



CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE  
**UNIVERSITY**

# CGI UNIVERSITY NETWORK OFFICIAL GUIDE



#CGIU2022  
[cgiu.org](https://cgiu.org)



# THE CGI UNIVERSITY NETWORK

The CGI University (CGI U) Network is a consortium of colleges and universities that support, mentor, and provide seed funding to leading student innovators and entrepreneurs on their respective campuses. To join the CGI U Network, a university must provide a minimum of \$5,000 in total funding to CGI U student commitment-makers from its campus.



Building on the successful model of the Clinton Global Initiative, President Bill Clinton launched the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) in 2007 to engage the next generation of leaders on college campuses around the world. Each year, we challenge students to make Commitments to Action: new, specific, and measurable initiatives that address pressing challenges.

Through CGI U, students participate in leadership development, mentorship, skills training, and partnership building, with the experience culminating in the CGI U annual meeting, where commitment-makers across the world come together to learn how to turn their ideas into action. Since 2007, more than 7,000 commitments have been made and \$4 million USD in funding has been awarded to commitment-makers through CGI U.

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# **THE BENEFITS**

**The CGI University Network is a powerful platform for colleges and universities to connect with student leaders, support emerging social innovators, and capitalize on the broad range of publicity and networking opportunities available to CGI U participants.**

## **FEATURING OPPORTUNITIES**

As part of the CGI U Network, the university and its students are eligible for a wide range of publicity and featuring opportunities including: press features, newsletter announcements, online features and website, and recognition through CGI U and the Clinton Foundation's engagement platforms.

## **SHOWCASING STUDENT LEADERS**

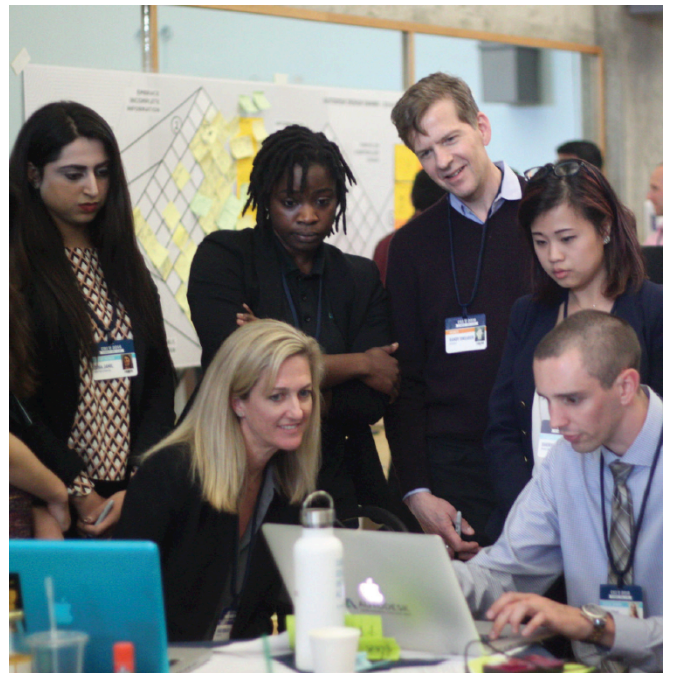
The university is able to showcase its CGI U students through its own external communications efforts. The university is encouraged to work with its contacts in the local media and the Clinton Foundation's press team to garner greater publicity for CGI U commitment-makers on its campus.

## **CGI UNIVERSITY NETWORK SEAL**

The university receives a CGI U Network seal recognizing its participation in the network for use in its online materials.

## **YEAR-ROUND NETWORK BUILDING**

CGI U Network members are able to connect and collaborate throughout the academic year via monthly groups. These calls are an opportunity to connect directly with CGI U staff; hear program updates; receive guidance on CGI U student recruitment, selection, financial allocation, and engagement; and share best practices with fellow CGI U Network members.





# THE PROCESS

**1** Members of the university communicate with CGI U to learn more about the CGI U Network, and the university administration formally joins the CGI U Network via an online form.

