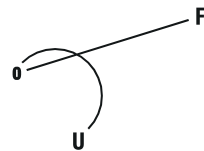




إكسبو 2020  
دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAEU

جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
United Arab Emirates University



# Pathfinders Program Information Pack - General



## I. About the Program and the Pathfinders' Journey:

The Pathfinders Program will empower participants and give them the guided freedom they need to choose their own path and make their own impact on the world.

The transformative transdisciplinary curriculum offers participants a strong connection to the real-world and uses a system thinking approach, while enhancing their entrepreneurial mindset.

Pathfinders will develop a growth mindset and a lifelong learning habit to become intentional learners and to always explore challenges faced by our global society and seek the skills and transdisciplinary knowledge necessary to solve these challenges.

Pathfinders will acquire the essential intellectual equipment to survive in today's complex, dynamic and integrated society. These will include, for instance, social inquiry, data culture, and collective action.

These skills will not only be acquired through classroom learning but through real-life learning experiences.

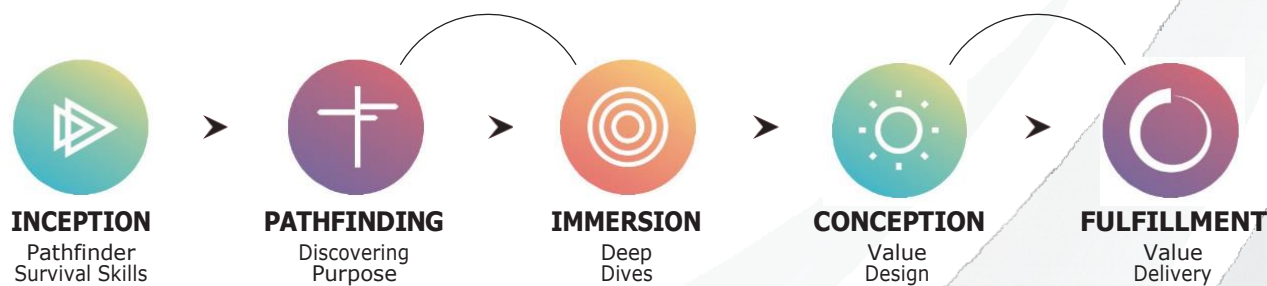
The Pathfinders Program will run over 5 journey phases, preceded by an induction phase.



## INDUCTION PHASE (THE PISCINE):

Pathfinders will engage in a two-week immersion to computational thinking ("Piscine" bootcamp). The objective of the 2-week immersion is to learn how to work in a collaborative way in order to gain Computational Thinking, Collective Creativity and Problem-Solving skills.

Thereafter the pathfinders will engage in the 5 following journey-phases:



### PHASE 1: INCEPTION

Pathfinders will acquire experiences and build their soft, professional and thinking skills through a series of workshops, experiences and simulations. Skill sets include design thinking, critical thinking, business and professional skills, etc.

### PHASE 2: PATHFINDING

Pathfinders will

- i) discover their purpose and their talent;
- ii) discover their place in the universe;
- iii) be exposed to a variety of global challenges identified by key industries (challenge holders) and will identify their own micro challenges.







### PHASE 3: IMMERSION

Pathfinders will deep dive into academic knowledge, practical knowledge and sector-specific support required to tackle and thoroughly understand their challenges; through interactions with industry key players, experts and a personal exploration journey.

### PHASE 4: CONCEPTION

Pathfinders will narrow down the challenge to a specific solution, be it a product, service or organization. Pathfinders are assisted by path-enablers providing tailored guidance to prototyping their solutions.

### PHASE 5: FULFILMENT

Pathfinders will devise strategies to turn their ideas into sustainable solutions, developing compelling value propositions and business cases.

In this phase, pathfinders will also present their solutions to the challenge holders and will receive feedback from experts and private companies on what works and what needs further refinement in preparation of the big pitch and the graduation from the program.

## II. Program Delivery Method:

The Pathfinders Program delivery is innovative and is based on workshops, group work, interactions with experts, path-enablers, challenge holders and stakeholders through visits and meetings, and by attending events and public engagements. A blended approach will be used whenever deemed necessary. However, the Pathfinders Program is intended to be conducted face-to-face across all its implementation phases.

