WISE ACCELERATOR

2019 Call for Application

The WISE Accelerator 2019 call for application is now open until 30 April at 4:00 PM GMT. Applications must be submitted online using the official application found at this site: www.wise-qatar.org/wise-accelerator.

1. WHAT IS THE WISE ACCELERATOR?

The WISE Accelerator supports innovative initiatives developing solutions in education technology with high potential for scalability and positive impact.

Each year, the selected initiatives join the one-year program, during which they benefit from tailor-made support to address challenges that hinder their growth and scaling up process. In addition, the WISE Accelerator assists the selected initiatives to connect with an international network of education stakeholders and create opportunities to share knowledge and find support among potential partners, donors and investors during international events organized by WISE. Finally, the selected initiatives will be matched with mentors who are experts in education, education technology and leaders in their field. Mentors will support the selected initiatives with advice, guidance and connections to different education and business stakeholders.

The WISE Accelerator has supported 24 ventures from 15 countries. They have over 14 million beneficiaries in over 130 countries. They were able to raise over $28 million in investments/donations since selected by the WISE Accelerator.

2. WHAT TYPE OF INITIATIVES ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ACCELERATOR?

The WISE Accelerator supports innovative edtech initiatives that have a high potential for scalability and positive impact in education.

Initiatives addressing education challenges through the use and/or design of technology in all sectors and regions are welcome to apply. Initiatives in this particular field may cover a wide range of activities. From the conception of apps and digital games to the creation of online platforms or the design of new curricula and pedagogies integrating technology.

All for profit and non-profit edtech initiatives that are using or linking technology to their DNA are invited to apply.
Ideal candidates for the WISE Accelerator must be existing **edtech initiatives** at an early stage of development, with the following attributes:

- Established for at least one year;
- A growing number of beneficiaries or customers;
- A record of activities with a product or service that has been implemented and beyond proof of concept;
- Existing revenues;
- A dedicated team, with an established physical space or office;
- Deep knowledge of the market/educational context and of their beneficiaries’ or customers’ needs;
- Motivation to develop further;
- Understanding of the initiative’s current challenges.

### 3. HOW ARE THE INITIATIVES SELECTED?

A Committee composed of leading experts in education and social entrepreneurship will support the WISE Accelerator team in the selection process.

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **The Team:**
  
  The WISE team will assess the team’s ability to execute and deliver on their vision

- **The Solution:**
  
  The WISE team will assess how well the solution developed by the initiative addresses the problem that the initiative aims to solve

- **The Innovation:**
  
  The WISE team will assess how innovative is the solution developed by the initiative in light of solutions developed worldwide in the edtech sector

- **The educational impact:**
  
  The WISE team will assess the educational impact that the initiative may have as it scales up

- **The Market:**
  
  The WISE team will take into consideration the potential of the edtech market where the initiative operates

The initiatives will be selected and announced in **September 2019**.

### 4. WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

Applications must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Applicants must have an initiative related to the field of education technology.
2. **Initiatives must be formally constituted and must have progressed beyond proof of concept.** The WISE Accelerator is not intended for new and untried ideas. Any such applications will not be considered.
3. All applicants must complete, in English, the official online application form fully.
4. All applicants must submit a short 3 minutes video pitch by submitting a YouTube link. During the pitch, they will explain their edtech solution, the problem they are tackling, who their beneficiaries are, their progress so far and why they are applying for the WISE Accelerator.

5. Contact details and complete information on two references (e.g. former donors, local governments, other organizations, etc.) must be included in all applications. Valid referees include individuals from organizations who can comment knowledgeably on the activity of the initiative.

Representatives of shortlisted initiatives will be contacted for a call with the WISE Accelerator team. The WISE Accelerator and the Committee reserve the right to ask for clarification or complementary information or documentation from the applicants.

Selected initiatives will delegate a representative who will personally engage with the WISE Accelerator team and mentors, participate and represent the initiative in WISE international events and conferences over the course of the year.

5. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

The application deadline for the 2019-2020 WISE Accelerator cycle is 30 April, 2019 at 4:00 PM GMT.

6. HOW WILL THE ACCELERATOR SUPPORT SELECTED INITIATIVES?

The year-long program is designed to assess and meet the initiatives’ needs as fully and precisely as possible in order to bring them to the next stage of development and scale up.

