



Application Guide

The Jakes Gerwel Fellowship is dedicated to finding high-impact and high-potential individuals who will positively influence and shape education in South Africa. We understand that applying for a fellowship can be a bit daunting and can be quite confusing.

Keep reading for some information and tips on how to complete your application for the Fellowship. These tips apply to both opportunities at an Undergraduate and Graduate level. Keep in mind that these are only guidelines and tips to assist you in completing your application form. The tips here do not guarantee your application will be successful.

Tip #1: Be yourself

Never stick to the responses you think selection committees are looking to read. What they are really looking for are stand-out candidates that aren't afraid to be risk-takers. Think of your motivational expressions and other aspects as your time to shine and show off your individuality. Utilize the application form as your opportunity to set yourself apart from the pile of candidates and truly reflect your passions.

Tip #2: Let us know more about YOUR passions

Be specific and clear. When asked about your motivations for applying for the Fellowship, ask yourself, "What problem do I want to solve in education"? Let this question guide your responses to provide clarity and nuance to your application.

Tip #3: Never leave anything blank



No-one can read your mind. If the section is blank there is very little for the Selection Committee to work with. If you are not sure if your input is relevant to that section, ask a colleague, friend or lecturer to help check it.

Tip #4: Respecting the closing deadline and respecting yourself

JGF (and most Fellowships) don't accept late applications. However, the real demonstrated respect here is towards yourself: allow yourself enough time to go through your application, edit and finalize until you are absolutely happy with it. If you rush just before the deadline you are likely to make careless mistakes. Another great method of refining your application is to have a friend, colleague or lecturer read through your responses at least one week before the deadline. This gives you more than enough time to go back and work through your application again.

Remember, if you make it to the next round – great! If you do not make it to the next round – you must feel that you did everything you could. (And then apply again the next year!)

Tip #5: Don't be your own barrier

Tell us about how amazing you are! Tell us about the projects you have run at university, high school or at work. Tell us about the positions of leadership or roles of responsibility you have held or currently hold. Think of the application form as the first way for us to get to know you a bit better.

We will not know if you do not tell us. One can sometimes be one's own barrier to our own success: we want to hear all of your experiences, growth and vision of impact in education.

Tip #6: Be honest and authentic



Sounds simple, right? Sometimes this can get tricky with the influence of imposter syndrome or other pressures. The very first tip we shared with you was: be yourself. We are looking for high-impact and high-potential individuals who have demonstrated leadership and excellence. Simply tell your honest and authentic story in sharing your vision and pathway to positively impacting teaching and education. We do not have a cookie-cutter approach at JGF. In other words, we have clear expectations of who we bring into the Fellowship but there is no mold to fit into: be honest and authentic and let your authenticity shine in your application.