## III. Program Commitment and Fees:

The Pathfinders Program is a full time six-month unique learning experience which starts in **October 2021** and concludes in **March 2022**.

The program cost is estimated at **\$30,000** equivalent to **AED 112,500** per participant. Selected students will pay only **AED 5,000** as a subscription fee to the program.

All other costs (tuition fee, accommodation and travel) will be covered for the participants except food. Light snacks will be provided during workdays while diners and weekend's meals need to be self-arranged.

The collected fees will be invested back as SEED funding to support the best program generated ideas. The seed funding will support the best three solutions of the program at **50%, 30% and 20%** respectively.



## IV. Application Process:



### Step 1

Applicants must complete the online application by end of day on **August 29, 2021**.



### Step 2

Review of all applications by a committee of relevant experts, where the top 100 applicants will be shortlisted by **August 31, 2021**.



### Step 3

The 100 shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit additional information by **September 2, 2021** for a second round of evaluations, to better assess the applicant's profile and motivation to join the program.



### Step 4

The 70 shortlisted applicants will be announced and invited to an assessment center by **September 5, 2021**, where their communication, interpersonal skills, and ability to work together will be assessed through individual and group task exercises or psychometric tests.



### Step 5

A total of 50 applicants will be selected by **September 12, 2021**, of which 10 will be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be kept active until the first week of the program.



### Step 6

Selected applicants will be required to pay the program fees and sign the learning agreement to guarantee their place in the program by **September 16, 2021**.

## V. Application Eligibility Criteria:

- ★ Applicants must have a **good proficiency in English**.
- ★ Applicants should be over 18 years old by **October 1, 2021**.
- ★ Applicants can be recent high School graduates, enrolled students or recent graduates (within one year) from a UAE or any international university.
- ★ Be able to commit on a full-time basis for the full / whole duration (**October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022**) of the program and be on-board with the intensive yet rewarding workload.