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**2** The university assigns a key CGI U liaison to serve as the point of contact for CGI U throughout the process, along with at least one staff or faculty member who can serve as the on-campus mentor(s) for student commitment-makers.

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**3** The university's liaison and mentor(s) receive a resource guide with information on how to encourage students to apply to CGI U, assist students in preparing their CGI U application, and support students as they develop and carry out their Commitments to Action. The university's point of contacts will also receive the schedule for the CGI U Network monthly group calls.

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**4** CGI U Network members encourage students to apply for the year-long program. Each year, CGI U brings together more than 800 college students from across the world to make Commitments to Action in five focus areas: Education, Environment and Climate Change, Peace and Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, and Public health. All currently enrolled students (undergraduate and graduate) 18 years of age and older or those with a legal guardian are eligible to apply to attend CGI U.

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**5** Students develop Commitments to Action with support from the university liaison and mentor, and apply online at **[cguiu.org/apply](https://cguiu.org/apply)**.

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**6** Once the application closes, CGI U provides each member university with the applications of students who have applied to CGI U from their respective school. During the selection period, the CGI U staff works in collaboration with the CGI U Network to evaluate the strength of each student's application.

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**7** At CGI U's discretion, students are invited to participate in the year-long program. CGI U provides each member university with a final list of students who have been invited from their respective school. If a member institution has a question regarding an application decision, CGI U will revisit that student's application with the university on a case-by-case basis.

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**8** At the university's discretion, the university provides at least \$5,000 in total funding to a select group of accepted CGI U attendees. All funds are allocated by and through the university, and should be intended as start-up funds for the student commitments.

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**9** Once accepted into the CGI U program, students will be matched with an alumni mentor within their project area, engage in the social impact curriculum, gain access to the Clinton Foundation's network of topic experts and partners, and receive invitations to events, including the CGI U virtual annual meeting. Students may be featured on-stage, online, or in other media and press opportunities.

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**10** A final report must be submitted to CGI U by the university liaison highlighting the final funding amounts. Additionally, CGI U solicits progress reports from all student commitment-makers as part of their final activity in the year-long program.

# **TIMELINE**

1. Join the CGI U Network
2. Assign a CGI U liaison and on-campus mentor
3. Receive new member and onboarding materials
4. Recruit CGI U applicants and help them develop their CGI U applications
5. Students submit CGI U applications by the deadline
6. CGI U staff and CGI U Network review applications and select students for year-long program
7. Students are invited to participate in year-long program
8. University allocates CGI U Network funding to accepted students
9. Students participate in year-round curriculum, and university representatives attend virtual annual meeting
10. Students submit progress reports, and university representatives submit online report submitted to CGI U confirming funding allocations and renewing membership for the next CGI U cycle

# **COMMITMENTS TO ACTION**

**CGI U is a growing community of young leaders who are forging innovative solutions to pressing global challenges through their Commitments to Action. Below are examples of several CGI U commitments that are already making a measurable difference around the world.**

## **EDUCATION**

Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) is a girls' education initiative and community development program founded by Kennedy Odede in the Kibera slum outside of Nairobi, Kenya. Since launching this commitment as a student at Wesleyan University, Kennedy has turned his initiative into a unique model that provides education, health care, and water and sanitation services to thousands of Kibera residents. This holistic approach reached nearly 100,000 people last year and provided more than 300 girls with an elementary school education. Additionally, strong student performance on government exams has led SHOFCO's schools to rank among the top three in the country.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Donnel Baird's BlocPower is a social enterprise and online marketplace that connects investors to networks of energy efficiency projects in small businesses, houses of worship, and nonprofits in underserved communities in New York. Using a predictive model which quickly determines the appropriate energy efficiency retrofit for a given building, Donnel's team has provided retrofit analysis for 400 buildings in New York along with financing for 50. He is currently partnering with Con Edison and the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition to target neighborhoods with high rates of asthma and retrofit buildings in these districts with safer, greener energy alternatives. BlocPower has a full-time staff of 18 people along with an additional 20 summer fellows.

