



Global Schools Program

Terms of Reference

Global Schools Advocates Program, 2025 Cohort

BACKGROUND

The [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

[Global Schools](#) is an initiative led by the [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) in support of UNESCO's Roadmap for ESD. Global Schools' mission is to create a world where every primary and secondary school student is equipped with the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for effectively responding to the greatest challenges of this century and shaping a sustainable and prosperous world.

The current Global Schools Advocate cohort comprises ~400 teachers across 91 countries.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Train teachers and educators on the basic competencies of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).
2. Increase sustainable development literacy for teachers and give them ideas and the pedagogical frameworks to bring sustainable development into their classrooms.
3. Create a global community of like-minded teachers and educators that can meet others from around the world who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of their students.
4. Use lessons learned to build effective models and case-studies for future cohorts.
5. Increase engagement with schools in the Global Schools network by training focal point teachers on effective models for bringing sustainable development into classrooms, lessons, curricula, and school activities.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Serving as an Advocate for Global Schools will equip you with knowledge of sustainable development, including key educational frameworks, competencies, and pedagogies for promoting ESD in your school community. Global Schools Advocates will serve as official spokespersons for Global Schools and serve as local focal points within schools to continue advocating for ESD within learning communities.

The primary responsibilities of the Advocates include:



Global Schools Program

1. Complete the training

Advocates will participate in a 10-15 hour online training program to develop their understanding of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The training will include videos, readings, assignments, and a final quiz. Advocates will have the option to complete the training using the online platform Edx Edge or if restricted with access to the internet, on Whatsapp.

2. Introduce ESD to their school

Advocates will be given a variety of resources, including a Global Schools Advocates Toolkit, which will help them introduce ESD to their students, department, and school leadership. Advocates will be able to adapt the activities and fully localize the program to their community context.

3. Integrate ESD activities in classrooms and/or school community.

The Advocates will serve a term from February 2025 - July 2025, with the option to extend their mandate. During this time, they will be encouraged to create a movement within their school community around teaching the SDGs. The Advocates program does not require teachers to implement a defined curriculum, but rather encourages the Advocates community to use the resources provided and the community of practice to enrich themselves on ESD themes and topics.

4. Share your Journey

The Advocates will be tasked with sharing their classroom journey with the Global Schools community. They can also share projects and initiatives with school leadership, parents, and the greater community.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

At the time of applying for this role the candidate should:

- Be employed at a primary or secondary school as a teacher or other educational position (guidance counselor, principal, department head, etc.). Teachers employed at teacher training colleges, universities, or post-secondary institutions are not eligible.
- Possess a good command of the English language in order to complete the training course and engage with the Global Schools Team.
- Commit to the vision of the program and comply with the standards and level of professionalism set by Global Schools.
- Be able to commit a minimum of 5 hours per week for this role.
- Be absolutely self-driven, accountable and responsible for meeting his/her goals.
- Be able to communicate effectively with school leadership and other teachers.



Global Schools Program

BENEFITS OF JOINING

Professional Development

- Access a free online training course on Education for Sustainable Development and its applications.
- Participate in optional, free monthly online workshops and conversations on Education for Sustainable Development with exceptional guest speakers, and receive invitations to webinars and conferences hosted by United Nations agencies.
- Receive a certificate after the successful completion of the program.

Community of Practice

- Build professional and personal relationships with high-level stakeholders in civil society, business, government and the United Nations.
- Work with a diverse and exceptional group of individuals and educators with a variety of cultural, religious and political backgrounds, committed to sustainable development.
- Join a community of like-minded teachers in schools working to implement activities and lessons on global issues within their classrooms.
- Join the Global Schools Educators forum to discuss activities and action plans with teachers in 70+ countries around the world.

Making an Impact

- Act as a leader in your community and a bridge between your school community and the United Nations SDSN.
- Help your school establish a long-term plan for implementing Education for Sustainable Development into lessons and activities, including topics related to climate change, social justice and inequality, sustainability, gender and society, and more.
- Ability to extend your mandate and serve as a mentor to future cohorts and teachers.
- Ability to be at the forefront of efforts taken by the United Nations, governmental, and civil society in developing and leading a global movement for sustainable development.
- Have a positive impact on your school community and the lives of your students, helping them become more globally-minded citizens.

Being the change you want to see in the world can start here!