



2021

FELLOWSHIP FAQ  
2021 COHORT.

# Fellowship FAQ

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## Six Cohorts In & Growing. Join our 7th Fellowship Cohort.

What you'll learn from this document:

### **General**

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- How long is the program?
- How much does it cost to participate?
- What if I can't afford the fee? Are there financial supports?

### **Admissions**

- What do admissions look like?
- What does the program timeline look like?
- Deadlines

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- Virtual Training Camp Overview?
- What is a Partner Startup?

### **Getting a Job**

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- Is this program for science students?
- What's expected of me during the Job Seeking Phase?

### **Cohort & Onboarding**

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- How many Fellows will be in my cohort?

### **Financial Details**

- Why is there a cost to participate in the program?





## AT A GLANCE

# ELIGIBILITY

- Graduate(d) between Fall 2018 and Spring 2021.
- Hold a post-secondary degree or diploma from a Canadian Post-Secondary Institution OR be a Canadian who has studied abroad.
- Legally eligible to work in Canada.

# ADMISSIONS

- Step 1: Online Sign Up Form & Application Form (15 mins).
- Step 2: 1-Way Recorded Video Interview (5 mins).
- Step 3: Attend a Virtual Selection Event (4 hours).
  - Get a taste of our virtual training, meet like-minded peers, and participate in a series of group challenges at this 4 hour virtual event.

# SELECTION

Offers for our Spring Intake to the 2021 Fellowship Cohort will be sent out in April 2021.

# DEADLINE

Applications are open from January 13th to February 28th, 2021 for the Spring Intake.

# General Questions

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## How long is the program?

The Fellowship Program is a 15 month-long program.

## What does the program timeline look like?

- ~ 3 to 5 months of job searching, job training & job support
- Land a full-time role at one of VFC's partner startups
- Year-long access to Fellow Only entrepreneurial training
- Graduate in August 2022

## Is there a fee to participate in the program?

Yes, there is a \$1,000 (all inclusive) fee to participate in the program. This fee is broken up into two payments.

- \$500 due when you sign your contract
- \$500 due when you start your training in late Summer 2021

## What if I can't afford the fee? Is there any financial support available to cover some of the cost?

Yes! VFC is excited to offer expanded financial support to 2021 Fellows in financial need through the VFC Entrepreneurship Bursary Award.

The bursary award is up to \$2,000 per Fellowship Member with a minimum of \$550.

Lack of financial resources should not impact your ability to participate thanks to our supporters.

## What is the eligibility criteria for the Bursary?

To qualify for a VFC Entrepreneurship Bursary Award you must demonstrate financial need. This includes student debt and/or family household income.

- 1) Have officially accepted an offer to participate Venture for Canada's Fellowship; **and**
- 2) Are a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, or have Refugee/Protected Persons status as granted by the Government of Canada; **and**
- 3) You have acquired \$15,000 CAD or more in repayable student debt from provincial, and/or federal government agencies, bank loans, and student's lines of credits; **and/or**
  - You come from a family with a combined household income below \$65,000 CAD.
  - Were formerly a foster child, or are a persons of the state, with an official Canadian foster care program.

# Events, Training & Jobs

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## Will there be in-person events or training in 2021?

Led by the guidance from Public Health Canada, VFC will not hold in-person events or training until it is safe to do so. We have re-imagined our 2021 Fellowship Program for a virtual delivery.

## What are the benefits of being a Fellow?

### ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING

- Monthly training opportunities hosted by VFC
- Your own LinkedIn Learning license, home to over 13,000 curated courses
- An invitation to VFC's renowned training camp
- Exclusive access to VFC's growing community of entrepreneurs and startup champions

### JOB SEEKING SUPPORT

- 3 - 5 months of job search support and job readiness training
- 1-on-1 job coaching support from our Partnerships team
- Expert training on updating your resume, cover letter and LinkedIn Profile
- Personalized interview coaching
- Exclusive access to our Startup Job Board to find your dream role
- Access to multiple Connect Events, where you'll get to pitch yourself directly to our Partner Startups

## What is a Partner Startup?

A Partner Startup is a company that has signed an agreement with Venture for Canada and generally meets the following criteria:

- Provides full-time, permanent employment to Fellows
- 5 - 150 employees
- Less than 10 years old
- Incorporated and has a physical presence in Canada

All positions offered by our Partner Startups are full-time, paid roles. Salaries may vary between company and region as your contract is negotiated between you and your employer.

