

Dear parent,

Greetings from Solitaire Global Schools! 🌱

We are much excitement to share with you that Applications for AFS Global STEM Accelerators Cohort 2, funded by BP, are now OPEN!!!

Women around the world currently make up more than half of the college-educated workforce. However, STEM fields are made up of only 28% women. Women and girls who desire to learn more about STEM often face a challenging set of circumstances in fields that are traditionally dominated by men. (See the American Association of University Women for more details). That's why we have created a program dedicated to the future of women in STEM fields. By providing an opportunity for girls from around the world to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, we can start to change this trend and open up more possibilities for the perspectives of women in the greater goal of reaching a sustainable future.

Scholarship winners will participate in 12-week all-virtual programs focusing on emerging and critical STEM skills and fields, global competence education, and social impact (co-developed with the University of Pennsylvania). Scholars will enrich their STEM knowledge and skills through interactive, hands-on curriculum, while developing critical global competencies, including problem-solving, analytical skills, intercultural understanding, and the ability to build bridges across cultures.

The program culminates with team projects and presentations that offer potential solutions to real-world challenges, with an emphasis on climate change and the energy transition. Scholars who complete the program earn the Advanced Certificate on Global Competence for Social Impact, awarded by AFS and the University of Pennsylvania Center for Social Impact Strategy.

Program Dates:

The 12-week all-virtual Global STEM Accelerators exchange program will run from 26 August – 19 November, 2023

Scholars who complete the program earn the Advanced Certificate on Global Competence for Social Impact, awarded by AFS and the University of Pennsylvania Center for Social Impact Strategy.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be young women ages 15-17.5 years old at the program start date (Birth dates from December 1, 2005, through September 1, 2008).
- Must be able to participate fully in a classroom setting and program conducted entirely in English.
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability, STEM, and interacting with different cultures.

-Talented young people from all backgrounds who reflect the diversity of populations around the world, particularly underrepresented populations and students with high financial need, are strongly encouraged to apply!

Technology Requirement

- A computer, smartphone or other digital device to access the virtual program content
- An integrated webcam and microphone for participation in online dialogue sessions
- Stable internet or wifi connection.

How does the Virtual Curriculum Work?

- The 12-week virtual program consists of both “live” synchronous activities (dialogue sessions on Zoom with your global peers, with AFS facilitators) each week, as well as self-paced/asynchronous content (online, interactive modules, games, and quizzes).
- Over the course of the 12 weeks, you’ll learn about sustainability and social innovation, collaborate with your global peers, and design your very own social impact project—which you’ll record and present digitally to the University of Pennsylvania Center for Social Impact Strategy.
- Participation will require approximately 3-4 hours of your time each week.
- The virtual program is designed to be flexible enough that it can fit around your school schedule.
- The live sessions will be offered multiple times to accommodate diverse time zones and schedules.
- Participants will be able to indicate desired scheduling preferences for the live sessions.
- Participation in the virtual curriculum is mandatory for all Global STEM Accelerator scholars.

Online Application Link:

<https://application.afs.org/stem/s/applynowregister>

Global STEM Academies Program Website Link for detailed Information:

<https://afs.org/global-stem/accelerators/>

Application Deadline:

Your Global STEM Academies Application for Cohort 2 must be completed no later than June 25, 2023. Late forms (after the deadline) and Applications with Missing Information / Forms will be considered as incomplete, and will not be accepted.