



Summer
Advantage USA



Changemaker
Campuses
An initiative of Ashoka's University Program

Winter Intensive: Changemaker Challenge Team Application

Organizational Overviews

Summer Advantage USA provides high-quality summer learning programs to children grade K-8 throughout the country. One of the most effective tools to improve student achievement – summer learning – is currently one of the most underutilized. Summer Advantage USA plans to provide 100,000 children annually with a rich array of academics and enrichment activities (i.e. arts, sports, engineering and community service), while connecting them with experienced educators and caring adult mentors. Successful social entrepreneur, Earl Martin Phalen founded Summer Advantage USA, with the support of The Mind Trust and served nearly 1000 children in Indiana in the summer of 2009. As founder and former CEO of BELL, Phalen brings almost two decades of experience leading a scalable education enterprise and aims to develop a pipeline of social entrepreneurs through leadership opportunities at Summer Advantage USA, including the fellowship program.

Ashoka U is working to develop new models for higher education, envisioning a day when universities everywhere serve as an enabling environment where every individual has access to the resources, learning opportunities, role models and peer community needed to actualize their full potential as changemakers. Through the Changemaker Campus partnership, it works with teams of entrepreneurial students, faculty and staff from across campus to transform select universities into hubs for social innovation. Now in its second year, the Changemaker Campus Consortium includes Babson College, College of the Atlantic, Cornell, George Mason, Johns Hopkins, The New School, Tulane, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Maryland—all chosen specifically on their ability and readiness effect cross-campus change.

Winter Intensive: Changemaker Challenge Description

The Winter Intensive: Changemaker Challenge aims to fulfill three main objectives: 1) to help to build a pipeline of social entrepreneurs; 2) to fulfill mission-critical needs at Summer Advantage USA; and 3) to allow students to use their skills and passion to effect real-world change while engaging in a team-based guided learning process.

As part of a partnership between Summer Advantage USA and the Ashoka Changemaker Campuses, teams of graduate and undergraduate students from across the country will be selected to compete in the Winter Intensive: Changemaker Challenge. Selected teams of 3-5 students of various disciplines will be assigned a unique leading question currently being analyzed by Summer Advantage USA. Each team will be given a discreet subject of inquiry, background information on the problem and a list of deliverables on January 4, 2010. Over the following three weeks, the teams will have access to Summer Advantage leadership and an opportunity to engage with an expert in the field relevant to the project. All stated deliverables are due in to Summer Advantage on January 22nd at 5pm. These deliverables are mission-critical to Summer Advantage and should be user-friendly and immediately implementable.

A panel of judges will review each projects deliverables after January 22nd and the top teams will be invited to attend the Ashoka Changemaker Summit on February 19th in Washington, DC. Teams will be asked to present their projects to their peers and winners of the challenge will be announced. The Winter Intensive is a part of the Summer Advantage Fellowship program that aims to provide an opportunity for budding social entrepreneurs to develop skills, gain valuable experience, deepen their passion for the social sector and contribute to the Summer Advantage mission to serve children through summer learning programs.



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Application Process

Please complete the following information and email with resumes for all members of the team to hiring@summeradvantage.org by November 30, 2009 at noon. Questions may also be directed to that address.

Teams of 3-5 members will be selected based on evidence of the following: capacity for multidisciplinary problem solving; potential for success; strong interest and dedication to serving children; organization and strong project management; ability to work and be productive with minimal supervision; and entrepreneurial spirit.

Rules and Regulations

- Each team will have a maximum of 3 hours over the course of the three weeks to ask questions of SA leadership, as arranged with the Winter Intensive Coordinator.
- Teams will have access to each other via online tools and can use any other resources they deem appropriate.
- All teams will be matched with a Field Advisor, a leader in the project field, for at least one consultation.
- Teams invited to attend the Changemaker Summit in Washington, DC will receive a waived conference participation fee. Travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the invited teams.
- Each team must:
 - Have 3-5 members, including at least one graduate level student (current student or professional with 3-5 years of work experience);
 - Choose designated team lead who will be primary contact;
 - Have the support of a faculty or professional advisor who will serve as a reference for the team and someone with whom the team can consult on the project;
 - Complete on-boarding requirements (including paperwork, confidentiality statement, and organizational overview presentation) and weekly reports on progress; and
 - Include members from a diverse range of personal, educational and professional backgrounds.

Team Lead/ Team Member 1:

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number (s):

Email Address:

University Affiliation, Major/Concentration and Expected Graduation Date:

Would you be interested in participating in our spring semester fellowship program? Yes No

Team Member 2:

Name:

Phone Number (s):

Email Address:

University Affiliation, Major/Concentration and Expected Graduation Date:

Would you be interested in participating in our spring semester fellowship program? Yes No

Team Member 3:

Name:

Phone Number (s):

Email Address:

University Affiliation, Major/Concentration and Expected Graduation Date:

Would you be interested in participating in our spring semester fellowship program? Yes No



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Team Member 4:

Name:

Phone Number (s):

Email Address:

University Affiliation, Major/Concentration and Expected Graduation Date:

Would you be interested in participating in our spring semester fellowship program? Yes No

Team Member 5:

Name:

Phone Number (s):

Email Address:

University Affiliation, Major/Concentration and Expected Graduation Date:

Would you be interested in participating in our spring semester fellowship program? Yes No

Please rank these project areas in order of your preference (1=top choice, 7=last choice).

- ___ Organizational Leadership (i.e. financial planning, presentation of growth process)
- ___ Human Capital (i.e. recruitment and retention strategies, training programs)
- ___ Strategic Partnerships (i.e. community and national partnership development)
- ___ Development (i.e. private, local and federal funding streams)
- ___ Education Programs (i.e. educational evaluations, curriculum development)
- ___ Operations (i.e. building data management systems, scalable technology systems)
- ___ Public Policy (i.e. education reform policy research and recommendations)
- ___ Communications (i.e. media strategy, stakeholder engagement)

Faculty or Professional Advisor

Name:

Title:

University Affiliation:

Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Area of Expertise:

Short essays:

1. Please explain the skills, talents and experience that this team can bring to a strategic project at Summer Advantage USA, including how the team as a whole will be effective as well as how each individual on the team will contribute. (500 words maximum)
2. Please explain why this team would like to participate in the Winter Intensive: Changemaker Challenge and what it hopes to get out of the experience. (300 words maximum)

Availability

Please explain any restraints in availability between January 4 and January 22, as well as for the Ashoka Summit on February 19th.