

FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



## Applicant Guide



**FEE**



BLUE FLAG



Eco-Schools



Green Key



LEARNING  
ABOUT  
FORESTS



Young Reporters  
for the environment

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Inspired by the ancient Greek goddess Gaia who personifies the Earth, GAIA 20:30 is the new strategy of The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). The strategy focuses on three environmental problems: Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Environmental Pollution. The strategic plan aims to create a better understanding of these problems and their impact. Using its network and members, FEE wants to educate and empower people and encourage them to act and implement solutions.



## About the Fellowship

The GAIA Fellowship wants to empower individuals through the lens of sustainable development. The fellowship will enable them to transform the knowledge and skills gained into actions in their sphere of influence that are environmentally sustainable and socially just. Through their actions, they will be able to inspire and mentor many other change-makers who will take responsibility for societal transformation.

The GAIA Fellowship is a process that will improve leadership capabilities to drive sustainability in and outside the workplace.

Individuals that are interested in applying need to showcase their idea and its context in sustainable development. They should align their idea to one or more of the SDGs and consider the following three major GAIA areas of action while developing their idea:



### Vision

GAIA Fellows are 18-30 years old individuals who take conscious actions, individually and collectively, leading to outcomes that nurture, support and sustain healthy economic, environmental, and social systems.

### Mission

The mission of the GAIA Fellowship is to create leaders who will engage and empower people to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

### Goals of the GAIA Fellowship

The GAIA Fellowship wants to create a community of GAIA Fellows who will draw strengths from the different FEE programmes and keep supporting them and the GAIA community. The Fellowship focuses on the development of leadership skills in young individuals and equips them to create solutions for environmental problems and convert their ideas into actions.



