

# Rock Summer Fellows Summer 2021

Guidelines Effective: January 1, 2021 - September 1, 2021

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## PLAN EARLY

This is a competitive program and those interested in applying, should begin working on their startup idea or meet with potential early-stage startups as early as possible.

The final deadline for founder applications is BEFORE the final deadline for those joining a startup. All founders of a venture must submit an individual application with distinct roles by the final founder's deadline.

## ATTEND THE INFO SESSION ON SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

Learn about the Rock Summer Fellows program, HBS and the key information needed to submit a strong application. Keep an eye out for the info session date in the Rock student newsletter.

## OUR SELECTION PREFERENCES

In addition to the HBS Summer Fellows criteria (login required), the Rock Centers sets these guidelines so that you may know how we are reviewing applicants. We acknowledge that there may be some limits that are flexible depending on a complete review of your application.

We are excited about the energy around entrepreneurship. However, only those applicants committed to an entrepreneurial endeavor - whether as a Founder or Joiner - with well-defined plans and goals for the summer will be selected. As such, we would like all applicants to thoughtfully consider these selection preferences.

### Founder Applicants

Please read more below, as characteristics for an excellent application are as follows:

1. You will dedicate 100% of your time to a startup over the summer for a commitment of 8 to 12 consecutive weeks.
2. RSF favors operational startups over consulting, research, brokerage, or investment funds/companies.
3. Founders should not apply until they have completed customer discovery. In your application, indicate the primary and secondary research you have conducted and the insights you gathered. Be sure to include any surveys, focus groups, or interviews and how many potential customers participated in each.
4. Include a thoughtful and detailed plan for the summer (roadmap for development, experimentation, accomplishing other key milestones, etc.) and note the amount of capital you have raised. Ventures that have raised more than \$500K in capital are ineligible for RSF funding.
5. You may not participate in another accelerator program that provides funding to be eligible for the RSF funding.
6. A maximum of two (2) fellows may be fully funded per startup (e.g., a maximum of \$15,600 to any single startup). If three (3) fellows apply, the total allocation will be divided by three (\$433/ea per week).

7. Students may only receive one type of fellowship: Rock Summer Fellowship, [Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship](#), or General Fellowship. Students will not receive funding from more than one.

### Joiner Applicants

You should be joining an early-stage startup and consider the following in your applications:

1. You have secured an 8 to 12 consecutive week internship.
2. The startup is operational, funded, and has fewer than approximately 50 employees.
3. The startup has less than approximately \$5 million in revenue.
4. Preference is given to startups that are NOT consulting, research, brokerage, investment funds/companies, or well-established SMBs.
5. There is a maximum of two HBS Summer Fellows per startup per summer.
6. Student responsibilities are articulate and defined by the startup.
7. A senior executive and/or internal mentor is assigned by the startup to work with the student regularly. An operational function, product role, or exposure to operational function(s) is preferred.
8. The internship work **should not be** solely research and analysis. The RSF applicant should articulate their anticipated type of work thoroughly in the application and startup letter.

## DEFERRED STUDENTS & JOINT-DEGREE STUDENTS

Students must complete the equivalent of the first-year core MBA curriculum (“RC Year”) prior to applying to be a Rock Summer Fellow.

Students may participate in Rock Summer Fellows one time. Deferred students who completed a Rock Summer Fellows commitment prior to deferral are ineligible for a second Rock Summer Fellows award.

## RSF PROGRAM COMMITMENT AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS – ALL FELLOWS

Before students apply, you must know that you are agreeing to the following Rock Summer Fellow commitments. The Rock Summer Fellowships are reserved for those who have a desire to participate and share in a peer exchange network and community.

Note that all programming and commitments are planned as virtual sessions. Should local guidelines and safety protocols permit, the Rock Center may explore in-person, regional events later.

All Rock Summer Fellows participate in:

- RSF Kick-Off Meeting and Workshop
- At least three meetings with your small group led by an alumni advisor
- At least three workshops or ask-me-anything expert sessions (online and as needed)
- Submitting a final report and survey
- Fall RSF Wrap-Up Debrief

RSF founders participate in check-ins to update the Rock Team on their progress.

Social and check-in meetings are to adapt to the needs of current RSFs. Based on that information, the Rock Team will call upon its network of experts, legal counsel, or other resources to aid in moving your venture or experience forward.

The final report will be submitted through the HBS Summer Fellowship survey and is at least 1000 words in total across the following sections:

- Learnings and Outcomes
- Challenges encountered
- Goals for your EC year
- How the experience will influence your career and professional goals

## APPLICATION ROUND DUE DATES

Students may only have one application in review at any point. Funding is provided to a student for a specific opportunity and cannot be transferred to a new opportunity. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed until all information is submitted.

### Deadlines

- Applications may apply in one of three rounds in 2021: March 1; April 5; May 3.
- All Founders must apply by April 5.
- Funding is limited. Applications received past the May 3, 2021 deadline will only be reviewed if additional funds remain. There will be no exceptions.

## PREPARE APPLICATION

All RCs in the MBA program are invited to apply to the Rock Summer Fellowship program via the general HBS Summer Fellowship [online application](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact [summerfellow@hbs.edu](mailto:summerfellow@hbs.edu) or [rock@hbs.edu](mailto:rock@hbs.edu).