



Application Instructions and Guidelines for *YSEALI Alumni and American Entrepreneurs and Innovators*

To apply, visit: <https://asiafoundation.org/2018/09/05/now-accepting-applications-2018-yseali-summit-singapore-united-states-asean-partners-in-growth-and-innovation>

**(Extended) application deadline: Monday, October 15, 2018 at 11:59pm
PDT**

Thank you for your interest in the 2018 YSEALI Summit, which will take place at the Carlton Hotel in Singapore December 3-5, 2018. As the application process is expected to be highly competitive, **please follow instructions carefully to ensure that all components are accurate, complete and submitted on time.**

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Application must be completed online and consists of the following components:

1. Personal information
2. Written submission
3. Supplementary materials: Resume/CV
4. Video submission

In preparation for the application process, please secure the following:

- Your passport information
- An electronic version of your Resume/CV (for upload)
- A video recording device such as a cellphone, webcam, or digital/video camera

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Launched in 2013, the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) is the U.S. Department of State's signature program to strengthen leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia. Through a variety of programs and engagements, YSEALI seeks to build the leadership capabilities of youth in the region, strengthen ties between the United States and Southeast Asia, and nurture an ASEAN community of leaders who work across borders to solve common issues.

The 2018 YSEALI Summit, to be held in Singapore December 3-5, 2018, will gather 150 participants aged 18-35 around the theme "The United States and ASEAN: Partners in Growth and Innovation." The Summit, which marks YSEALI's fifth anniversary, will showcase innovative approaches to economic cooperation and growth by U.S. companies, organizations, and institutions present in ASEAN and allow young innovators and entrepreneurs from both the United States and ASEAN to connect with each other and with participating experts. Throughout the Summit, participants will showcase projects, receive mentorship, explore opportunities to expand their work, exchange ideas on how to foster economic growth in their communities, and find avenues for stronger economic cooperation between the United States and ASEAN. The Summit will also explore topics such as: best practices in innovation and partnership; the role of public private partnerships and corporate social responsibility in spurring economic growth; incubators; expanding digital literacy; entrepreneurship as a driver for community development; and healthy start-up ecosystems.

The Innovation Slam competition will be a central activity of the 2018 YSEALI Summit. Throughout the course of the Summit, participants will learn the "lean startup methodology" of creating a successful enterprise and work on collaborative group projects, developing a minimum viable product showcase that satisfies the above-mentioned criteria, while employing each group members' skills and expertise. These projects will have social impact; be potentially scalable across ASEAN; have a solid revenue generation model; and have implications for support or partnership with U.S. business, organizations or institutions. Throughout the development of the collaborative projects, teams will be coached by industry experts to enable participants to gain understanding of a variety of skills necessary in developing an enterprise.

The Asia Foundation is implementing the 2018 YSEALI Summit, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy Singapore and the American Chamber of Commerce Singapore.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

To qualify as YSEALI Summit participants, **YSEALI Alumni from Southeast Asia** must:

- Be an alumnus/alumna of one of the following YSEALI programs: YSEALI Academic Fellowship, YSEALI Professional Fellowship, YSEALI Generation Regional Workshop, YSEALI Seeds for the Future Grants Competition;
- Be resident in and citizen of an ASEAN country (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam).
- Be between 18 years of age and 35 years of age at the time of the beginning of the Summit, 3 December 2018;
- Have a demonstrable record of high achievement, and must show evidence of outstanding potential for professional advancement and significant impact in their chosen field;
- Have a demonstrable record of experience and accomplishment related to YSEALI's four pillars – economic growth, sustainable development, education, and civic engagement;
- Be thoughtful, committed, respected and inspirational leaders within their professional fields and within their larger community;
- Be conversant in English (TOEFL exam results are not required);

- Be available and able to participate in all three days of the Summit (3-5 December 2018), no exceptions;

To qualify as YSEALI Summit participants, **YSEALI Alumni from the United States** must:

- Be an alumnus/alumna of a YSEALI Reverse Exchange;
- Be resident national or citizen of the United States of America.
- Have a demonstrable record of high achievement, and must show evidence of significant impact in their chosen field;
- Have a demonstrable record of experience and accomplishment related to YSEALI's four pillars – economic growth, sustainable development, education, and civic engagement;
- Be thoughtful, committed, respected and inspirational leaders within their professional fields and within their larger community;
- Be available and able to participate in all three days of the Summit (3-5 December 2018), no exceptions;

To qualify as YSEALI Summit participants, **Young American Entrepreneurs and Innovators** must:

- Be resident national or citizen of the United States of America.
- Have a demonstrable record of experience as an entrepreneur and/or innovator, and record of accomplishment related to YSEALI's four pillars – economic growth, sustainable development, education, and civic engagement;
- Have a demonstrable record of high achievement, and must show evidence of significant impact in their chosen field;
- Be thoughtful, committed, respected and inspirational leaders within their professional fields and within their larger community;
- Be available and able to participate in all three days of the Summit (3-5 December 2018), no exceptions;

For further information on eligibility, read our *Frequently Asked Questions* (page 5). You may also direct inquiries to Asia Foundation staff.