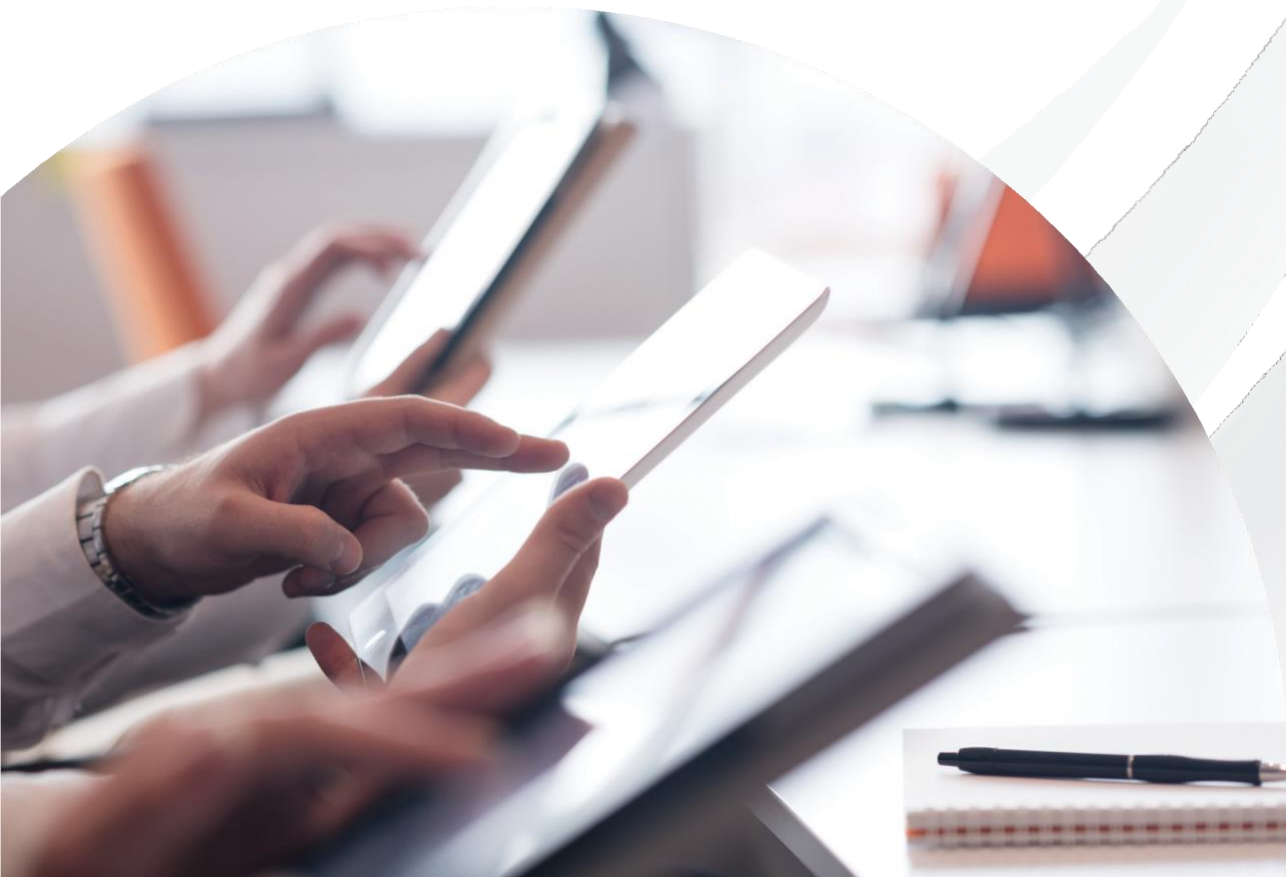


## VI. Selection Criteria:

Applicants will be assessed through their:

- 1 Motivation and enthusiasm to join the program and fulfill its requirements
- 2 Openness and curiosity to learn and be a team-player as they will experience and explore global challenges requiring a **multi-disciplinary approach** to be solved.
- 3 Willingness to initiate a self-discovery path to identify your purpose and talents, develop their growth mindset and a lifelong learning habit to better explore challenges faced by our global society.
- 4 Interest in a non-traditional learning framework, where skills are acquired through real and gamified experiences, and constant interactions with the industry and end-users.
- 5 Skillset, personality and agility.

The pathfinder's program will ensure maximum accessibility to the program for learners of every background. It will thus guarantee a balance of genders in selected participants, and we strongly encourage Emirati students to apply. The program also encourages people of determination to apply as the program will ensure their specific needs are accommodated during the program to its best ability





## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

### 1. Who will deliver the program?

The program is delivered by qualified facilitators, trainers, instructors, specialized partnering institutions and key industry partners. The program will offer access to enabling eco-system that is learner centric to support students throughout their pathfinding journey.

### 2. What is the cost?

Please refer to section 3 above.

### 3. Is it on-site or blended?

The program is intended to be delivered entirely face to face at the Expo2020 site, in the UAEU pavilion. A blended delivery method will be applied only if deemed necessary.

### 4. Will accommodation be provided?

Accommodation will be provided on the EXPO2020 site on a shared basis, and segregated gender occupancy.

### 5. Is there just one stage in the selection process or will there be a second round?

Please refer to sections 4, 5 and 6 above

### 6. Will we receive a certificate or even a prize/reward upon completion?

Yes, all participants who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate of completion. Some awards and honors will be granted for top performers, including SEED Funding awarded to the best ideas developed in the program.

### 7. What measures will be in-place to protect against Covid-19?

The program activities will be planned and conducted in line with the national health and safety protocols in UAE. All face-to-face interactions will be planned in accordance with the national UAE and EXPO 2020 required measures.

### 8. What will I gain from joining such a program?

A unique experience that is customized and offered to selected students across the globe

An opportunity to meet and network with professionals, mentors and key industry key players where some professional opportunities or collaboration possibilities could emerge

Learn from highly qualified experts, facilitators and instructors

Enhance your technical, thinking and interpersonal skills

Access EXPO 2020 mega-event with significant resources and opportunities, such as events, public engagement

Receive SEED money for the best ideas

### 9. How could I learn more about the program?

For more information, please visit: <https://expo2020.uaeu.ac.ae/en/index.shtml>  
or connect through: [expo2020@uaeu.ac.ae](mailto:expo2020@uaeu.ac.ae)