Global**, Program Director for Health Partnerships, Latin America
- **African Library Project**, Business Development Manager
- **Amplifier Strategies**, Product Manager, Bangladesh
- **Aspen Institute**, Management Partner, Malawi
- **Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee**, Technical Specialist
- **CARDNO Emerging Markets**, Senior Social Development Specialist
- **CARE**, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Senior Programming Officer
- **Catholic Relief Services**, Business Development Specialist, Malawi
- **Coca-Cola**, Project Last Mile, South Africa
- **Crown Agents USA**, Senior Business Development Specialist
- **Dahlberg Management Consultants**, Global Development Advisor, India
Deloitte, Strategy Management Consultant, Dubai and Saudi Arabia

Finca International, Special Assistant to the President

Global Environment and Technology Foundation, Program Manager

Government of Nigeria, Technical Advisor to the Governor, Enugu State

Government of Panama, Deputy Secretary of the Social Cabinet

International Finance Corporation, Consultant, Inclusive Business Unit

The Nature Conservancy, Policy Associate, International Institutions

Nodo Chile, Executive Director, Business Social Impact

Pan African Capital Group, Investment Analyst

PwC, Senior Consultant

Social Impact, Senior Program Associate, Impact Evaluation

SSG Advisors, LLC, Project Analyst

Thinkplace Design, Senior Designer, Singapore

United Nations Foundation, Digital Impact Alliance, Senior Associate

USDA International Program Specialist, Foreign Agricultural Service

World Bank, Consultant, Private Sector Development

World Wildlife Fund, Program Analyst, Agricultural Supply Chains Unit

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Professor Holly Wise, SEIF Program Director

Rm. 302K, Inter-Cultural Center (ICC), Georgetown University, lbw4@georgetown.edu