



THE INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH INITIATIVE PROGRAM



Youth Initiative Program Application 2016 - 2017

YIP 9



THE INVITATION

It doesn't interest me
what you do for a living.
I want to know
what you ache for
and if you dare to dream
of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me
how old you are.
I want to know
if you will risk
looking like a fool
for love
for your dream
for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me
what planets are
squaring your moon...
I want to know
if you have touched
the centre of your own sorrow
if you have been opened
by life's betrayals
or have become shrivelled and closed
from fear of further pain.

I want to know
if you can sit with pain
mine or your own
without moving to hide it
or fade it
or fix it.

I want to know
if you can be with joy
mine or your own
if you can dance with wildness
and let the ecstasy fill you
to the tips of your fingers and toes
without cautioning us
to be careful
to be realistic
to remember the limitations
of being human.

It doesn't interest me
if the story you are telling me
is true.
I want to know if you can
disappoint another
to be true to yourself.
If you can bear
the accusation of betrayal
and not betray your own soul.
If you can be faithless
and therefore trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see Beauty
even when it is not pretty
every day.
And if you can source your own life
from its presence.

I want to know
if you can live with failure
yours and mine
and still stand at the edge of the lake
and shout to the silver of the full moon,
"Yes."

It doesn't interest me
to know where you live
or how much money you have.
I want to know if you can get up
after the night of grief and despair
weary and bruised to the bone
and do what needs to be done
to feed the children.

It doesn't interest me
who you know
or how you came to be here.
I want to know if you will stand
in the centre of the fire
with me
and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me
where or what or with whom
you have studied.
I want to know
what sustains you
from the inside
when all else falls away.

I want to know
if you can be alone
with yourself
and if you truly like
the company you keep.
in the empty moments.

*By Oriah Mountain Dreamer from her book, THE
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www.oriah.org*



INTRODUCTION:

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for downloading the YIP Application Form 2016 - 2017!

This Application Process will help you to decide whether YIP is the right next step in your journey and will enable us to get to know a bit about you, your ideas and inspirations. We hope that the poem above encourages you to present yourself in a bold and honest way.

An important aspect of the YIP experience is developing the capacity to be attentive to the source of your longings and motivations in the world. With this application process, we invite you to shed light on these motivations so we can better understand your wish to be here. We hope you enjoy this challenge and that you take your time to answer the questions authentically.

How do we decide your acceptance? We are looking for enthusiastic young people who have a deep seeded interest in working toward a more sustainable future by fully engaging with themselves, others, their communities and the world. You need to be willing to consciously navigate the joys and challenges of community life and to take part in sculpting your learning. We are interested in your capacity and longing for initiative, the ideas and inspirations behind your actions and your ability to be reflective about yourself and these ideas.

Before continuing the application process, please read the “Terms and Conditions” of YIP under the “Apply” section of the website. This information will inform you about the practicalities of applying for YIP and will make your application process easier.

www.yip.se/application/terms_and_conditions



STEP ONE: WHO ARE YOU?

This section of the application is for us to get to know you and hear the reasons and inspirations as to why you would like to participate in YIP. For this section, please submit a one (1) page Biography, and no more than three (3) and no less than two (2) pages of text for the Call, Landscape and Horizon. Please give an individual response to each of the bulleted tasks.

Biography: Your Life

- In one (1) page of text, please describe the experiences and events of your biography that you feel have shaped who you are today.

The Call: Your Impulse

- What inspires you to get out of bed in the morning?
- What drives you to participate in a program like YIP?
- What specific areas in YIP interest you most and why?

The Landscape: Your Influence

- Describe a time when you have shown and/or taken initiative.
- Name one aspect of yourself that you consider a strength and one that you consider a weakness, and describe how these have influenced your life.
- What do you see are the major challenges for humanity in your lifetime and what are some solutions to those challenges?
- Name one initiative, organization, event or business in your local surrounding that inspires you and explain why.

The Horizon: Your Intention

- What do you want to have achieved five years from now and how do you see YIP contributing in getting you there?
- What gives you hope for the future?



STEP TWO: YOUR INITIATIVE

In this practical aspect of the application, we challenge you to take initiative! There are three options of how to meet this challenge, none of which can involve the use of money in any way. Choose one of the following that you are drawn to most.

OPTION 1: AN INVITATION TO THE FUTURE

Here, we challenge you to design a Poster promoting a future event. What is important to you that has yet to take place? What action, celebration or gathering would you like to see happen in the future and what would it look like? How would you spread the word on a Poster? Submit your Poster with your application.

OPTION 2: EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR REACH ON THE GLOBE

Here, we challenge you to find someone you do not know, and who is not on the same continent as you, and get him or her to take a picture of themselves holding a sign with your name on it, in front of a recognisable monument or place. Submit the photograph with your application. It could be as simple as a street sign or as grand as the Pyramids, but it must be a place that we can successfully look up using information found in the picture you submit.

OPTION 3: INTERACT WITH WHAT INSPIRES YOU

Here, we challenge you to formulate your ideas directed at positive change in a certain topic (environmental, political, cultural, etc.) and make contact with a representative in that field (teacher, politician, social worker, business owner, etc.) to discuss the topic. Submit a written reflection, article or video of your experience (max. one [1] page or three [3] minutes). Please include the name, profession/occupation and E-mail address of the person you had contact with.



STEP THREE: REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Under “Required Attachments” on the “Apply” page of the YIP website you can find more information about the following requirements and download the necessary files: www.yip.se/application/required_attachments

- **Reference Letters**

Two (2) Reference Letters have to be submitted by your referees to info@yip.se and therefore should not be sent in with your application. However, your application will only be completed and processed when we have received both references.

- **Health Report**

The provided medical report must be completed, signed and stamped by a qualified medical doctor.

- **Certificate of Proficiency in English**

If English is not your native language, you will need to provide a certificate of proficiency in English.

- **Portrait Photograph**

You must include a portrait photograph showing only your head (a passport photo or similar) with your application.

STEP FOUR: PAY YOUR APPLICATION FEE

The Application Fee for YIP is SEK 750.- It is not refundable. YIP charges this fee to cover some of the costs of processing the applications. To pay, go to the website and click on “Pay Application Fee” under “Apply”. Make sure you keep a transfer receipt and send it in along with your application. www.yip.se/application/fee



STEP FIVE: REVIEW YOUR CHECK-LIST

Please review the check-list below and make sure that all the required attachments are ready to submit:

STEP ONE: WHO ARE YOU?

- ☐ Biography
- ☐ The Call
- ☐ The Landscape
- ☐ The Horizon

STEP TWO: YOUR INITIATIVE

- ☐ Your Initiative

STEP THREE: REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- ☐ Reference letters (Just a reminder: the reference letters have to be sent in by your referees and therefore should not be sent with your application. However, your application will only be processed when we have received both references.)
- ☐ Health Report
- ☐ Certificate of Proficiency in English
- ☐ Portrait Photograph

STEP FOUR: PAY YOUR APPLICATION FEE

- ☐ Application fee paid
- ☐ Proof of payment/transfer receipt included in attachment

STEP SIX: SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION!

After reviewing your checklist and making sure your application is complete, you have two options for submitting:

By E-mail to: info@yip.se (subject: Application YIP9 + Name)

By Post to: Youth Initiative Program Admissions
Kulturcentrum Järna 25
15391 Järna, Sweden



Congratulations!

You have reached the end of your application process.

It is our sincere hope that this experience has been both a joy and a challenge and that it has perhaps brought you closer to understanding what it is that you are striving for with the life that you have.

Best wishes, and good luck!

-The YIP9 Organizing Team