

Global Schools Advocate FAQ - For APPLICANTS

Program Method:

1. What is the duration of the advocacy program?

The current Global Schools Advocates program will run from **July 2023 to December 2023**. Advocates will have the option to graduate in December or extend their term for an additional 6 months.

2. What is the program timeline?

Please note that the following dates **are approximate and are subject to change**.

July 3rd: Training will be distributed to the Advocates

July 31st: Advocates must complete the training by this date

August 5th: Advocates will receive toolkits and other program materials.

August 5th: Advocates will participate in an online Onboarding Call to kick-start their work in schools, and begin planning their respective Advocacy terms.

Mid-August to December: Advocates will develop and carry out ESD and GCE related projects at their respective schools. Advocates will fill out a KPI form each month in order for the Global Team to track their progress and provide any support necessary.

End of December: Advocates will be given the option to graduate from the program or extend their terms for an additional 6-months.

3. Will Advocates complete their work at the schools where they are based?

Yes, the Advocates should work within the schools where they are based, however, they are free to work with other schools in their local community as well. Advocates must be primary and secondary teachers working in an informal or formal school setting with students.

4. Is the program flexible?

Yes. The program is very flexible. After completing the training, Advocates will have the creativity to develop a program that will best meet the needs of their local school and community. Which days/time of the week you choose to devote to your Advocacy duties, as well as what you work on each week is largely up to you. However, one thing that we require is that you carry out an ESD workshop for your department, school, or community. The purpose of this workshop is to share the importance of ESD to your school community and to inspire other teachers to join you on your journey to integrate ESD in your school community. By the end, you should have identified your community and school values, fellow teachers that can support you, and how to take action. You will be provided with materials for this workshop.

The Global Schools Advocate Training Course:

1. What will the training format look like?

The Advocates training is hosted on EDX Edge. The modules will include videos, reading materials, and quizzes. The training will either occur online (computer or phone based) or on WhatsApp/Telegram, depending on what you select in the Acceptance Survey.

The training course is asynchronous, meaning that it can be completed at any time and anywhere, as long as it is before the training deadline of **July 31st**. At the end of the training course there will be a final quiz and a training feedback form to fill out that includes final questions and an opportunity to give feedback on the training process. You must fill out both of these surveys by 11:59pm EST on **July 31st** in order to pass the course.

2. Is there any cost for the training?

No, the training is free of cost.

3. How many days do we have to complete the training?

If you are taking the course on EdX Edge, there is no fixed deadline for each module of the training course. You can break down the training however you like. You can pause and return to the training at any time. But, in order to qualify as an Advocate, all applicants need to complete the training by **July 31st**. Advocates are provided with a suggested weekly breakdown for the material, as well as a note-taking guide to keep you on track.

If you are taking the course on WhatsApp/Telegram, a module will be released each week. It is up to you to pace yourself and to not fall behind with the training materials. In order to qualify as an Advocate, all applicants need to complete the training by **July 31st**.

4. Will there be any incentive for the training?

No, apart from the resources and guidance the Global Schools Team provides, there will not be any financial incentives provided for the training.

5. Are there going to be live sessions?

The initial training modules consist of pre-recorded video lessons, general reading materials, quizzes, etc. This is what takes place in July. After passing the initial training, there will be live sessions approximately twice a month on Saturdays at 12pm or 1pm GMT from August–December. These sessions are meant to augment your learning and provide you with additional opportunities to engage with the global network. They are not mandatory to join every single time.

6. How will the training benefit me on a personal and professional level?

The training will equip each candidate with the necessary skills to act as an advocate for sustainable development in their school communities and learn how to integrate SDGs into their teaching and school operations. Advocates will expand their knowledge on the SDGs, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship. The training will also

provide innovative ideas to integrate these important topics into your school curriculum. By completing the training and actively engaging with other peers throughout your term as an Advocate, you will become a local expert on sustainable development, and will become a global changemaker, contributing to make the world a better place.

7. How are you supporting teachers who are willing to be Advocates, but don't have stable internet connection or personal computers to access the online training?

We wish to support everyone with professional development regardless of their access to resources. Predominantly all communications from the Global Schools team to the Advocates will be through email, it is preferred that an advocate should have stable access to the internet. **Unfortunately we cannot provide financial support or resources like internet data, cellphones, or computers at this time.** If there are ways that we can support you, (apart from financial means) please let us know.

8. Will we receive certificates after the training?

After completing the training, you will receive an official email letter welcoming you as a Global Schools Advocate and confirming your title. This can be used to prove your status as an Advocate. You will receive a certificate once you graduate from the program in December. Usually, the official graduation ceremony will happen in January. If you would like to certify your school as a Global School in the program, you can sign the pledge on the website and will receive a certificate on behalf of your school.

9. Is there any examination or other type of assessment?

There will be short quiz questions to keep track of the applicant's progress on training. As you move through the course, the EdX Edge platform might show that you have a low grade. This is not your grade, but meant to show your progress answering the questions in the course. There will be a final questionnaire at the end of the course.

10. How long is the training course?

The training course takes approximately 15 hours to complete. However, there are many additional readings and links to explore, so we encourage you to spread these hours out over the 4 week period.