ONLINE APPLICATION

Applications for the 2018 YSEALI Summit are to be completed online through the WizeHive application system. The system will require you to set up an account, so you can save and resume your progress.

Personal Information

You will be asked to provide personal information such as contact details and your educational and professional background. You will also be asked about your language ability (NOTE: this program does not require standardized exam scores such as TOEFL).

Written Submission

The online application will include essay fields. Applicants must address the following prompts:

- **All applicants:** Provide a brief, one-paragraph biography, *written in the third-person*, which summarizes your professional background and experiences, expertise, and accomplishments. Please note that this biography may be used in Summit directories or publications or external announcements that provide information on YSEALI Summit participants. (max 150 words)
- **YSEALI Alumni applicants:** Describe in greater detail your current work as it pertains to the Summit theme of “Partnership for Growth and Innovation”. Make a strong case as to why you believe this work is important and how it can affect larger change. Feel free to briefly provide some background context or basic information (as you see fit) to describe the problem. (max 400 words)
- **Young American Entrepreneurs and Innovators:** As participants in the YSEALI Summit, Young American Entrepreneurs and Innovators will also be called upon to share their experiences, coach teammates, build connections, and contribute to the overall goals of the Summit. Given the Summit theme of “U.S.-ASEAN Partnership for Growth and Innovation” and the selection criteria, what should we know about you, your work, and your aspirations? (max 400 words)

Supplementary Materials

You will be required to upload:

1. *An electronic version of your Resume or CV* (3 pages max). You may also upload a scanned copy as long as it fits the appropriate file formats.

Video Submission

As YSEALI recognizes the importance of media and the role of technology, applicants are requested to create a short, 3-4 minute video (required for YSEALI Alumni from Southeast Asia). Using a webcam, cell phone or video camera, please record yourself presenting your response to the below:

Prompt: Quickly introduce yourself and your professional background; then:

Explain how you might promote economic growth in your community, across ASEAN, or between ASEAN and the United States through entrepreneurship, investment and innovation. Please present your own critical perspectives on the subject.

You can either (1) upload your video directly to the application system (max size: 600MB) or (2) you may use a video hosting website such as YouTube, Vimeo, or DropBox. If you elect this option, title your video with your full name and adjust your privacy settings to make sure only those with the URL are able to view your video. Every hosted video has a URL or web address which you can copy and paste below. If you wish to password protect your video, please use the following password: **yseali2018**

NOTE: Video submission is required for YSEALI Alumni from Southeast Asia, and is optional for YSEALI Reverse Exchange Alumni from the United States and for Young American Entrepreneurs and Innovators.

IMPORTANT:

- Remember that your video presentation should convey your traits as a leader: ability to capture and hold an audience’s attention; great people skills; and ability to speak with clarity, brevity and structure.
- A strong video takes time and practice, so please plan to devote plenty of time into its preparation.

- Do not waste time on aesthetics such as excessive editing, visual effects, music or other elaborate elements, as they will not factor into the evaluation. Your video should primarily feature you and your ideas.
- Please try to keep the duration under 4 minutes.
- Make sure the size of your video file is not too large (under 600MB). When recording, check your video quality settings. Remember, higher quality video and sound does not necessarily strengthen your application.
- If you are having difficulty due to lack of reliable internet, try first uploading your submission from a different computer or try another location with stronger connection such as an internet café. If you are continuing to experience problems or have other technical difficulties please contact Asia Foundation staff.

SELECTION TIMELINE

September 5, 2018 – Application opens.

October 15, 2018 – (Extended) application deadline.

Late October– Final selection of participants announced.

APPLY

Access the online application at: <https://asiafoundation.org/2018/09/05/now-accepting-applications-2018-yseali-summit-singapore-united-states-asean-partners-in-growth-and-innovation>

CONTACT

For questions or clarifications on the application process, please contact:

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For more information on YSEALI, visit: <https://asean.usmission.gov/yseali/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PROGRAM AND ELIGIBILITY

How many participants will be selected?

The Summit will bring together 150 participants in total: 100 Southeast Asian alumni of YSEALI programs, including the U.S.-based Professional and Academic Fellows program, YSEALI Generation Regional Workshops, and the Seeds for the Future Competition; 20 U.S. alumni of YSEALI Reverse Exchanges; and 30 young American entrepreneurs and innovators.

Are there specific age requirements?

For YSEALI participants from Southeast Asia, you must be no younger than 18 years of age and no older than 35 years of age on 3 December 2018. For example, you must have been born after 4 December 1982 and before 3 December 2000. There are no age requirements for YSEALI Reverse Exchange alumni and young American entrepreneurs and innovators participants from the United States.

I am just above the age cutoff. Could you relax the age limit?

Unfortunately, no exceptions can be made with respect to the age requirements for participants from Southeast Asia.

Is there a degree requirement?

While most qualified candidates will have strong academic backgrounds – bachelors, masters and even PhDs in relevant areas – the program acknowledges that strong leadership potential, relevant professional experience, and thematic knowledge can be demonstrated without the presence of a formal degree. Therefore at this time, there is no degree requirement for this program. Those who have completed an academic degree program are required to submit an unofficial copy of their transcripts verifying completion of their degree program.