## Can you give me an overview of Virtual Training Camp?

- Virtual Training Camp will take place July 5 - 23, 2021, Monday - Friday, at 11AM - 5PM EST.
- Fellows are expected to be online & available for seven hours each day.
- 50 - 60% of live, virtual sessions will be mandatory.
- For non-mandatory sessions, Fellows can design their own training curriculum and schedule from a menu of options.
- Options include virtual workshops, speaker panels, Q&As, self-directed activities, group competitions, and Fellow-led sessions.
- There's a minimum participation requirement you must meet to continue with the program.
- If you get hired before Virtual Training Camp, your employer will allow you to attend; it's already built into the employer contract.

# Jobs Continued

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## Is it difficult to find a job at a startup, even with VFC's training and being a Fellow?

VFC can't predict the job market. We know we are entering a difficult labour market, which has insignificant impacts on those graduating into it. Find out more about graduating into a recession [here](#).

The first phase of your training is designed to provide you with a significant advantage. If you're committed to it, you will improve your job search. To learn more about the benefits you'll reap, see the previous page on 'job seeking support'.

For example, in our 2020 cohort, over 60% of Fellows were hired via our Job Board, and more found jobs outside the board with VFC Eligible Startups by Dec 2020.

## I come from a science background. Is this program still for me?

Based on our Fall Admissions, the 2021 Cohort is made up of the following backgrounds:

- 47% Business Degrees
- 34% STEM Degrees
- 19% Arts/Humanities Degrees

Part of our training is to encourage you to explore new opportunities, and identify skillsets you have within any given role. Historically, Fellows with science backgrounds have gone into roles like business development, sales and marketing, or gone on to explore more technical or operational roles.

## What's expected of me during the Job Seeking Phase?

During the Job Seeking Phase, we expect Fellows to:

- Commit to attending Onboarding Session via Zoom.
- Commit to completing short online onboarding curriculum (via VFC's Virtual Training Platform).
- Commit to completing skills training in resumes, cover letters, interviews, virtual presence and negotiation.
- Commit to the process of identifying strengths, goals and expectations of their job search.
- Commit to participating in ongoing training, by partially designing your additional job search curriculum.
- Submit a resume and example cover letter for approval to gain access to VFC's Job Board.
- Meet minimum training requirements in order to attend Virtual Training Camp.
- Find a job before the end of Dec 2021. Without a job by a certain date and experience at a startup, our training and program will no longer be relevant for you.
- Communicate with VFC on job search status (hired, still seeking, interviews, etc).

# Onboarding & Cohort

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## What does Onboarding look like?

An Onboarding Session is a mandatory virtual introduction to the 2021 calendar of events and Fellowship Program requirements. It is a key moment to ensure the expectations and potential of the program are clear. The session will cover an overview of the Job Board; grant access to our Virtual Training Platform; provide details of opportunities, rewards, and requirements for the training curriculum; and offer space for further Q&A.

Two time slots will be offered in the spring (date TBD) to choose from. Confirmed Fellows will receive an invitation, agenda, and options in advance of the session.

## How many Fellows will be in my cohort?

We anticipate 90 Fellows will complete the 2021 Fellowship Program. This number depends on personal commitment; success in the job search (including the requirements of Eligible Startups); and other factors.

While completing your Fellowship, you will also have access to the VFC Alumni Community: over 200 entrepreneurial leaders spanning the past six Venture for Canada Fellowship Cohorts.

# Financial Details

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## Why is there a cost to participate in the program?

The return on investment is for you to decide.

The Fellowship Program has been funded by public and private supporters over the years. The 2021 Fellowship is not publicly funded. While the majority of the costs of the Fellowship are covered by VFC we believe that this is an investment you are making in yourself.

The fee you pay helps the organization provide you with access to quality resources, the program's ongoing standard of excellence, highly knowledgeable staff, speakers, facilitators and platforms to connect. The platforms you will use like Slack, LinkedIn Learning, Zoom.inc and others have a cost.

In addition to the benefits listed above (page 5) the life-long investment in VFC is an investment in yourself, the community and alumni network.

As a 2021 Fellow, you have access to a virtual hub of entrepreneurial peers across the country -- actively completing the Fellowship alongside you, but also those who completed the Fellowship in the years prior. These individuals are founders, C-level executives, connectors, and passionate contributors to the entrepreneurial ecosystem inCanada.

The value of our program is comparable to many 3-6 day bootcamps, post-graduate courses, professional development training and other training you might seek after graduating.

If you don't believe the Fellowship Program is for you, there are many other opportunities you can take. The Fellowship is one option to invest in your entry into the job market after graduation.