

# GCI FELLOWSHIP FAQs



## 2026 GCI Fellowship Application Timeline

Application Opens Nov. 1

Application Closes Feb. 28

Decisions Announced Mar. 2026

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Have questions about the GCI Fellowship and Summit? This FAQ page offers an overview of the program, application process, what to expect throughout the year, and more. If you don't see your question here, please reach out to [support@baldmountainmeadow.com](mailto:support@baldmountainmeadow.com).

## PROGRAM DETAILS

### SUMMIT DATES

**July 19 - 27, 2026**, followed by continued work on a service project tackling a global issue in your local community through June 2027.

### SUMMIT LOCATION

The Summit will take place at the **University of St Andrews in Scotland** and will include half-day excursions around the country's east coast.

### COST

USD \$6,000 includes Fellowship tuition, Summit room & board, all Summit transportation, and pick up and drop off at the Edinburgh Airport (EDI) or train station.

*\*Round trip travel to Scotland not included. \*A limited amount of financial aid is available.*

### What makes the GCI Fellowship unique?

The GCI Fellowship is a program that combines the Harkness® Method of discussion-based learning, Design Thinking, human connectivity, and long-term mentorship to give students the resources they need to make a positive difference in the world. Fellows don't just talk about global challenges, they design and lead a real project in their own community, supported by peers, alumni, and experienced educators. The Fellowship emphasizes reflection, collaboration, and ethical leadership, helping students grow not only as changemakers but as thoughtful global citizens.

### How are the Fellowship and Summit connected?

The Fellowship begins at the Summit, where Fellows gather in person to build community, explore global issues, and begin shaping their "Glocal" Service Projects. After the Summit, Fellows return to their home and continue working together virtually throughout the year, developing and implementing their projects with ongoing guidance and support.

### What is a "Glocal" Service Project (GSP)?

A "Glocal" Service Project (GSP) is a student-designed initiative that connects a global issue to a local community need. Fellows identify an issue they care about, research its global context, and then take meaningful action locally in a way that is thoughtful, sustainable, and responsive to community voices.

### What kinds of issues do Fellows tackle with their GSPs?

Fellows work on a wide range of issues, including education access, environmental sustainability, public health, economic opportunity, mental health, gender equity, and more. Projects are often informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing a global framework for understanding these challenges while allowing Fellows to shape their work around their own interests, lived experiences, and community context. There is no single "right" topic.

### Can I apply if I don't yet have a fully formed project idea?

Absolutely! Many Fellows apply with only a general interest or question they want to explore. The Fellowship is designed to help students clarify ideas, conduct empathy-based research, and develop their projects over time. Curiosity, commitment, and openness to learning matter more than having everything figured out.

### What is the time commitment for the Fellowship?

Following the multi-day, immersive experience of the Summit, the rest of the Fellowship is designed to be manageable alongside school and other responsibilities. Fellows participate in periodic virtual meetings, complete reflective and planning assignments, and spend time working on their GSP at their own pace throughout the year.

### How many Fellows will be selected to participate in the 2026 Fellowship?

The 2026 Fellowship will include a limited cohort of Fellows, selected to ensure a close-knit and supportive learning environment. Final cohort size may vary, but GCI prioritizes depth of engagement and meaningful mentorship over scale. Typical cohort sizes are 28–34 students.

### How are Fellows selected?

Fellows are selected through a holistic review process. We consider applicants' curiosity, thoughtfulness, openness to diverse perspectives, commitment to learning, and interest in making a positive impact. Prior leadership experience or project experience is not required.

### What kind of support do Fellows receive while working on their GSP?

Fellows receive guidance from their GSP Coach, other program staff, and peer Fellows. Support includes structured virtual sessions, feedback on project development, opportunities to share progress, and access to a global community of young leaders and educators.

### How often do Fellows meet during the school year?

Fellows meet virtually several times throughout the Fellowship year for workshops, discussions, and check-ins. Meetings are scheduled in advance and spaced out to allow time for project work, reflection, and school commitments.

### What is a typical day at the Summit like?

Summit days include interactive workshops, small-group discussions, guest speakers, community-building activities, and time for reflection. The environment is collaborative and engaging, balancing structured learning with informal connection and fun.

### What travel arrangements are required for the Summit?

Fellows are responsible for arranging travel to and from the Summit location in Scotland. GCI provides detailed guidance well in advance to help families plan, and limited travel support may be available for those who qualify. GCI will also coordinate shuttle transportation from Edinburgh Airport (EDI) and Edinburgh Waverley Train Station to the University of St Andrews for all Fellows, regardless of financial aid status.

### Is housing provided during the Summit?

Yes. Housing is provided for Fellows during the Summit, along with meals and other on-site support. Fellows stay together in supervised accommodations at the University of St Andrews to foster community and ensure safety.

### Does GCI offer financial support or scholarships for the program?

Yes. GCI is committed to making the Fellowship accessible and offers need-based financial support. Students can apply for financial support as part of the Fellowship application process.

### How does GCI support alumni beyond the Fellowship?

Alumni are invited to stay involved through mentorship opportunities, leadership roles, events, and continued connection to the GCI global network. Many alumni return as Teaching Assistants and guest speakers.

### Does participation help with college or career pathways?

Yes. Fellows gain experience in leadership, project design, collaboration, and ethical problem-solving. These skills are valuable for college applications, scholarships, and future careers. Fellows also benefit from access to GCI's global network of alumni, mentors, and educators, as well as resources that support continued learning and growth. Alumni often cite the Fellowship as a formative experience in shaping their academic and professional paths.

### What should parents/guardians know about the Fellowship?

The GCI Fellowship is a supportive, well-structured program that prioritizes student safety, well-being, and growth. Fellows are guided by experienced educators and staff, and the program emphasizes reflection, responsibility, and respectful dialogue.

### Who can students or parents contact with questions or concerns?

The 2026 Fellowship is operated by GCI's partner, Bald Mountain Meadow (BMM). Students and parents are welcome to contact the BMM Team directly at [support@baldmountainmeadow](mailto:support@baldmountainmeadow) with any questions or concerns. We're always happy to talk through details and support families throughout the process.



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INITIATIVE



2026 GCI Fellowship by Bald Mountain Meadow