

FAQ – IWA & Grundfos Youth Action for SDG 6 Fellowship

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document provides answers to common questions related to the [IWA & Grundfos Youth Action for SDG 6 Fellowship](#). In case you don't see your question here, contact the IWA Secretariat at ymp@iwahq.org.

1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1. I am under 18 years old. Can I apply for the Fellowship?

No. Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time of application. The Fellowship is intended for Young Water Professionals aged 18 to 35 who meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the call for applications.

1.2. I am over 35 years old. Can I apply for the Fellowship?

No. Applicants must not be older than 35 by the end of the Fellowship (December 2028). This means that applicants must meet the age requirement for the full duration of the programme.

1.3. I am not an IWA member. Do I need to become a member to apply for the Fellowship?

The membership requirement depends on your application route:

- **IWA Young Water Professional applicants:** You must hold an active IWA Young Water Professional membership to be eligible. Your membership status will be verified by the IWA Secretariat.
- **Grundfos employees:** Eligible Grundfos employees may apply through a dedicated application route and are not required to hold an IWA membership.

If you are applying through the IWA route and are not yet a member, you can find information about membership options and registration on the [IWA website](#).

1.4. I am a member of an IWA Young Water Professionals Country Chapter. Does this satisfy the membership requirement?

Participation in an IWA Young Water Professionals Country Chapter does not automatically mean that you hold an active individual IWA membership.

Applicants applying through the IWA route must hold an active IWA Young Water Professional membership, which will be verified by the IWA Secretariat.

If you are unsure about your membership status, please contact ymp@iwahq.org before submitting your application.

1.5. I am a Grundfos employee. Do I need to become an IWA member to apply?

No. Eligible Grundfos employees can apply without holding an IWA membership.

Grundfos employees must meet the other eligibility requirements, including the age criteria, engagement in the water sector, and commitment to participating in the Fellowship.

A separate application process is available for Grundfos employees.

1.6. I have previously participated in another IWA programme. Can I apply?

Applicants who have previously participated in the IWA & Grundfos Youth Action for SDG 6 Fellowship are not eligible to apply again.

Current or former participants of the IWA Leadership Programme (IWA LeaP) or the IWA Mentorship Programme are also not eligible, as specified in the call for applications.

1.7. I am a student or researcher. Can I apply even if I am not currently employed?

Yes. The Fellowship welcomes eligible students, researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals from different areas of the water sector.

Applicants must demonstrate relevant engagement in the water sector and present an innovation, solution or approach that they have already begun exploring, developing or validating.

1.8. I am not fluent in English. Can I apply for the Fellowship?

Applicants must have a working knowledge of English, as the Fellowship's activities, meetings, discussions and communications will be conducted in English.

English-language communication skills will also be assessed during the interview process. Native-level fluency is not required.

2. APPLICATION PROCESS

2.1. How can I apply for the Fellowship?

Applicants must review the eligibility criteria, prepare the required documents and complete the relevant online application form before the deadline of **5 November 2026**.

There are two application routes:

- **IWA Young Water Professional members:** Apply through the [IWA Fellowship webpage](#). You must log in to IWA Connect Plus using your active IWA membership credentials before completing the application.

- **Grundfos employees:** Apply through the dedicated application link circulated through Grundfos' internal communication channels. Eligible Grundfos employees do not need to hold an IWA membership or log in to IWA Connect Plus.

All applications must be submitted in English.

2.2. I am a Grundfos employee. Where can I find the application link?

Grundfos employees have a dedicated application form, which is separate from the standard IWA member application route.

The dedicated link is distributed through **Grundfos' internal communication channels**. Please refer to the internal Fellowship announcement or contact the relevant Grundfos team for access.

The standard application form on the IWA website is intended for IWA Young Water Professional members. Grundfos employees who are not IWA members should use the dedicated Grundfos application form.

2.3. I cannot proceed to the next page of the application form. What should I do?

If you are applying as an IWA Young Water Professional member, please ensure that you are logged in to [IWA Connect Plus](#) using the account associated with your active membership.

