



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2021

FAQ: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT OMLA FELLOWSHIP

Q: What does the OMLA fellowship aim to do in Africa?

One Million Leaders Africa intends to harness the positive energy of youth and help train a whole new generation of leaders in Africa who can help put the continent on a more sustainable course. By 2030, we will have raised one million young leaders who will be connected, inspired, and empowered to transform Africa starting from their communities.

Q: Who are the OMLA Fellows?

We look for young people who aspire to build a movement of youth working for change in communities across Africa. Fellows come from all walks of life and are embedded within a broad range of discipline; they are championing neglected causes and catalyzing social entrepreneurship. They are bridging social and economic divides. They are responsible for training young people in their communities.

Q: What is the OMLA Fellowship Program?

One Million Leaders Africa Fellowship is the beginning of a journey towards transforming Africa by Africans. It is equipping young leaders and will help raise one million Nelson Mandelas on the continent by 2030 with practical skills in transformative and sustainable leadership, as well as tools for innovation and social entrepreneurship, which will allow them to become trainers of new leaders in their respective countries.

Q: Will Fellows be paid a stipend?

The fellows receive monthly running costs during the fellowship year and a stipend at the end of the pilot.

Q: Where will the Fellows come from?

Fellows are selected across Africa. For the pilot program, only from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Q: What are the qualifications to be an OMLA Fellow?

We are looking for young Africans:

Who have an undying passion to transform Africa – meaning that in everything you do you act with the OMLA core values - I AM SET to transform Africa!

- Integrity: You are an ethical social change maker.
- Accountability: You are accountable for the change you want to see in your community and Africa
- Modesty (humility): You carry the humility of Nelson Mandela – he had extraordinary self-confidence and pride, not in individual achievement but collective achievement.
- Sustainability: You are not borrowing resources from future generations but rather conserving or regenerating resources for the utmost good of all.
- Excellence: You do not only want Africa and Africans to survive but excel.
- Teamwork: You bring other young Africans together to make change happen on the continent. You work well with others who have very different perspectives and experiences.

ABOUT OMLA FELLOWSHIP

Who have led a social change project – that is, for a sustained period, you have:

- Recognized a social problem in your community.
- Explored the social problem to understand its root causes and come up with a solution.
- Developed a team and worked with them to create a plan for solving the problem.
- Created a social project with your solution and created meaningful, measurable change.
- Please understand that a successful social project does not have to be big in terms of size or impact.
- A youth leader, who:
 - Can mobilize, bond with, and build relationships and confidence with young people.
 - Can communicate clearly and engagingly with young people.
 - Has a track record of empowering and inspiring other young people to become leaders themselves

Who can lead OMLA training and project in their region - you:

- Recruit, train, and mentor (using the OMLA Fellow's Manual) 50 young people in your region for 9 months.
- Coordinate the social projects to be started and run by these young people, process and manage mini-grants allocated the OMLA Stars.
- Work with other OMLA fellows from across the continent to implement OMLA activities.
- Can successfully manage multiple projects, prioritizing and paying attention to detail.
- Are creative, flexible, and open to change.
- Are comfortable with doing your work online as well: for example, you will have to register your OMLA Stars on the OMLA portals and upload several assignments.

Q: Do they need to move somewhere to be a fellow?

Fellows can participate from anywhere in Africa since all training and communications will be virtual. So, there is no need for any sort of mobilization to become a fellow.

Q: Do the fellows' work need to be focused on the country they live in?

The fellows' work must be focused on the country they live in because part of their commitment is to recruit, train, and mentor (using the Fellow's Manual) 50 young people in their region for nine (9) months.

Q: Beyond the selection considerations, what are their eligibility requirements?

FELLOWS SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Based in Africa.
- Fluent in English.
- Have the habit of reading and being committed to it; should be able to read and give an assessment of at least four out of six recommended books within nine (9) months.
- Have reliable access to a fast, stable internet connection.
- Be able to commit to at least one year as OMLA Fellow.
- Be able to travel.