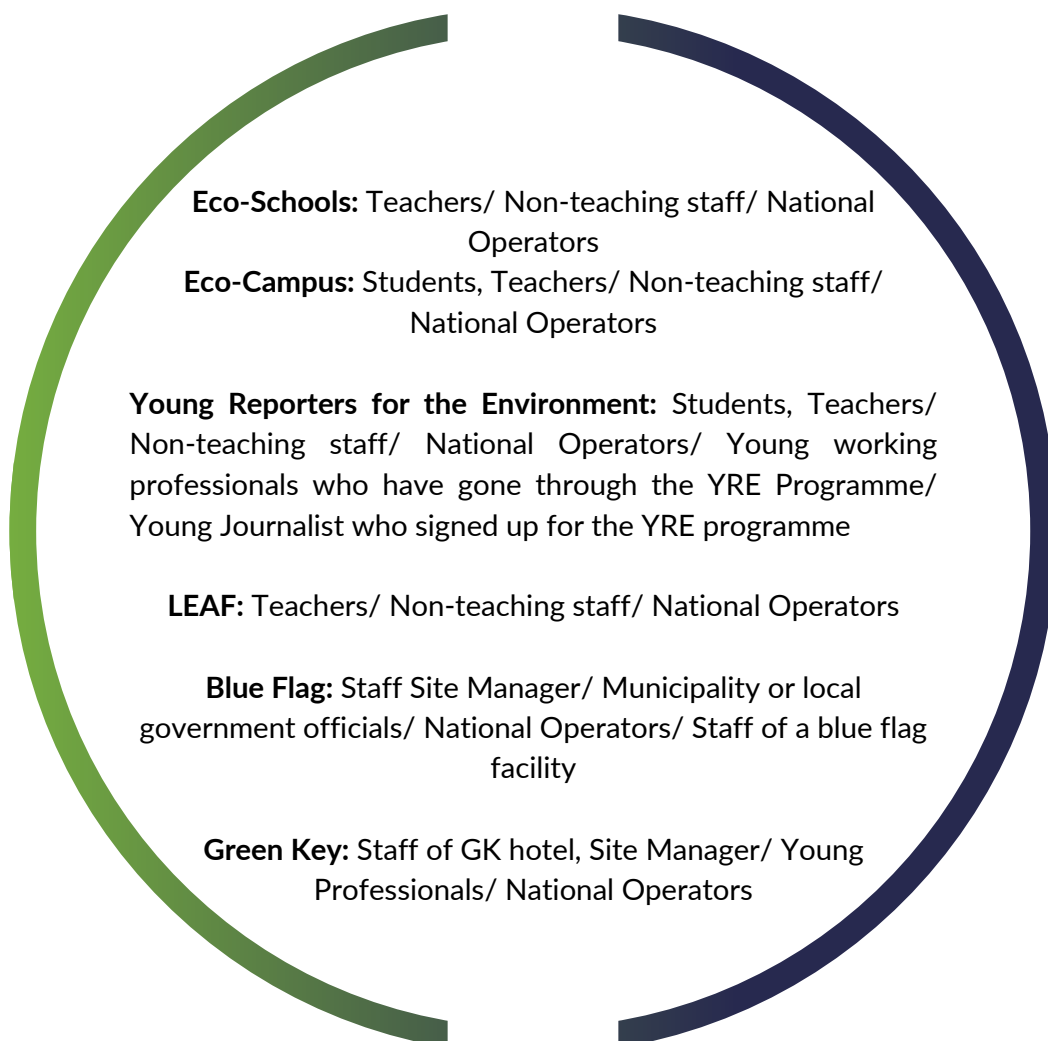
## Participation

The Fellowship will be offered online with selected fellows implementing their projects in their respective countries. The Fellowship includes a mandatory course, which includes several modules focused on capacity building and the development and implementation of a project. Fellows will be supported by a mentor throughout the Fellowship.

Participants must be from within the FEE network. Participants may include students, teachers, school staff or individuals currently working for FEE's member organisations.

**Overall Fellowship Duration** 8 months.

**Age Range** Individuals in the age range of **18-30 years** can apply for the Fellowship.



# Execution of the GAIA Fellowship



## 1 Mentorship

Mentorship is an important component of the GAIA Fellowship. The mentors will be professionals from within the FEE network, each with expertise in different areas. Mentoring will occur online, and each mentor will be assigned to one fellow and their project. Mentors will:

- support in short-listing of applicants based on the developed criteria.
- guide fellows through the modules of the fellowship. They will support and encourage fellows to manage their learning to maximise their potential, develop their skills, improve their performance, and become a more qualified individual as compared to before the mentorship.
- provide feedback to fellows.
- advise and support the fellows to develop their idea into a project.

## 2 Project

Fellows will develop and transform their ideas into realistic and sustainable projects.

**Get inspired** by two good practices from ECO CAMPUS program:

One of the students from Lisbon Institute of Engineering is conducting a master thesis on composting on the ISEL Campus. For the compost, he uses residues produced in the campus canteens and adds dry material collected in the campus outdoor gardens. When his lab analysis will be finished, the compost will be used later in the ISEL campus gardens.



Another student analyses the indoor air quality of a specific classroom of the university that was turned in a green classroom full of plants and monitored with a set of sensors. The research study intends to analyse air quality, comparing similar rooms with and without plants. The research also aims to address students' well-being and stress in university.

Those are just examples how project could seem. It should be something concrete and local to increase the real chance of achieving the goal and have real impact.

Other possible ideas:

- Preparing communication strategy for better understanding and raising awareness about local waste management for city's inhabitants
- Making one local hotel/restaurant to be more sustainable and certificated with Green Key label
- Creating conditions for the local school/kindergarten to teach more outdoors
- Building a rain garden in the school yard
- Organizing the leaning of the local beach with the help of locals and monitoring marine debris

### 3 Knowledge

The fellows will go through a course on FEE Academy, consisting of 8 modules. Each module exists out of a theoretical part supported by presentations, videos, assignments, quizzes, and other assessment formats.

## Application Procedure

An application includes the application form, a description of the idea and a 2-minute video pitch. All documents and files must be uploaded before and no later than the due date. See the application form for all details about the application.

**Number of positions open:** 10

**Application deadline:** 16/09/2022

## The Application

### 1. Candidates Profile:

- Applicant's personal information
- FEE Program
- Preferred area of work (climate change, pollution, biodiversity...)

### 2. Idea description

- Brief idea description (rationale, main objectives, and target audience)
- Expected short- and long-term impact