Global Schools Network Questions:

1. Will the advocates get to know each other and network?

Yes, there will be opportunities for the Advocates to virtually network and get to know each other once they finish the Advocates training. The primary platform for this will be Facebook and Zoom. Each Advocate will also receive a Mentor, who will assist them and support them on their Advocate journey.

2. Is there any possibility of meeting with Advocates from other countries in my cohort in person?

The Global Schools Program will not provide any opportunities to meet fellow Advocates in person at this point in time. It will be the discretion of the Advocates to meet fellow members of the cohort from their own country or abroad.

3. Will the platform provide an avenue for advocates to meet on a regional level after the end of the scheme and "celebrate" ourselves?

Once training is finished, the names of Advocates who graduate will be published on the Global School's [website](#) country-wise. There will be a Facebook group among candidates for better coordination. You will also have a Mentor Advocate from your country/region who will support you throughout your mandate. It's up to the Advocate's discretion to meet Advocates at the regional level.

Advocate Responsibility Questions:

1. What will I be expected to do as an Advocate?

With the help of training and resources provided, Advocates should implement innovative teaching methods to integrate sustainable development into their school's curriculum, whether that be with a particular class of students or a school-wide initiative. Advocates have the creativity to make this program their own and implement what you feel your school would most benefit from. The Global Schools Team will always be available to help you brainstorm ideas, give you resources to help you be successful, and provide guidance and support.

2. What are the utmost goals of an Advocate?

The Advocates serve as champions of the Global Schools Program locally and have the mission of coordinating local efforts to empower schools and teachers to educate children on sustainable development, global citizenship, and 21st-century skills.

3. Can you specify the likely contents of the required 5 hours a week commitment so I can check how they can fit in with what we are working on already at school?

The Advocates will receive a toolkit including necessary contents after successfully completing the Advocate training. However, as mentioned above, Advocates have the creativity to make this program their own and implement what you feel your school would most benefit from, whether that be with a particular class of students or a school-wide initiative. Advocates will be taught how to analyze the SDGs within their current national curricula and context. Advocates are strongly encouraged to integrate concepts of global citizenship within what they are already teaching and within what is already in their curriculum. Therefore, how Advocates choose to organize their time is up to them. They can use weekdays, weekends, or evenings to organize their activities. Every one of the Advocates will likely be implementing different projects, which is what makes the Global Schools Program so exciting.

4. Can I undertake activities outside of my terms of reference?

Under no circumstances may Advocates undertake activities that are not outlined in their Terms of Reference. For example, Advocates cannot provide certificates to schools, make official partnerships on behalf of the Global Schools Program, or state that the Global Schools Program is an official partner of a webinar or conference. Engaging in these activities could cause you to be removed from the program. However, you may contact the Advocacy team with ideas for outside activities, and these will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

5. If my school is on holiday from July -December, how can I fully participate in the program? How do I carry out some activities that might require students' participation?

We understand that many countries around the world have different school timelines, and there may be a month or two during your Advocate mandate where your school is closed. This is completely fine, your school does not need to be in operation during all of July-December for you to complete the training and receive your certificate. If your school is on holiday, it might be beneficial to use the time period to plan out your future ESD activities, or get your fellow teachers mobilized.

Other Questions:

1. Are there any financial incentives for completing the program?

Unfortunately no, **there will not be any financial incentives to the advocates at this point in time.** We cannot provide compensation for completing the training, distribute internet data packages, or provide resources like laptops, cell phones or textbooks. However, if you come across any local grants or fundraising opportunities that could benefit you as an Advocate, please let the Global Schools Team know, and we will try to assist you to the best of our ability.

2. Is there a contact person in case I have questions?

Yes, please contact globalschools@unsdsn.org.

3. How will the Global Schools Advocacy Team support me?

The Advocacy team will try our best to support you so that you can thrive within your Advocate role. Some of the ways that we can support you include:

- Providing resources such as the Advocacy Toolkit, lesson plans, and additional reading and materials.
- Providing advice and guidance, including discussing, evaluating and troubleshooting ideas for projects within your schools.
- Helping you to collaborate with other Advocates.
- Letting you know of relevant professional development opportunities like webinars, conferences and training on ESD and SDGs.
- Being available by email for questions and feedback. We will always try to respond within 48 hours.
- Mentorship and Coaching.

Unfortunately, there are some things that we cannot assist you with. Some of these things include:

- Assistance with providing internet connectivity and data.
- Financial support to cover program materials like laptops, cell phones, or textbooks.
- Exchange programs between countries.
- Consideration for future jobs.
- Financial support for students.

- Networking with local education authority.

4. Apart from the Global School Program, do you train and support educators on community advocacy and campaigns for the Global Goals?

Part of your training will discuss Advocacy in your school and community. The Global Schools Program is a flagship initiative of SDSN. Apart from Global Schools, SDSN has initiatives like the Local Pathways Fellowship, SDG Students Program, and Regional and National Networks to train and develop individuals to localize SDGs. SDSN also offers online courses on SDGs via SDG Academy, which are free for you to access.

5. How do you ensure privacy of data?

All of your information will be stored on Global Schools' secure database. Your data will be treated with the utmost care, and will not be shared with anyone outside of the Global Schools Team. If you have concerns with your name being shared on our website, please let us know and we will respect your wishes.