

FAQs

One website cannot really say it all. That's why we are putting together this living document with frequently asked questions around the program. If your thirst for information is still not satisfied after reading this document, our very own Arunima Singh will stand ready for more input via arunima.singh@yunussb.com.

Money & Financing

Are travel expenses covered for all founders?

We provide travel expenses and accommodation for one founder of your company. We can consider an additional representative from your venture on request.

Does the MAN Impact Accelerator take an equity stake in the businesses?

No, we don't.

Does the MAN Impact Accelerator provide any funding?

We cover your travel expenses and accommodation but we do not promise any funding. However, the curriculum will prepare you for talking to investors. Yunus Social Business itself invests into impact ventures across the world and can also introduce you to a network of investors during and after the program.

Do you accept startups that have received institutional investment (Series A or later)?

No, we don't. Startups that have received institutional investments have (ideally) already created product-market fit and are growing their ventures. Those ventures have limited flexibility to change their strategic focus based on customer and stakeholder insights – which is going to be a main portion of the program. Therefore, we focus on early stages of the startup lifecycle.

Do you accept startups that have received financing from angel investors (i.e. individuals)?

Yes, we do.

If I received any seed investments from friends, family or angels, is there a maximum threshold?

No, there is not. Any startup that has not yet received institutional investment (see above) is eligible.

Geographic Focus

Do you accept startups from the EU or entire Europe?

We accept startups from all over Europe.

Do you accept startups from other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa other than South Africa?

No, in this Accelerator cycle we are only accepting applications from South Africa.

Impact

What type of impact should the business create?

We have really like products and services that reduce poverty. But any business that creates significant impact will be considered for the program (environmental or social issues other than poverty).

However, you should have a clear view on who your target beneficiary is and what impact you create for those beneficiaries. You should also have a clear view on how to measure this impact (i.e. list of indicators).

Is there a minimum threshold for impact?

There is no minimum threshold. However, businesses with a significant depth and/or breadth of impact will be prioritised in the selection process.

Logistics

Do startups have to be present for all program weeks?

Yes, most definitely absolutely. And just imagine what you would miss! We'll take you on a journey around the world to meet some of the most inspiring entrepreneurs! And without you it just wouldn't be as much fun!

What happens after the program?

In almost 20 accelerator cycles that we have run in the past, we have seen strong bonds created between the participants of the program. This will continue beyond the program. We will also provide the means for you to stay in touch with your mentors and coaches. And while we cannot promise funding – because it depends a lot on your progress and needs – we will definitely leverage our network to introduce you to the relevant funds and investors if you need financing.

Misc

Do we accept startups that have participated in other accelerators or support programs before?

Yes.