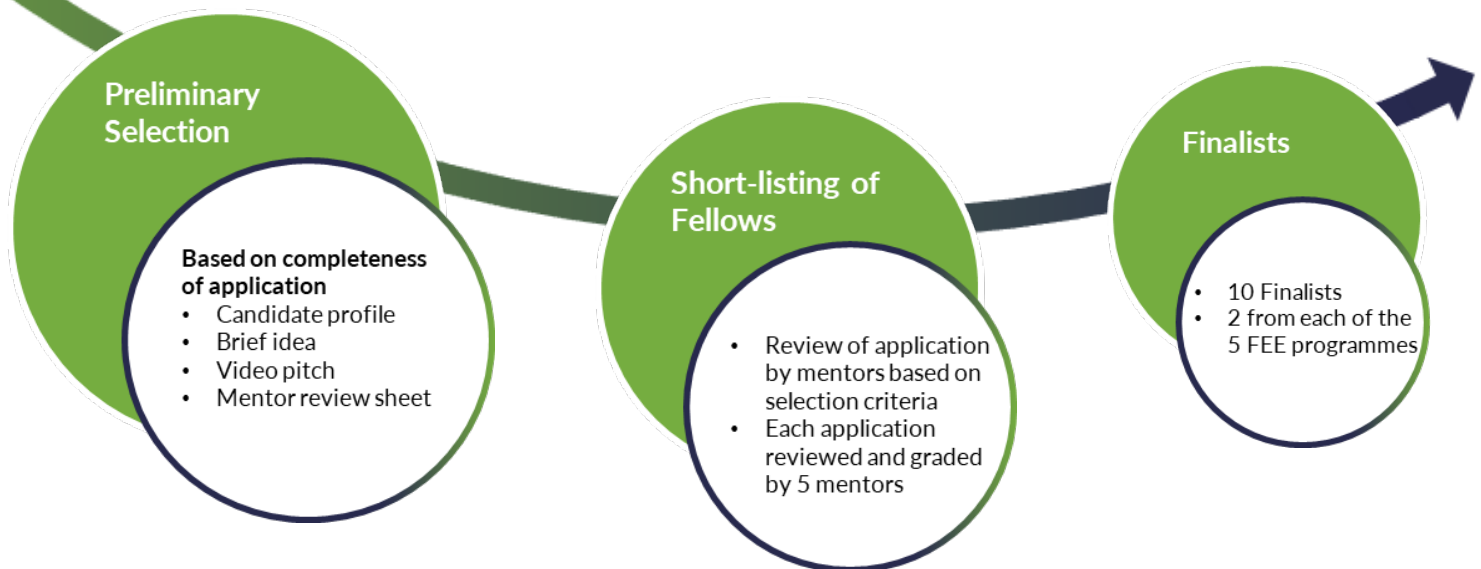
- Make sure to include FEE [GAIA 20:30 strategy](#) linkages and to align the idea with one or more FEE's five programmes ([Blue Flag](#), [Green Key](#), [Eco-Schools](#), [Learning About Forests](#), [Young Reporters for the Environment](#))

### 3. Video pitch

Make a video pitch as to why you are the right person for being awarded the Fellowship. (max. 2 minutes compatible with the YouTube format)

## Selection Process

The selection process exists out of two steps. Preliminary screening is based on the completeness of the application, followed by the short-listing process to select the 10 final fellows.



## 1 Preliminary Screening

The first step in the selection process is to check the completeness of the application submitted by the aspiring Fellows. Applications will be considered further only if aspiring participants have completed all the following mandatory requirements:

- Candidate Profile
- Description idea
- Video Pitch

## 2 Short-listing of 10 Fellows

- Mentors will be engaged in scoring applications based on various criteria (see criteria below) on a scale of 1-5.
- Each application will be viewed and graded by 5 mentors.



- Average score of all applications will be considered while short-listing the 10 final applications.
- Fellows with the top 10 individual scores will be selected for the Fellowship.
- Shortlisted Fellows will be informed about their selection through an email.
- Information about an online induction will be provided to all selected Fellows.

## Selection Criteria

The candidate's proposed idea must:

1. Be feasible within the 8-month timeline of the Fellowship.
2. Show links between a minimum of one of FEE's [GAIA 20:30 strategy](#) (sub)goals and one or more of the FEE's five programmes.
3. Illustrate the candidate's awareness of the social and economic context of their proposed idea.

## Benefits of Participating

A total of 10 projects will be selected and will receive several **benefits**:

- 8 months of guidance from professionals
- Develop several essential leadership skills
- The chance to transform and implement an idea into real-life, change-making actions
- Recognition through FEE's website and social media
- A certificate of participation and completion

## Certification and Beyond

Fellows completing the requirements of the Fellowship will be awarded the GAIA Champion certification and be part of an elite group of champions working towards sustainability. Fellows will embark with us on a sustainability journey and continue to champion the cause of sustainable development even beyond the scope of the fellowship.





## About the Foundation for Environmental Education

The Foundation for Environmental Education is a non-governmental organisation that has been working with environmental education and sustainable development issues in over 100 countries for the past 40 years. Recognised by UNESCO and UNEP as a world leader within the fields of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development, our strength comes from our members who share our convictions and execute our programmes daily.

Our educational programmes, Eco-Schools, LEAF and Young Reporters for the Environment, use a solution-based approach to empower young people to create a more environmentally conscious world. Our Green Key and Blue Flag initiatives are known across the world for their promotion of sustainable business practices and the protection of our valuable natural resources.

Learn more about FEE [here](#).

