Net Impact Board Fellows

About
Net Impact is a network of 10,000+ graduate students and professionals using business skills to improve the world. The Board Fellows program matches local, Chicagoland area nonprofit boards and Chicago Booth MBA students, bringing valuable business skills to nonprofits, while exposing students to nonprofit management and governance and encouraging them to pursue board service throughout their lives.

Board Fellows come from a variety of backgrounds and typically have several years of professional experience. In teams of two to three, Fellows serve as non-voting board members that engage actively in board meetings and also complete a strategic consulting project.

Fellows receive training and workshops on board governance, project scoping, and more. They will also receive coaching from Booth alumni and support from the Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation and the Net Impact student group.

Requirements
Participating nonprofits must:
- Be based in the Chicagoland area
- Have a formal, established governing board
- Have capacity to provide students with the support and mentorship necessary to assimilate to the board and complete the strategic project
- Hold at least two board meetings or one board meeting and several committee meetings that students can attend between October 2021 – April 2022
- Place students on committees (if the board includes committees)
- Connect Fellows with at least one “Board Buddy” – a board member that is able to provide mentorship, coaching, and project guidance to Fellows throughout the cycle

In the application, nonprofits must outline a specific project that they expect their Fellows team to complete during the program timeframe. A project should be significant and specific enough to achieve in three to four months with approximately five to ten hours of work per month. Types of projects could include:
- Cost/benefit analysis
- Market plan development
- Strategic planning
- Evaluation of funding opportunities and revenue sources
Timeline

This year’s cycle will include changes to the structure and timing of the program in an effort to improve the experience for nonprofits. These changes will remove the summer hiatus, facilitate quicker project startups, and eliminate overlap between cohorts.

Timing for the 2021-2022 cycle is as follows:

- **July 12, 2021**: Applications open
- **September 6, 2021**: Applications close
- **Early October 2021**: Final matches are made
- **October 20, 2021**: Kick-off breakfast with Fellows and nonprofit partners (mandatory)
- **October 20 – December 2021**: Fellows begin to scope their projects
  - *Two week winter break in the final week of December and first week of January, pending potential academic schedule changes*
- **January 2022**: Fellows start executing projects
  - *One week spring break in March*
- **April 30, 2022**: Fellows wrap up projects and roll off board
- **Summer 2022**: Applications reopen

Matching Process

Before matching, all prospective Fellows and nonprofit partners are evaluated based on a written application. Approved nonprofits will be matched based on the Fellows’ expressed sector preference and the skills desired of a Fellow by the nonprofit. Every effort will be made to match all Fellows and boards.

Contacts

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