## **PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Hafsah Lak founded Violence Against Women Centers in an effort to protect and support victims of gender-based violence in Pakistan. These 24 hour full-service facilities, run entirely by women, provide a comprehensive suite of services including first-response medical exams, lodging, crime reporting, forensic recovery, and legal aid. Hafsah has partnered with the Punjab Chief Minister's Special Monitoring Unit while co-authoring the Protection of Women Against Violence Act. This unique piece of legislation, protects women against all forms of wrongful treatment – from sexual assault to cybercrimes to psychological and economic abuse. It also provides additional public sector investment to Hafsah's centers and other shelter homes for women.



**Shining Hope for Communities: Kennedy Odede**



**BlocPower: Donnel Baird**



# COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

## POVERTY ALLEVIATION

As a student at the University of California, Berkeley, Anurag Sridharan created a mobile text messaging service that provides accurate water delivery information to urban communities in India. Before Anurag's text messaging system, many urban residents had to wait by their taps for hours at a time, unsure of when water would be available. Anurag's solution, NextDrop, provides water monitoring, is providing water monitoring and leakage tracking services to all of Bangalore. To date, more than 50,000 customers have signed up for NextDrop's services. Anurag and her team of 30 are beginning to use sensor technology and a corresponding app to address community-wide water security by assessing water supply, distribution, consumption, treatment, and recycling.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Founded by Gavin Armstrong, the Lucky Iron Fish is a safe and effective solution for reducing iron deficiency around the world. When used in the cooking process, this reusable small iron ingot releases 75 percent of one's daily recommended iron intake into meals. After nine months of using the Lucky Iron Fish every day, families in Cambodia have experienced a 50 percent reduction in the incidence of clinical iron deficiency anemia. Since this initial launch in Cambodia, Gavin and the Lucky Iron Fish team have gone on to work with NGO partners in India, Kenya, Myanmar, and Rwanda, and have distributed about 70,000 units to date. For every Lucky Iron Fish purchased online, one is donated to communities with high rates of iron deficiency. Lucky Iron Fish has been rated in the top one percent of all B Corporations and credited for its innovative social value proposition throughout its supply chain, production model, employee practices, and environmental policies.



**Lucky Iron Fish: Gavin Armstrong**

# FAQ

## GENERAL

### **What types of universities can join the network?**

The CGI University Network is open to accredited universities and colleges, both in the United States and around the world.

### **What is the typical time commitment?**

The biggest responsibilities for the university staff who is coordinating these efforts are the following: 1) outreach to students; and 2) coordinating the process of selecting which CGI U participants from their respective campuses will receive funding. The biggest responsibility of the campus mentor is to support students in carrying out their Commitments to Action by providing: 1) subject matter expertise; and 2) helping students access other resources on-campus.

## BENEFITS OF THE CGI UNIVERSITY NETWORK

### **We already run a similar program. How does this contribute to or differ from our existing efforts in this field?**

Participation in the CGI University Network has many unique benefits. Through CGI U and the Clinton Foundation, students and university representatives have access to both experts in their respective fields and other CGI U commitment-makers. Students and university representatives will have the opportunity to network, brainstorm ideas, share best practices, and form effective partnerships with one another. Throughout the year, CGI U participants can also access a host of dynamic opportunities, including CGI U Commitment Mentors, CGI U meet-ups, and the CGI U alumni network. Members also gain access to high-quality featuring opportunities, including publicity in CGI U materials and the possibility of coverage from a wide range of media outlets.

### **What types of featuring and publicity opportunities are available to students and universities?**

CGI U students and universities are considered for a wide range of external publicity opportunities. CGI U

and student commitment-makers have been featured in outlets including The TODAY Show, The Wall Street Journal, PARADE Magazine, The Colbert Report, MSNBC, and TIME.com. In addition to external press features, students may be featured through CGI U and the Clinton Foundation's platforms, including the annual meeting, progress report videos, the annual report, keynote addresses, and commitments challenges. Members are also highlighted on **cgIU.org**.

## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

### **Who at the university should coordinate this effort?**

Upon formally joining the CGI University Network, the university must assign a CGI U liaison, who will work closely with both university staff and CGI U staff throughout the year. The liaison could work in student affairs of the dean of students' office, the immediate president or chancellor's office, or a relevant center for entrepreneurship on campus.