If you are a Grundfos employee, please use the dedicated application link provided through Grundfos' internal communication channels. You do not need to log in to IWA Connect Plus to access that form.

If the problem persists, please contact ywp@iwahq.org, providing a brief description of the issue and, where possible, a screenshot.

2.4. What is the application deadline?

The deadline for submitting applications is **5 November 2026**.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications well in advance of the deadline to allow sufficient time to resolve any technical issues.

2.5. Can I edit my application after submitting it?

If you need to request a correction or amendment to a submitted application, please contact the IWA Secretariat at ywp@iwahq.org.

Please note that the online application platform does not allow applicants to independently edit their submissions after submission. Requests for changes will be reviewed by the Secretariat, and acceptance of additional or revised materials cannot be guaranteed.

2.6. What should I do if I want to withdraw my application?

If you wish to withdraw from the selection process, please contact the IWA Secretariat at wp@iwahq.org, clearly stating your name and requesting the withdrawal of your application.

3. REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

3.1. What documents do I need to submit?

All applicants must provide the following documents:

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Maximum 2 pages.
- **Motivation letter:** Maximum 2 pages.
- **Letter of reference:** Maximum 1 letter, 1 page, ideally from an IWA member.
- **Innovation proposal:** Maximum 2 pages.

Applicants must also complete the relevant online application form and provide the information requested.

3.2. My CV is longer than two pages. Can I submit it?

No. CVs must not exceed **two pages**.

Applications that do not comply with the document requirements may be considered incomplete or ineligible. Please ensure that your CV highlights the experience, qualifications and achievements most relevant to the Fellowship.

3.3. Why do I need to submit a motivation letter?

The motivation letter helps the selection panel understand your professional background, motivation and potential contribution to the Fellowship.

Your letter should explain:

- Your relevant academic, professional or entrepreneurial experience;
- Your commitment to addressing water-related challenges and advancing SDG 6;
- Your leadership experience and willingness to collaborate;
- Why you wish to participate in the Fellowship;
- The skills, knowledge and networks you hope to develop;
- How you intend to contribute to the Fellowship community; and
- How you expect to apply the experience to advance positive change in the water sector.

The motivation letter must not exceed **two pages**.

3.4. Can I write my own reference letter?

No. Self-written reference letters will not be accepted.

The reference letter must be prepared by another person who can provide an informed assessment of your professional, academic, leadership or other relevant experience.

3.5. Does my reference letter have to be written by an IWA member?

No. A reference letter from an IWA member is preferred but is not mandatory.

Applicants may submit a reference letter from an appropriate professional or academic referee who is familiar with their work, experience and capabilities.

This requirement applies equally to IWA Young Water Professional applicants and eligible Grundfos employees.

Only **one reference letter, with a maximum length of one page**, will be accepted.

3.6. I do not know any IWA members. How can I connect with the IWA community?

IWA members can connect with other professionals through the [IWA Connect Plus](#) platform.

However, you do not need to obtain a reference letter from an IWA member. You may ask an appropriate academic supervisor, employer, professional mentor or other person who can provide a meaningful assessment of your experience and potential.

3.7. What should I include in my innovation proposal?

The innovation proposal should describe the water-related challenge you are addressing and the solution, innovation or approach you are developing.

Your proposal should cover:

- The problem or opportunity you have identified;
- Your proposed innovation or solution, including what makes it innovative;
- The intended users, beneficiaries or customers;
- The current stage of development;
- Actions already undertaken to explore, develop, test or validate the solution;
- The main barriers or challenges you are facing;
- What you aim to achieve during the Fellowship; and
- How participation in the programme could help advance your solution towards implementation, partnerships or wider uptake.

The innovation proposal must not exceed **two pages**.

3.8. Do I need to have a fully developed innovation or an established start-up to apply?

No. The Fellowship welcomes innovations at different early stages of development, including validated concepts, prototypes, testing activities and early pilots.

You do not need to have an established company, registered start-up or commercially available product.

However, **an idea alone is not sufficient**. Applicants must demonstrate that they have already taken tangible steps to explore, develop or validate their proposed solution.

