

Vladimir Potanin Fellowship Program

Support of education is among the priorities of the Vladimir Potanin Foundation (hereinafter, the “Foundation”) and an important part of its strategic activities aimed to develop a community of creative leaders and unite their efforts in solving complex social issues. Since 1999 the Foundation has been implementing philanthropy programs in education targeting talented students and professors from leading Russian universities.

The Vladimir Potanin Fellowship Program (hereinafter, the “Program”) unites professionals from higher education and related areas, willing to contribute to society and its sustainable development. Joint initiatives of the Program participants, individual experts and organizations are based on shared principles and values.

The Program connects like-minded people and institutions who invent a common path forward. We create conditions for creative thinking, provide opportunities for professional and creative advancement, identify and upscale best practices in solving social issues.

Our goals:

- Cultivate educational environment that supports such values as knowledge, professionalism, creativity and volunteer work;
- Establish and nurture the community of creative leaders in various areas of expertise who are able to bring forward positive social changes and take personal responsibility for the outcomes;
- Include Russian educational community and future university graduates in a multicultural landscape;
- Expand the Russian market of professions of the future and establish a system for training professionals for this market;
- Strengthen connections between all participants of the educational process to scale up joint initiatives and improve their efficiency;
- Provide conditions and resources for the Program participants to improve their skills, ensure professional growth, and develop creative and leadership potential.

Our objectives:

- Identify and promote innovative approaches in education and modern teaching technologies, including practice-oriented and interdisciplinary ones;
- Analyze and promote professions of the future and skills required for successful scientific, career and personal growth of graduates;
- Raise the interest of students and professors in social and public activities, enhancing skills for social projects planning;
- Support academic mobility of students and professors;
- Create conditions providing students with opportunities for education and the development of leadership potential;
- Enhance professional and creative growth of university professors;
- Organize platform for professional exchange and dissemination of the best educational and social practices.

Expected outcomes:

The Program will support Russian universities and partner institutions in expanding the range of educational models and practices for students and professors by encouraging interdisciplinary and cross-sector partnerships, academic mobility, professional dialogue and agile social skills, essential to develop the economy of the future.

The projects of the Program will help raise the status of Russian universities and ensure their efficient integration into international educational and social landscape. Fellows will get new opportunities for scientific and personal advancement.

To achieve this the Program pays equal attention to acquisition of participants' academic knowledge in the areas of their expertise, to enhancement of their social skills required for their future careers, as well as to their ability to face social challenges:

- doing good things together and empowering each other;
- mobilizing resources;
- strategic vision;
- operational mindset;
- universal communication skills;
- forming partnerships; and
- sharing experiences and knowledge.

Our participants and partners:

The Program participants should possess intellectual, creative and leadership potential. We work with creative leaders interested in efficient development of educational institutions and territories.

The Program supports efficient, vibrant Russian universities and other institutions, working in the fields of education, science, culture and social services, acknowledged leaders, shaping agenda in their areas of expertise, in higher education, in the region or in the country, willing to 'give back' to the society.

Key target audience of the Program:

- community of students and professors;
 - community of Russian universities;
 - various institutions implementing partnership initiatives with universities;
 - scientific and teaching communities interested in developing Russian educational system;
- and
- local and professional communities in the regions interested in sustainable development of the territories.

Program activities:

The Program employs a range of tools and methods of work that may vary to solve critical issues and achieve maximum impact.

The Program may include the following components/activities:

- Individual support for students and professors, including financial (scholarships and grants), organizational, informational, etc. to empower them with academic mobility, with expertise in leadership role in professional life and society;
- Support for project teams and organizations, including financial, expert, consulting, organizational, informational, etc. to implement educational, partnership and social projects;

- Support of institutionalization of universities' social initiatives, including financial, expert, organizational, informational, etc.;
- Project monitoring; assessment of learning outcomes;
- Educational activities and events aimed at building skills and competences: tests, training courses, workshops, webinars, master classes, laboratories, role plays, hackathons, etc.;
- Identification and analysis of modern educational trends and best practices corresponding with the Program goals, including research, impact studies, etc.;
- Assessment of educational environment: compiling the Vladimir Potanin Foundation ranking of universities, including an aggregated expert assessment of the achievements by the Program participants for the previous year;
- Venues (physical and virtual) for professional exchange and experience sharing: forums, conferences, discussions, roundtables, schools, exchange initiatives, knowledge warehouses, etc.;
- International, intercultural, cross-sectoral exchanges, internships, practices for involvement of Russian students and professors in the development of professions of the future and relevant educational standards.

Stages and duration of the Program:

Stages of the Program include cycle and one time formats of the Program components/activities, handled in accordance with the regulations of the Foundation.

Program duration: permanent (up to the moment when the Board of the Foundation decides to close the Program).

Further details of the Program:

- Program components/activities are handled in accordance with the regulations of the Foundation;
- Composition of some of the Program components/activities is determined by order of the General Director of the Foundation;
- Estimated income and expenditures under the Program are approved by the Foundation Board within the limits of an annual plan and budget of the Foundation;
- Program documents are published on the Foundation website: fondpotanin.ru.