

# RMIT SEEDS

## Social Enterprise Fellowships at RMIT

The Big Issue, Fifteen restaurant, STREAT, Better Place, The Social Studio, Grameen Bank, The Hub, Acumen Fund, Ashoka, Teach for America, Social Traders

What do all these have in common? They are all ideas that are changing the world, they are all social enterprises. Do you have an idea that could change the world?

### SEEDS Fellowship

RMIT SEEDS is looking for its inaugural intake of Fellows! We are looking for ideas that can bring about positive social, economic or environmental change, and positive impact on communities at home or abroad. As a Fellow we will support your idea and provide the skills development to make it a reality.

The SEEDS Fellowship is aimed at students with exceptional ideas for social enterprises together with the nous and determination required to bring the ideas to fruition. Each year up to 6 ideas are chosen and supported with an intensive development workshop, a social enterprise study tour, a mentor, a network of social entrepreneurs, and seed capital.

**Applications close at 5pm on Friday 1st April 2011**

Applications can be made by email to: [socialentrepreneur@rmit.edu.au](mailto:socialentrepreneur@rmit.edu.au)

All applications must include a [SEEDS Fellowship Application Cover Sheet](#)

### Who is eligible?

Any currently enrolled RMIT students (TAFE/Undergrad/Postgraduate/PhD) can apply to become a SEEDS Fellow.

Team applications are also welcome but must include at least one enrolled RMIT student as team leader who will be the Fellow. However all team members will be considered part of the program and are encouraged to attend the development sessions and workshops with their team leader.

### What is involved if I am selected as a Fellow?

Each Fellow or team will work on their social venture over 6 months to develop the idea from a concept to a comprehensive business plan, ready for implementation. During this intensive period they will be offered Social Enterprise workshops, skills development, a mentor, work space, and an initial investment of \$1000 to support them in developing their idea.

The workshops will cover topics including business management, social entrepreneurship, innovation, international development, poverty, investment and the non-profit sector.

A work space for SEEDS Fellows will be provided at The Hub Melbourne ([www.hubmelb](http://www.hubmelb)). The most significant advantage of being part of The Hub is that you will be surrounded by a network of innovators and social entrepreneurs. The Hub also offers additional support through their regular programs and events. At the end of each fellowship, a celebratory graduation event is held where participants get to pitch their idea to a panel of investors for their chance to secure additional funding.

## What are we looking for?

Please address the following key criteria in your application:

### The Idea

- What relevant and significant social or environmental problem are you addressing?
- What new or innovative solution to that problem are you proposing?

### The Impact

- How does your idea generate social or environmental benefit?
- Who will be impacted by this initiative?

### The Model

- What structure or business model are you proposing for your idea?
- How will it be socially, environmentally and financially sustainable?

### The Team

- Tell us about the people that will be part of the team
- Why do you or your team have what it takes to turn this idea into a thriving social enterprise?

## How do I apply?

We encourage you to be creative in your application, as long as you address the key criteria above. Your application could be in the form of a slideshow, a written document, a film clip, a drawing or even a website. However, **your method of presentation must not take up more than 10 minutes** of the selection panel's time - that roughly equates to 10 slides, five A4 pages of text or 10 minutes of footage.

We are not looking for a detailed business plan, but we do want to see that you have thought about the idea and how it could be realised.

All applications must include a [SEEDS Fellowship Application Cover Sheet](#) which can be downloaded from the SEEDS website.

## What happens after you apply?

Up to 12 applicants will be short listed and then invited to present their ideas to a selection panel which will then select 6 Fellows as the inaugural SEEDS Fellows.

## What is expected of Fellows?

Fellows are expected to commit to the program by attending all relevant events, supporting the other fellows, producing a detailed business plan and pitching their plan to investors. It is also expected that the fellows will coordinate a major SEEDS event during the year and be available to present at or support other SEEDS functions as appropriate.

## Contact us

Ian Jones  
Social Entrepreneurship Programs Officer  
Ph: 9925 0157  
E: [socialentrepreneur@rmit.edu.au](mailto:socialentrepreneur@rmit.edu.au)

Information sessions will be held on the:

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30-1.00pm** in the Business PVC Board Room, Building 108, Level 11 Rm 02 (turn left as you exit the lifts)

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 12.30-1.00pm** in the Postgraduate Research Lounge, Building 8, Level 5 (opposite the Library)

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 12.30-1.00pm** in the Theatrette, Building 12, Level 13. Room 003

**Empowering students to make the world a better place**

[www.rmit.edu.au/seeds](http://www.rmit.edu.au/seeds)