Is there a minimum work experience requirement?

There is no minimum work experience requirement. However, desirable candidates will show excellent track records of at least two years of professional experience and accomplishment in their own disciplines. We seek candidates who can demonstrate outstanding leadership potential and professional competencies, and much of this typically derives from experience in dynamic working environments.

How do I verify my eligibility with respect to the citizenship/nationality requirements?

In general, the YSEALI Summit seeks Asian and American professionals who have a deep familiarity with their respective country or region. For this reason, only citizens or resident nationals of ASEAN and the United States are eligible to apply. Applicants must be able to provide official documentation proving their citizenship or nationality, ideally in the form of a passport. While we do not require copies of these documents to be submitted during the online application, applicants should be prepared to provide such documentation upon being designated as a finalist during the selection process.

How do you define “resident national?”

A resident national is the equivalent in each Asian country of a "Permanent Resident" in the U.S. (or "Landed Resident" in some countries with a strong British influence). That is, the person is allowed to reside indefinitely within a country of which he or she is not a citizen. We do not have an exhaustive list of the types of documents needed to prove resident national status. Potential applicants therefore have a small amount of discretion as to whether or not documents in their possession will meet the abovementioned criteria. However, Asia Foundation staff will ultimately determine if the submitted documents are acceptable. Applicants should also note that simply meeting the nationality requirements does not necessarily constitute a strong application. Desirable candidates will have extensive histories in the listed countries and will be able to demonstrate a long-term commitment to working within their regional or country contexts.

Am I able to apply if I am currently living, working or studying outside my home country in Asia or the United States of America?

Yes. It is expected that some highly qualified candidates will be pursuing opportunities outside their home countries. Applicants currently living outside of Asia who hold citizenship and resident nationality from the accepted countries of this program are still eligible to apply.

Should I still apply even if I do not have a formal background in entrepreneurship and innovation?

Yes. The program welcomes candidates from diverse professional disciplines with demonstrable experience in issues involving Asian development and policy. While participants will typically be, entrepreneurs, NGO and civil society leaders, government officials and policymakers, social entrepreneurs, journalists, environmentalists, and academics, we still encourage highly talented and dedicated individuals from other disciplines to apply.

How well do I have to know English for this program?

While the program does not have a formal English proficiency requirement (for example, TOEFL exam results), selected participants must have strong enough English language skills to participate in all program components. Much of the program and its content are highly interactive and international in nature. Exceptional languages skills are highly desirable, but they are not a prerequisite for this program.

What is the time commitment?

Participants will be expected to arrive in Singapore by Sunday evening, 2 December 2018 and depart Thursday morning, 6 December 2018.

What if I am accepted to the program but not able to attend?

We ask that you do not apply to this program unless you are absolutely certain you are able to attend. In the case of an emergency or unforeseeable circumstances that preclude your participation, please notify staff as soon as possible.

If I applied to attend a previous YSEALI Summit and was not selected, can I apply again?

Yes, we encourage you to apply again.

Are current employees of The Asia Foundation eligible to apply?

The program is not open to current Foundation staff.

My passport is expired and currently being renewed, but it won't be ready until after the deadline. May I still apply?

Applicants may still apply by entering information from their expired passport. However, you must have your new valid passport before the final selection or your application will be dropped.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Am I provided funding to participate in this program?

All expenses are covered, including costs for airfare and local transportation, lodging and meals, and health and accident insurance.

Must I provide any proof or documentation of financial means?

Since virtually all program expenses are covered, we do not require any proof of financial means.

Does this program support family members?

The program does not provide support for family members and family members may not accompany the participants in the hotel.

What are the accommodations?

The Carlton Hotel, 76 Bras Basah Road, is centrally located in Singapore. Participants will be matched two to a room to promote bonding among the 2018 YSEALI Summit class.

APPLICATION PROCESS

When do I apply?

The application period takes place September 5, 2018 – October 15, 2018.

May I send my application via global mail or fax?

We do not accept applications by global mail or fax. All application components must be submitted electronically.

Will I have to submit documentation of citizenship or nationality?

We do not require these documents during the application process itself, however you may be required to send copies of these documents to verify that you meet the nationality requirements should your application advance further in the selection process.

What are the selection procedures?

All applications are evaluated by Asia Foundation staff at the initial reviewing stages and will be narrowed down to a final selection pool. Thereafter, a selection committee comprising of U.S. Department of State, U.S. Mission and Asia Foundation personnel will be charged with evaluating finalists and determining the 2018 YSEALI Summit participants.

When are we notified of the final selection?

The final selection will be announced in the second half of October 2018.

Do I have any responsibilities after the Summit in December 2018?

All participants will become part of an active and engaged alumni network – through web and social media platforms, as well as substantive program intersections – that will encourage ongoing collaboration and the sharing of ideas, resources, and support throughout their professional careers. Additionally, some groups will be awarded small grants as part of the Innovation Slam competition and will implement projects over the following 9 months.

My online application session has been disrupted. Did I lose all of my progress?

Please contact Asia Foundation staff and they will be able to assist you in recovering your application information.

09/2018