Net Impact Board Fellows

What is the Chicago Booth Board Fellows Program?
Net Impact is a network of 10,000+ graduate students and professionals using business to improve the world. The Board Fellows program brings together local nonprofit boards and Chicago Booth Full-Time MBA students. The Board Fellows program brings valuable business skills to nonprofits, while exposing Net Impact members to nonprofit management and governance. Participating boards invite students to attend their board meetings as non-voting members, and where appropriate, students complete a consulting project for the organization. Students also receive training on effective board governance, with the goal of preparing them to be effective future board members.

The Fellows will work with the nonprofit from March 2019 through March 2020. Board Fellows are all MBA students who come from a variety of backgrounds and typically have several years of professional experience. In teams of 2-3, fellows serve as non-voting board members that engage actively in meetings and also complete a strategic consulting project (if appropriate). Types of projects could include: cost/benefit analysis, market plan development; strategic planning; evaluation of funding opportunities and revenue sources; competitor/collaborator analysis. A project should be significant and useful while being of a specific enough scope to achieve in 5 months with approximately 5 to 10 hours of work per month.

What is the goal of the program?
Students gain familiarity with board best practices and first-hand experience from watching boards confront real-world challenges. The program provides exposure to nonprofit boards at a relatively early point in most students’ careers, which helps prepare them for future board responsibilities. The experience also encourages ongoing engagement with nonprofits, and allows students to add value (at the option of the nonprofit) by completing a consulting project.

What is the timeline of the program?
Board Fellows will serve beginning their first year and continue until the end of their second year. The timeframe for the current season is Winter 2019 – Spring 2020.

How are nonprofit partners and Board Fellows matched?
Before matching, all prospective Fellows and nonprofit partners will be evaluated based on a written application and a phone or in-person interview. Approved Fellows will be matched with potential boards based on the Fellows’ expressed sector preference and a match between the Fellows’ skills and those desired by the nonprofit. Every effort will be made to appropriately match Fellows and Boards. If problems arise, each situation will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Contact Information
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