

Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship for African Students

Queen's University and Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre

- Queen's University is a public research university in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. It is over 179 years old, and the Queen's School of Business, today known as the Smith School of Business, is where Canada's first Commerce program was launched in 1919.
- Notable people who have previously studied at Queen's are Elon Musk, Kimbal Musk, Astronaut Andrew Feustel, and five of the past 10 Governors of the Bank of Canada graduated from Queen's University. Finally, Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande, a highly successful entrepreneur, who co-chaired Barack Obama's Innovation Council for eight years, is also a Queen's University alumnus.
- The Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre (DDQIC) is a pan-university initiative at Queen's University, established in 2012. It is led by Queen's University's award-winning faculty with some of the world's best innovators, policy makers, and legal and business strategists.
- DDQIC provides Fellows with a structured approach – Explore, Ignite and Launch – and aims to turn their idea, technology, or inspiration into a venture.
- Drawing on the DDQIC experience, running synchronous and asynchronous entrepreneurship training for aspiring entrepreneurs and social innovators, the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship program will present the opportunity for founders to unlock resources and training as they demonstrate commitment to the program.
- DDQIC supports innovations of students, professors, entrepreneurs and community members through incubators, accelerators, joint courses, workshops, internship opportunities, seminar series, conferences, and business plan competitions.
- The program emphasizes the value of team diversity in innovative and entrepreneurial endeavors.
- In the past, DDQIC has supported international early stage founders through a virtual program, including African countries such as Rwanda, Cameroon, Uganda, Nigeria, among others, and Mastercard Foundation Scholars.

Fellowship Components:

The Fellows will have access to:

- The Disciplined Entrepreneurship, which is a proven framework for start-ups to bring innovative ideas/products to market more efficiently.
- DDQIC team's mentorship and networks.
- Participation on DDQIC's platform with dedicated mentors and administrators.
- Live in-class sessions with professors and experts. It also has some self-paced components where Fellows can access the services and content at a time that is convenient for them.
- Virtual participation in funding pitches, workshops, and speaker events.

- Each Fellow will receive a \$500 stipend. These stipends and technology guidance are intended to ensure they have access to digital devices as well as safe and secure internet access.

Candidates profile and criteria of selection:

- 70 percent of the Fellows will be young women.
- Countries: all countries in Africa.
- There will be no quota/target number of youth recruited per university. Students/Fellows will be recruited from current 11 university partners based on students' competencies, potential, motivation, and business ideas. Ideal candidate would be/have:
 - Entrepreneurial spirit
 - Idea stage or pre-idea for a potentially scalable business
 - Bias for action
 - Coachable & adaptable
 - Sense of agency

Timeline/Milestone

Application to recruit the ~1,000 students	November 2, 2020 – November 30, 2020
Announce the top 30 business ideas (a minimum of 30 students)	February 2021
Launch the incubation program for the top 15 business ideas (a minimum of 15 Fellows)	May 2021