### **What is the best way to find an effective campus mentor for students?**

Some of the best mentors are experts or practitioners in the fields most relevant to student commitments. Faculty members or administrators involved in social entrepreneurship, design, or public service might serve as good mentors for student commitment-makers. A campus mentor should have time to dedicate to guiding the students as they move from idea to action, as well as a working knowledge of many of CGI U's five focus areas: Education, Environment and Climate Change, Peace and Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, and Public Health.

### **Can the university's liaison also serve as the campus mentor?**

Yes, these roles may be combined. However, this person needs to ensure that students have adequate support in developing their commitments and that CGI U's reporting requirements are met.

# FAQ

## **STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS**

### **How are applicants selected for CGI U?**

To be considered for admission, all applicants are required to make Commitments to Action through an online application. A Commitment to Action is a concrete plan that addresses a pressing challenge in one of CGI U's five focus areas. CGI U seeks students with new and innovative project ideas and detailed and specific plans of action that will produce measurable results. Additionally, CGI U seeks a diverse group of students from a varied range of disciplines with the common goal of taking action to make an impact.

### **Does the university select its students who will participate?**

Students are invited to participate in CGI U's year-long program at CGI U's discretion. These are decisions are ultimately determined by CGI U staff based on the strength of each student's application, but in collaboration with the university liaison.

## **FUNDING FOR STUDENTS**

### **How does the university determine the funding allocation to its students participating in CGI U?**

In order to qualify as a member of the CGI University Network, a university must allocate at least \$5,000 USD to support student commitments. As part of the CGI U application, each student is asked to provide a detailed plan that outlines the scope of the commitment and how it will be implemented. Universities can use this information to determine funding allocations, and can also ask their students to submit supplemental information, such as budgets or detailed timelines.

### **What is the average amount of seed funding provided for each student initiative?**

Most seed funding for student commitments ranges from \$1,000 to \$3,000 USD per commitment, although it has been as large as \$10,000 USD in the past. It is at the discretion of the university to determine the amount of funding it provides to individual commitment-makers as well as the number of students who receive funding, as long as the total

amount of funding meets the minimum per academic year requirement to join the CGI University Network.

### **Do student commitments have to take place on campus?**

No. CGI U encourages students to make commitments that devise innovation solutions to challenges either on their campus, in their local community, or around the world.

### **How are the funds and accounting managed? Are there any restrictions on student commitment funding?**

All funds are allocated by and through the university. University Network funds are not given to or distributed by CGI U. The accounting for these funds is managed by the university, and all funds are allocated at its discretion. The university will report to CGI U regarding funding allocation to student commitment-makers.

### **What if a university has funding specifically allocated for graduate students or is only able to support students within a specific program?**

CGI U will review this situation on a case-by-case basis, but encourages any graduate program or school to speak with the broader campus leadership before joining the University Network. The larger university may also have interest in joining the network, thereby opening up additional sources of student funding and expanding the opportunity for students campus-wide.

### **What happens if the university does not fulfill its pledge to allocate at least \$5,000 USD to CGI U students in the time allotted?**

Member institutions are asked to determine all funding allocations based on the given reporting timeline. If funding allocations change after the submission of reports, CGI U can include an addendum in its records. Please note that it is a requirement that all universities fund at least \$5,000 USD to maintain membership in the CGI University Network.



# FAQ

## COMMUNICATION

### **What communications does a member of the CGI University Network have with CGI U and vice versa?**

CGI U staff members are available throughout the year to communicate with and support University Network members. When a university joins the network, the CGI U team can work with the university's CGI U liaison as needed to support outreach efforts and answer any questions that the liaison may have. The university also works with the CGI U staff as desired to receive guidance on allocating funding and mentoring student commitment-makers. In addition, each University Network member is required to submit a formal report to CGI U. The CGI U staff will solicit this report via an online form. After the meeting, the university shares its overall feedback on the University Network program, reports on how it allocated funding for student commitments, and has the opportunity to renew its membership in the network for the next year.

