



Global Schools
Program

Terms of Reference

Global Schools Advocates Program, 20-21 Cohort

About SDSN

The [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

About GLOBAL SCHOOLS

Supporting schools and educators in shaping a sustainable world

Global Schools is an initiative led by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network in support of UNESCO's Global Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP-ESD). Global Schools' mission is to create a world where every primary and secondary school student is equipped with the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for effectively responding to the greatest challenges of this century and shaping a sustainable and prosperous world. Global Schools adopts two key approaches in its global strategy to implement Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in schools and classrooms: grassroots advocacy and outreach to schools, as well as research partnerships with universities to design localized curriculum.

The first Advocates cohort comprising youth participants under SDSN Youth had a mandate to reach schools in their communities and inspire them to sign the Global Schools Pledge. These 450+ Advocates in the 1st cohort did outreach to 7,700 school communities and presented in 2,000+ schools. Advocates successfully inspired 1,000 schools to commit to incorporate Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in their curricula and operations.

- 93% of the Advocates agreed the training course increased the knowledge of the SDGs;
- 93% felt the program helped them grow personally and 89% of Advocates felt the program helped them grow professionally;
- 88% felt their work as an Advocate increased awareness of the SDGs in their community and 86% felt their work had a positive impact on their community.

Advocates Program Objectives:



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1. Train teachers and educators on various models of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and equip them with the knowledge, skills and tools to practically engage with these models in their communities.
2. Provide support and guidance to teachers and schools in integrating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into various educational settings, including classrooms, lessons, curricula, and school activities.
3. Monitor and evaluate the challenges, opportunities and the impact of various strategies undertaken by Advocates, and use lessons learned to build an effective model of engagement for future cohorts.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Serving as an Advocate for Global Schools will equip you with knowledge of sustainable development, including key educational frameworks and models, including Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education (GCE), and 21st Century Skills. The program will also equip Advocates with the tools to help transform learning environments. The Advocates will serve as official spokespersons for Global Schools and serve as local Focal Points within schools to continue advocating for ESD within learning communities.

The primary responsibilities of the Advocates include:

1. **Complete the online training**

The advocates will participate in a four-hour online training program to develop their understanding of sustainable development, Global Schools, and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This training will be supported by EdX, and will consist of 4 modules including videos, readings, assignments, and a final quiz.

2. **Introduce ESD to their school**

Advocates will be given a variety of suggested activities and methodologies to introduce ESD to their students, department, and school leadership. Advocates will be able to adapt the activities and fully localize the program to their community context.

3. **Integrate ESD activities in classrooms and/or school community**

The Advocates will serve a term from February to August 2021, with the option to extend their mandate. Advocates will be given a toolkit to help them analyze their current school community and then create goals for specific activities they will carry out throughout the year in their classroom and/or school. The Advocates program does not require teachers to implement a defined curriculum. Advocates will be provided with a step-by-step handbook to guide them in developing a long-term strategy to implement ESD in their classrooms and/or school.



4. Share your Journey

The Advocates will be tasked with sharing their classroom journey with the Global Schools community. They can also share projects and initiatives with school leadership, parents, and the greater community.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

At time of applying for this role the candidate should:

- Possess a good command of the English language.
- Commit to the vision of the program and comply with the standards and level of professionalism set by Global Schools.
- Be employed at a primary or secondary school. Teachers working through fellowship programs at primary and secondary schools (ie Fulbright, UN Volunteers, Peace Corps) are eligible. Teachers employed at Teacher training colleges, universities, or post-secondary institutions are not eligible.
- Be able to commit at least 5 hours per week for this role.
- Be absolutely self-driven, accountable and responsible for meeting his/her goals.
- Be self-driven and able to communicate effectively with school leadership and other teachers.

BENEFITS OF JOINING

Professional Development

- Access a free online training course on Education for Sustainable Development and its applications.
- Participate in optional monthly online workshops and conversations on the ESD, design-thinking, entrepreneurial education, and more.
- Receive a certificate after the successful completion of the program.

Community of Practice

- Build professional and personal relationships with high-level stakeholders in civil society, business, government and the United Nations.
- Work with a diverse and exceptional group of individuals and educators with a variety of cultural, religious and political backgrounds, committed to sustainable development.
- Join a community of like-minded teachers in schools working to implement activities and lessons on global issues within their classrooms.



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- Join the Global Schools Educators forum to discuss activities and action plans with teachers in 70 countries around the world.

Making an Impact

- Act as a leader in your community and help your school establish a long term plan for implementing Education for Sustainable Development, Global Citizenship Education, and 21st Century Skills, including topics related to climate change, social justice and inequality, sustainability, gender and society, and more.
- Ability to extend your mandate and serve as a mentor to future cohorts.
- Ability to be at the forefront of efforts taken by the United Nations, governmental and civil society in developing and leading a global movement for sustainable development.
- Have a positive impact on your school community and the lives of your students, helping them become more globally minded citizens.

Being the change you want to see in the world can start here!