3.9. Does my innovation have to involve a new technology or product?

No. Innovation is understood broadly within the Fellowship.

Applications may address:

- Applied research and product or solution innovation;
- Innovative financial mechanisms and business models; or
- Capacity building and enabling approaches.

An innovation may involve a technology, service, process, financing mechanism, organisational approach or other solution that responds to an identified water-sector challenge.

Applicants should demonstrate what makes their approach innovative and how it could contribute to positive change.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

4.1. How will Fellows be selected?

Applications will first undergo a preliminary eligibility and quality assessment by the IWA Secretariat.

Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to an interview with a selection panel involving representatives of IWA and Grundfos and, where appropriate, Fellowship alumni.

The assessment will consider the applicant's experience, motivation, leadership potential and commitment, as well as the relevance, innovative character, development stage and potential impact of the proposed solution.

The final cohort composition will also consider geographical, gender and professional diversity, as well as the range of water challenges and innovation areas represented.

4.2. When will interviews take place?

Interviews are tentatively scheduled for **the second half of November 2026**.

Shortlisted applicants will receive further information about the interview process and scheduling directly from the IWA Secretariat.

4.3. When will selected Fellows be announced?

The announcement of selected Fellows is tentatively expected in **mid-December 2026**.

The timeline may be adjusted depending on the selection process.

5. FELLOWSHIP PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

5.1. What activities will Fellows participate in?

The Fellowship will combine online and in-person activities over approximately two years, from February 2027 to December 2028.

Activities are expected to include:

- Online onboarding and regular meetings;
- Capacity-development sessions on innovation, entrepreneurship, implementation and uptake;
- Peer learning and project progress reviews;
- Engagement with IWA and Grundfos experts and professional networks;
- Selected in-person gatherings and international water-sector events; and
- Opportunities to showcase and communicate Fellows' work.

The programme is also expected to include participation in the **2028 IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition in Malaysia**.

Selected Fellows are expected to actively participate throughout the programme.

5.2. Does the Fellowship provide funding for my innovation or project?

No. The Fellowship does not provide direct funding, investment or grants to develop or implement Fellows' innovations or projects.

The programme focuses on professional development, capacity building, peer learning, access to expertise, networking and opportunities to strengthen the development and uptake of innovative solutions.

Participation may help Fellows become better positioned to pursue external funding, partnerships, accelerator programmes or other implementation opportunities.

5.3. Who owns the intellectual property rights to innovations developed during the Fellowship?

Intellectual property rights relating to innovations, solutions or projects developed or further advanced by Fellows through the programme will remain with the respective Fellow(s).

5.4. Will the Fellowship cover travel and accommodation for in-person activities?

For required Fellowship travel and in-person activities, the programme is expected to cover eligible travel and participation costs in accordance with the arrangements communicated to selected Fellows.

These are expected to include economy-class air travel, accommodation, subsistence, relevant ground transportation, travel insurance and visa application fees.

Detailed travel and reimbursement arrangements will be provided to selected Fellows.

5.5. Will I need a visa to attend the in-person Fellowship activities?

Visa requirements depend on your nationality, travel documents and the countries where Fellowship activities take place.

Applicants are encouraged to check the relevant entry requirements in advance.

Selected Fellows will be responsible for obtaining the necessary travel documents and submitting their visa applications in accordance with the applicable requirements.

IWA and Grundfos cannot guarantee that a visa application will be successful.

5.6. Can I participate if I am unable to attend some Fellowship activities?

The Fellowship requires active and sustained participation throughout the programme, including online meetings and scheduled in-person activities.

Applicants should carefully consider their professional, academic and personal commitments before applying.

Any foreseeable availability constraints should be disclosed during the application process so that they can be considered appropriately.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

6.1. Where can I find more information about the Fellowship?

Further information, including the full call for applications and eligibility requirements, is available on the [IWA & Grundfos Youth Action for SDG 6 Fellowship webpage](#).

6.2. Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

For questions about eligibility, applications or the Fellowship, please contact:

IWA Secretariat – Young Water Professionals

Email: ymp@iwahq.org

Application deadline: 5 November 2026.