

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Both calls close on **2nd May 2018**

BACKGROUND

The Misk Foundation, the non-profit philanthropic foundation established by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** have partnered to launch **Misk Grand Challenges**. This initiative seeks to empower youth both with the skills that they need to succeed in the knowledge economy and with the passion required to tackle the world's most challenging problems. Ultimately, the initiative hopes to nurture a new generation of leaders who will transform both local and global communities. Learn about the initiative and the associated grant opportunities [here](#). We face a global challenge: half the world's population is under 30, and almost 90% of them live in emerging and developing economies. Two thirds of children starting school today will enter professions that don't exist yet. Knowledge is the currency of the future, so we must evolve our old thinking and approaches to meet the needs and aspirations of the next generation.

[\[Learn more\]](#)

In the next three years, Misk Grand Challenges plans to launch new challenges every six months, offering 100 innovators across the world a grant of \$100,000 to develop their ingenious ideas into a concrete proof of concept.

The challenges will focus on **two themes** (with more coming soon):

1. **Activating Global Citizenship**

We are seeking innovators to devise and demonstrate ways to positively engage young people (under the age of 30) in Global Citizenship at scale and in depth.

A young person's personal interaction with a social cause can easily turn into lifelong commitment. Youth who have had positive experiences in contributing to, for example, the struggle to end disease, tackle gender inequality or educate young people, close at hand, are likely to make sustained contributions to that cause. Flying young people around the world to see first-hand different challenges facing different groups achieves deep engagement, but is not scalable. At the other end of the spectrum is engagement that requires little effort but has little lasting impact on the person involved. This engagement has scale, but not depth.

This challenge is about testing and implementing concepts and strategies to engage young people in efforts that will reduce inequality related to the **first six Global Goals**:

- Goal 1: No poverty
- Goal 2: Zero hunger
- Goal 3: Good health and well-being
- Goal 4: Quality education
- Goal 5: Gender equality
- Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

Investigators are invited to propose innovative and creative solutions that uses new knowledge to positively engage young people in one or more of these goals in both scale and depth. The focus can be local, but to support Global Citizenship for the Global Goals they must also link in a clear way to efforts elsewhere – at a regional, national or global level. The initial phase, which would be funded under this initiative, must demonstrate a path to a more sustainable and scalable program. It must collect quantitative data to inform decision making for follow-on funding.

2. **Reinventing teaching and school leadership**

We are looking for new innovative ideas that transform teaching or school leadership to better prepare children with the 21st century skills they need to succeed in the future. Modern 21st century skills, such as problem solving, leadership, creativity, and adaptability, require a new active, student-centred system for learning. We seek ideas that better prepare teachers and school leaders to drive this new active 21st century system for learning.

We are looking for new ideas that may just be in an ideation stage or may have been tested in a small scale already, but require up to US\$100,000 to demonstrate their theory of change and potential for impact. Proposals that are selected to receive an initial funding of US\$100 000 and go on to demonstrate success will receive further funding to scale up and impact lives across the world.

Ideas may cover one or more of the following areas that impact teaching and/or school leadership:

- **Reinventing the recruitment process** how can schools attract the best people for the role? How are the people with the highest potential identified and selected?

- **Transforming training and professional development** how are new recruits prepared with essential basic skills? How is their craft to be further refined and enhanced over time? How is technology used to support growth? What other resources or tools be used to enhance development? How can mentoring and collaboration be leveraged more?
- **Improving resources that support high-quality learning** how can technology improve performance? How can teaching aids be transformed in line with learning 21st century skills? What other new resources can teachers leverage to improve lesson delivery?
- **New forms of management** how can new management systems and practices maximise performance? How can monitoring and incentives be effectively implemented?
- **Any other area that drastically improves the performance of teachers and school leaders in line with the new competency-based curriculum of the future**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Grand Challenge 1: We will consider funding proposals that

- Address the Challenge **by showing how they will lead to actions taken by young people that will positively impact one or more of the first six Global Goals.**
- Outline concepts **that have the potential to be scaled up.**
- Focus on learning and gathering data **and evidence about how to do positively engage youth by doing that effectively, rather than trying to go for scale or solely developing research.**
- Have the potential for scale and depth at reasonable costs.
- Focus on a specific geography or community, **but should link to efforts beyond that locality.**
- There are no geographic constraints **as to where in the world proposals should be focused.**
- Are entirely online and technology-based, **or blended technology and face-to-face, or predominantly offline, with limited use of technology.**
- Explain how the activities proposed will lead to the results expected, **based wherever possible on experience and data**
- Show how the proposed concept or program could in the future achieve the scale and depth of engagement **with a clear set of measurements at the pilot stage.**
- Describe the innovative approach captured by the concept. **The initial pilot project must test the concept at some minimal scale that produces data upon which decisions for future funding could be made.**

Grand Challenge 2: We will consider funding proposals on condition that they

- **Be aligned with the challenge** outlined above and greatly improve teaching and/or school leadership
- **Improve the quality of learning with regards to 21st century skills** for children around the world
- **Outline the design of the solution** to clearly explain how it will work
- **Have a plan** for using the US\$100,000 in 12-18 months to advance the solution.
- **Have an implementation plan** to ensure the solution is successfully delivered, including a plan for a strong leadership team and implementing organisation
- **Have a logical path to scale** to help millions of children in an efficient manner. This includes measures for maintaining a lean approach and replicating whilst maintaining quality

In addition, proposals will be prioritised if they:

- Are novel and deploy a unique approach or innovative method to solving the problem
- Have a path toward sustainability either through private or government funding
- Show a deep understanding of the education system in which they operate and outline ideas for integration, that leverages the rest of the system, for greater impact

HOW TO APPLY

For more information on the grant opportunity, please visit this [Resources](#) webpage.

To apply for Grand Challenge 1, apply through this [Global Citizen Link](#)

To apply for Grand Challenge 2, apply through this [Misk Education Link](#)

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