

SSE mentor role description

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the School for Social Entrepreneurs as a mentor to one of our SSE students.

Are you interested in how we can tackle the biggest problems in society in innovative ways? Could you spare one hour every month, to support an inspiring social entrepreneur who is leading the change? We're looking for volunteers to mentor people in our next cohorts. You'll act as a critical friend and objective sounding board to a budding social entrepreneur - someone who is starting or scaling a project to tackle a problems such as poverty, climate change or ill-health.

This is a great opportunity to develop your mentoring and coaching skills, while learning about social entrepreneurship. You will be supported by the School for Social Entrepreneurs through mentor training and check-ins. The time commitment is to dedicate a minimum of one hour per month to mentoring.

How to apply

All you need to do is apply through [this application form](#) evidencing how you meet the role description by **Monday 9th December at 9am**.

Then you may be invited to attend an induction evening to check you fit the criteria and that SSE is the right fit for you on **Tuesday 17th December 17:30 - 19:30** at the SSE offices in London ([139 Tooley St, London SE1 2HZ](#)).

Firstly, our commitment to inclusion

Diversity is a fact of life. Inclusion is a choice and a practice - for organisations and individuals. At SSE, our aim is to drive inclusion into every area and activity of what we do: from access to programmes, to grant investment, to board, staff and partnerships.

However you identify, we would like to hear from you. In our commitment to continue to diversify our teams, freelance staff and programmes we are particularly keen to hear from those who identify as BAME, LGBTQ+ and those with disabilities.

If you require any reasonable adjustments during this application process including assistance with reading of this document, please contact recruitment@sse.org.uk

About the School for Social Entrepreneurs

We can't fix issues like poverty, climate change and ill-health alone. That's why the School for Social Entrepreneurs exists. SSE helps 1,000 people a year develop the skills, strengths and networks they need to tackle society's biggest problems. It runs courses that equip people to start, scale and strengthen organisations that make a positive difference. But it is not a traditional school. Learning with SSE is inspiring, action-based and accessible. SSE supports people in others ways too, such as funding and mentoring. Lord

Michael Young founded SSE as a charity in 1997, and it's grown to a network of schools across the UK, Canada and India.

SSE is a vibrant organisation; we work entrepreneurially and are committed to providing quality learning opportunities for social entrepreneurs, community businesses and social sector leaders. www.the-sse.org.

Experience, skills and qualities

- Has started and run their own business / social enterprise / charity.
OR
- Has an in-depth understanding of the process and challenges of starting and running a business / social enterprise / charity.
- Helps the student to solve their organisational and leadership challenges from a strategic perspective.
- Is a skilled listener and questioner who tends towards a coaching approach (asking probing questions) rather than a directive approach (giving advice).
- Is respectful and supportive towards the student and is able to quickly build a positive relationship of mutual trust and rapport.
- Is enthusiastic and interested in the students and organisations that SSE supports.

What types of challenges will the mentor support the students with?

This will vary depending on the stage of development of the organisation but might be...

Start Up stage

- Support to clarify the organisation's vision and mission
- Support to refine the business model and create a financially sustainable organisation
- Support to develop a business plan
- Issues with confidence, motivation and time management.

Growth stage (Trade Up and Scale Up)

- Clarifying organisational strategy and business planning
- Support with developing new income streams and new customer relationships
- Support with specific leadership challenges and people issues
- Issues with confidence, motivation and time management.

Commitment needed

- To commit to giving SSE a minimum of one hour per month of your time
- To attend training / induction sessions as required.
- To meet each student you are matched with a minimum of three times (more if the relationship is fruitful and you both wish to continue)
- To report back to SSE on a quarterly basis on how your mentoring relationships are going
- To receive feedback from your mentees via SSE and to discuss this with SSE's learning managers.