Q: Can people affiliated with OMLA/NELIS and recipients of previous OMLA/NELIS programs be Fellows?

The OMLA fellowship pilot year is open to all, including those that are affiliated with OMLA/NELIS in one way or the other. The only exception is those that have official responsibilities to handle the organizing and planning of the fellowship pilot program.

ABOUT OMLA FELLOWSHIP

Q: Is there an age requirement?

Fellows should be under 40 years of age.

Q: Is OMLA looking for fellows from a specific sector?

OMLA needs young people who want to be part of the movement of 1 million young Africans that will guide Africa to a better future by 2030, regardless of their field of study or profession.

Q: Can someone engaged in another job be a fellow?

The fellowship program doesn't stop fellows from going about their jobs. It only requires an intentional commitment that is driven by passion to make a change.

Q: How does OMLA make the pilot program inclusive?

THE OMLA FELLOWSHIP PILOT YEAR IS GOING TO UNFOLD IN THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

- Twenty (20) OMLA **Fellows** are selected from across Africa. We look for young people who aspire to build a movement of youth working for change in communities across Africa.
- They attend two (2) months of virtual training.
- After the training, each fellow will train and mentor fifty (50) young people (OMLA **Stars** - who aspire to create social projects within their communities) for nine (9) months in their country.
- Within the nine (9) months of OMLA Stars training, the fellows will attend the OMLA Masterclasses and complete monthly assignments.
- Fifty (50) Stars under the mentorship of each fellow will be grouped into teams with ten stars per team, making a total of five (5) star teams under a fellow and each of these Star team will receive grants for the community projects they will undertake and recruit 50 young people in their communities called **Starlets** to be trained as well.
- The fellows receive monthly running costs during the fellowship year and a stipend at the end of the pilot.
- At the end of the Fellowship Year, the Fellows, Stars and Starlets become part of a lifelong OMLA Alumni community that offers several opportunities.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Q: What is the application and selection process?

Fellows are chosen through a selection process, based on the considerations and eligibility requirements outlined in the "Application and Selection Processes" sections below.

The OMLA team reviews applications and invites selected candidates to participate in a virtual interview.

Q: How many fellows will be selected?

Twenty (20) OMLA Fellows are selected from across Africa for the pilot program.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Q: What is OMLA assessing during the selection process?

HOW WE CHOOSE THE OMLA FELLOWS

We are looking for young Africans:

Who have an undying passion to transform Africa – meaning that in everything you do you act with the OMLA core values - I AM SET to transform Africa!

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- Excellence: You do not only want Africa and Africans to survive but excel.
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Who had led a social change project – that is, for a sustained period, you have:

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- Explored the social problem to understand its root causes and come up with a solution.
- Developed a team and work with them to create a plan for solving the problem.
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A youth leader, who:

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Who can lead OMLA training and project in their region - you:

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- Work with other OMLA fellows from across the continent to implement OMLA activities
- Can successfully manage multiple projects, prioritizing and paying attention to detail.
- Are creative, flexible, and open to change.
- Are comfortable with doing your work online as well: for example, you will have to register your OMLA Stars on the OMLA portals and upload several assignments.

Who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- Based in Africa.
- Fluent in English.
- Have the habit of reading and being committed to it; should be able to read and give an assessment of at least four out of six recommended books within nine (9) months.
- Have reliable access to a fast, stable internet connection.
- Be able to commit to at least one year as an OMLA Fellow.
- Be able to travel.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Q: What is the application process?

THE APPLICATION PROCESSES

- Application opens to young people across the continent to apply for the OMLA Fellowship – 27th Sept. 2021
- Application closes. – 31st Oct. 2021
- Selection and Interviews - 1st to 26th Nov. 2022
- Successful applicants' notification – 15th Nov to 3rd December 2021

APPLICATION DETAILS

You can be part of this movement to transform Africa, just [apply now](#)

Q: If applicants face trouble uploading or submitting the application, what should they do?

