WELCOME

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

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.
THE FELLOWSHIP...

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

...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.
20 individuals driving initiatives focused on fighting poverty and injustice are selected.

These Fellows stay in their jobs.

They attend 5 Seminars — lasting up to six days each — across the region and year. (COSTS COVERED)

Between seminars, they complete weekly assignments — 3-4 hours per assignment.

At the end of Year 1, they become part of a lifelong global community.
THEY ARE TRAINED IN

**ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP**
Catalyzing and embracing the process of creating change.

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

**POLARITIES MANAGEMENT**
Leading when opposing but interdependent values are in tension.

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

**SYSTEMS THINKING**
Designing solutions for all stakeholders by examining problems through a systems lens.
WHO BECOMES A FELLOW AND WHAT QUALIFIES THEM?
Demonstrate a long-term commitment to the country or region of the program they are applying to...
...AND ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE—AND RESIDE—IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES

EAST AFRICA
- Kenya
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Rwanda
- Burundi
- Ethiopia
- South Sudan

WEST AFRICA
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Liberia
- The Gambia
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Are leading, or are an integral part of building, an initiative that exists to eradicate poverty or injustice.
Qualified applicants:

Are ready and willing to undergo an intensive, year-long personal and professional leadership journey.
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Are typically on one of the following trajectories: entrepreneur, intrapreneur, or an organizational builder whether for-profit, nonprofit, or in government. We define that as...
ENTREPRENEUR
Founding or leading a for-profit or nonprofit organization that provides critical goods or services to the underserved.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUILDER
Supporting the growth of an organization, 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 IN-COUNTRY LEADERS WITH AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ATTITUDE, MINDSET, AND APPROACH TOWARDS TACKLING POVERTY OR INJUSTICE
THE SELECTION PROCESS
STAGE 1

8 JUL - 11 AUG

An application form designed to understand why this is the right time for you to become an Acumen Fellow.

STAGE 2

4 SEPT - 22 SEPT

An opportunity to dig deeper into the work you do. This is a 3-step application which requires 2 video submissions and answers to short essay questions.

STAGE 3

BY EARLY DEC

An all-day in-person event for the finalists. The day includes elevator pitches, group activities, and a panel interview.

STAGE 4

BY END DEC

Offer letters signed, and 2020 Cohorts finalized in each region.
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.
TIP TWO

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 a +Acumen course.
TIP THREE

SAVE AN OFFLINE COPY

Read through the entire application form first. 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.
APPLY EARLY
Start well in advance to avoid any last-minute technical difficulties or connectivity problems. We do not accept applications after the deadline.
READ THE FAQ
Take time to carefully read through the frequently asked questions on our website. https://acumen.org/fellowships/faq/
WHAT DO THE FELLOWS SAY?
GET READY FOR A TRANSFORMATION, IT’S AN EXPERIENCE THAT WILL CHANGE YOU IN WAYS YOU HAVE NOT THOUGHT ABOUT...

SARAH FAROOQ, PAKISTAN FELLOW
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
FOUR 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
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
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
ACUMEN.ORG/FELLOWSHIPS/FAQ/

READ WHAT WE’VE LEARNED ABOUT TACKLING POVERTY AND INJUSTICE

10 LESSONS LEARNED - 15 YEARS OF TACKLING POVERTY
THE OPPOSITE OF POVERTY