WELCOME

We're excited that you'll be applying to the Acumen EA Fellows Programme!

We want to help you learn more about the programme, what to expect from the application process, and how you can be a successful applicant.
THE FELLOWSHIP

...is the start of a journey towards mastering the skills, attributes, and values of moral leadership: empathy, immersion, understanding, and action.

...is focused on building the character and community needed to tackle long standing problems of poverty and inequality.

...unites our Fellows through shared values, a common commitment to a world beyond poverty and injustice, and a pledge to accompany, celebrate, and hold each other accountable.
After completion of the first year, 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 ready and willing to undergo an intensive personal and professional leadership journey.
COMMITMENT TO CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE IN EAST AFRICA

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Demonstrate a long-term commitment to and reside in one of the above East African countries.
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Are leading, or are an integral part of building, an initiative that exists to eradicate poverty or injustice.
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS are extraordinary leaders who dare to embrace the difficult journey of social change and espouse the above Acumen values.
Are typically on one of the following trajectories: entrepreneur, intrapreneur, or an organisational builder whether for-profit, nonprofit, or in government. We define that as...
**ENTREPRENEUR**

Founding or leading a for-profit or nonprofit organisation that provides critical goods or services to the underserved.

**ORGANISATIONAL BUILDER**

Supporting the growth of an organisation, institution, or company focused on alleviating poverty or injustice but not as the founder or CEO.

**INTRAPRENEUR**

Creating innovative solutions to tackle poverty or injustice from within an existing institution by shifting its culture and building new collaborations.
IN SHORT...

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DEDICATED SOCIAL-CHANGE LEADERS WITH AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ATTITUDE, GROWTH MINDSET, AND SYSTEMS APPROACH TOWARDS TACKLING POVERTY OR INJUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA
THE SELECTION PROCESS
EARLY ACTION APPLICANTS

STAGE 1
4 NOV - 1 DEC 2020
An application form designed to understand why this is the right time for you to become an Acumen Fellow.

STAGE 2
4 JAN - 18 JAN 2021
An opportunity to dig deeper into the work you do through an application form / short essay questions.

STAGE 3
BY END MARCH 2021
Final Selection for the finalists. The day includes elevator pitches, group activities, and a panel interview.

STAGE 4
BY END APRIL 2021
Offer letters signed, and 2021 East Africa Cohort finalised.
REGULAR DECISION APPLICANTS

**STAGE 1**
4 NOV 2020 - 4 JAN 2021
An application form designed to understand why this is the right time for you to become an Acumen Fellow.

**STAGE 2**
1 FEB - 8 FEB 2021
An opportunity to dig deeper into the work you do through an application form / short essay questions.

**STAGE 3**
BY END MARCH 2021
Final Selection for the finalists. The day includes elevator pitches, group activities, and a panel interview.

**STAGE 4**
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APPLICATION ADVICE
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.
APPLY EARLY

Start well in advance to avoid any last-minute technical difficulties or connectivity problems. We do not accept applications after the deadline.

TIP TWO
TIP THREE

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Learn as much as you can about the programme before applying. Review our website, reach out to Fellows, attend an information session, or take a Acumen Academy course.
Enter and save your background information, then spend time offline composing your responses to the essay questions. When you are ready to submit, copy and paste your responses into the online form.
Tip Five

Read the FAQ

Take time to carefully read through the frequently asked questions on our website.
CORE CURRICULUM

ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP
Catalyzing and embracing the process of creating change.

AUTHENTIC VOICE
Honing the capacity to articulate vision, speak across differences, and move others to act.

GOOD SOCIETY READINGS
Learning the foundations of social change while exploring the meaning of a just society.

GOOD SOCIETY MANAGEMENT
Leading when opposing but interdependent values are in tension.

SYSTEMS THINKING
Designing solutions for all stakeholders by examining problems through a systems lens.
WHAT DO THE FELLOWS SAY?
YEARS LATER, I STILL FEEL WHAT I WENT THROUGH IN 2013, I’M STILL CONNECTING THE DOTS. IT WAS SUCH A POWERFUL EXPERIENCE AND OVER THE YEARS IT HAS GIVEN ME A FREE MARK OR GUIDED ME.

MARION MOON, EAST AFRICA FELLOW
WANDA AGRICULTURE GROUP - FOUNDING DIRECTOR
THERE ARE ALSO SOME ESSENTIAL TOOLS THAT CAME WITH THE FELLOWSHIP. I READ THROUGH AND THOUGHT, ‘YEAH THAT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE.’ WHEN I ACTUALLY WENT THROUGH THEM I WAS LIKE, ‘THIS IS REAL GOLD.’

ABU MUSUUZA, EAST AFRICA FELLOW
FLIP AFRICA - CEO
I have never in my life had so much time to be still, reflect, and learn about myself but also about others. The fellowship gave me the opportunity to let myself be seen, and see others in myself, in ways I had never experienced before.

Doreen Kessy, East Africa Fellow
Ubongo Learning - COO
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

ACUMENACADEMY.ORG/FELLOWSHIP/EA

READ ABOUT OUR LEADERSHIP IMPACT & VISION FOR THE FUTURE

2019 LEADERSHIP REPORT

10 LESSONS LEARNED - 15 YEARS OF TACKLING POVERTY

THE OPPOSITE OF POVERTY