Please write to omla@nelisglobal.org or www.onemillionleadersafrica.org if facing any difficulty with the application process.

FELLOWSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Q: What are the program commitments and time expectations for Fellows?

- Fellows are expected to be committed to the programs stated below at the slated time:
- Fellowship onboarding Training – 16th Dec. 2021
- Fellowship Starts (Fellows Training, OMLA Stars Training, OMLA Stars project, OMLA Master Classes, Graduation, and Alumni)
- Fellowship training starts –Jan. – Feb. 2022
- OMLA Stars training – March - May 2022
- OMLA Masterclasses – monthly
- Leadership webinar series – quarterly
- Graduation and Alumni induction – Dec. 2022

Q: What languages will be included in the Fellowship program?

All Fellowship programming will be conducted in the English language.

Q: What is the total time commitment required for the fellowship?

Over a year, Fellows will be engaged in a series of virtual training for two (2) months. After the training, each fellow will train and mentor fifty (50) young people (OMLA Stars - who aspire to create social projects within their communities) for nine (9) months, while executing the community project, each Star team will recruit and train fifty (50) young people called **Starlets** in their country.

Q: What skills do fellows develop during the fellowship?

The OMLA fellowship is equipping young leaders with practical skills in transformative and sustainable leadership, as well as tools for innovation and social entrepreneurship, which will allow them to become trainers of new leaders in their respective countries.

FELLOWSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Q: How do fellows learn and practice?

OMLA fellows attend two (2) months of virtual training where they are trained in:

- Leadership for a Better Future
- Sustainability
- Social Innovation and social entrepreneurship.

Our OMLA Fellow Manual will guide you through the process of creating social change projects in your community especially on how you will act as a trainer for other young people (which we call OMLA Stars) in your country on how they too can create community projects.

During your training, you will learn how to:

- Identify and select a social problem
- Explore the social problem
- Plan to solve the social problem
- Implement/do your plan, and
- Evaluate your social work.

After the training, each fellow will train and mentor fifty (50) young people (OMLA Stars - who aspire to create social projects within their communities) for nine (9) months in their country.

During the nine (9) months of OMLA Stars training, community projects, and Starlets' training, fellows will attend the OMLA Masterclasses, complete monthly assignments, and organize quarterly leadership webinars, where they invite African influential leaders who are passionate for a better Africa, to have a mind-rubbing session on issues mounting pressure on the progress of Africa and their heuristics about them.

Q: Which costs does the program cover?

Monthly running costs and grants to run community projects will be made available. Meanwhile, at the end of the fellowship year, a cash prize for professional development support shall be awarded to fellows upon the successful completion of the fellowship year.

Q: Where will the OMLA stars' training be held?

The OMLA stars' training will be held onsite in each fellow's country.

Q: Do fellows have to attend every session?

The program requires 100% attendance. All Fellows must attend all virtual training, leadership webinars, and masterclasses, and complete any in-between assignments. If emergencies arise, we make exceptions on a case-by-case basis and work with the Fellow to align on the best path forward.

Q: What happens after the fellowship year?

After the one year of commitment, the OMLA Fellows, Stars, and Starlets are introduced to a vibrant Alumni community where they can network and join forces with other Alumni to transform Africa. The Alumni will be privy to life-transforming opportunities in different categories such as scholarships, sponsorship to attend OML annual conference, recommendation to attend Kanthari in India on scholarship and the International Institute for Global Leadership, IIGL, U.S.A. education scholarship (e.g. Shizenkan University, Japan), OMLA accelerator's program (onsite) in Japan, opportunity to be a part of the one million leaders raised in Africa and other several opportunities.

Q: What impact/influence would the fellowship program infer in the views/mindset and lifestyle of recipients (fellows/stars/starlets) in their life journey?

After the series of trainings, masterclasses and discourses in the OMLA fellowship program, skilled and heart-centered leaders who are connected, inspired, and empowered to transform Africa holistically, starting from their communities with a positive energy would be evidently fortified in the fellows/stars/starlets.