Key milestones in the 2019-2020 program are:

❖ **Kick-off**
Selected initiatives participate in the program kick-off to be held during WISE 2019 Summit in Doha, Qatar where they will benefit from workshops, masterclasses and networking opportunities.

❖ **Needs Assessment**
The WISE Accelerator team will evaluate the initiatives’ priority needs and identify optimal ways to address them.

❖ **Tailor-made Support**
This phase corresponds to the rollout of the mentorship and training provided by the WISE Accelerator team and partner organizations, combining both face-to-face meetings and mostly distance, personalized sessions.

❖ **Mentorship**
The WISE Accelerator team will match each selected initiative with mentors selected from a WISE community of over 50,000 education stakeholders. These mentors will advise, guide and support the initiatives in their growth. Often, the mentors are CEO’s and directors of for profit and non-profit education initiatives.
❖ Ongoing communication and visibility
The selected initiatives benefit from ongoing communication and international exposure, as well as from networking opportunities throughout the year. This takes place via WISE media platforms and international events.

❖ Program Closing
The program closing will also take part at a WISE international event in order for the selected initiatives to benefit from further opportunities for support, networking and international visibility. In the past, the international events took part in major cities such as Paris, New York or Madrid.

❖ Follow-up and Evaluation
During the selection process and following the conclusion of the program, the WISE Accelerator team will administer surveys to the shortlisted applicants as well as selected initiatives in order to evaluate the progress made over the year by the selected and non-selected initiatives with the aim to evaluate the impact of the program. The WISE Accelerator will collect information on the initiatives’ growth every six months for two years. At the end of two years from finishing the program, The WISE Accelerator team will collect information on the initiatives’ growth once a year. All information collected will be anonymized and collected with the permission of the initiatives.

7. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COMMUNICATION
WISE reserves the right to publicize the selected initiatives by means of any kind of communication (internal and/or commercial advertising), through any promotional media (press, magazines, catalogues, websites, etc.) all over the world.

This communication may be in the form of pictures, recordings (audio and visual) and texts supplied by each of the selected initiatives.

By applying for the WISE Accelerator, contestants agree to provide photos and descriptions of their initiatives following the selection process. They also acknowledge the right of WISE to use this material.

Selected initiatives agree to provide WISE with information on any developments of their initiatives that may be a result of, or linked to, the WISE initiative and the WISE Accelerator.

DATA PROTECTION
By taking part in this program, applicants agree that their personal details will be included in a database owned by WISE, which will be the exclusive custodian of the said details for the purpose of managing the specified selection process. The WISE initiative will not sell or distribute applicants’ personal data to third parties.

Applicants have the right to access and modify any personal data concerning themselves. Applicants also have the right to decline inclusion in a database, and may exercise these rights at any time by making the appropriate request in writing to accelerator@wise.org.qa.
LIABILITY

QATAR FOUNDATION reserves the right to modify the conditions of the call for initiatives and/or the Accelerator at any time.

QATAR FOUNDATION shall not be liable if the call for initiatives is extended, shortened, modified or cancelled, or if problems arise with the website or due to loss of materials in e-mail and/or postal services.

Applicants may not contest the choice of the selected initiatives.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

QATAR FOUNDATION owns the intellectual property rights for texts, photos, films, documentaries, etc. made for the WISE initiative and also for the trademarks and logos appearing in various supporting media. Consequently, the applicants cannot use them, in whole or in part, unless they have received specific authorization from the WISE team.

GOVERNING LAW – JURISDICTION

These rules for the WISE Accelerator are governed by Qatari law and, in the event of a dispute regarding their interpretation or performance, such dispute shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts in Doha, Qatar.

INFORMATION AND QUERIES

For application forms and further information about the 2019-20 WISE Accelerator cycle, please visit the official website www.wise-qatar.org/wise-accelerator. For any queries, please contact the WISE team through the website or by email: accelerator@wise.org.qa

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES OF THE 2019-20 WISE ACCELERATOR CYCLE

Applying for the 2019-2020 WISE Accelerator cycle indicates the applicant’s full acceptance of these rules. Interpretation of these rules falls within the exclusive competence of QATAR FOUNDATION.