



NEXT EINSTEIN FORUM

An  **AIMS** initiative in partnership with the Robert Bosch Stiftung

Call for Applications

Next Einstein Forum Ambassadors

Introduction:

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for considering applying for the Next Einstein Forum Ambassadors Program. Our program accepts highly motivated and qualified applicants dedicated to promoting the STEM fields in Africa. This year, eligible applicants will be required to be permanently residing in their country of origin. Please review the Call for Applications thoroughly and we hope that you will apply.

Instructions: All applications are to be submitted online in English or French. Please combine all documents into one file and the file must follow naming conventions in order to be accepted. Applications that do not follow these requirements will not be accepted. You can download the application form at <https://nef.org/ambassadors/>

The application form will request the following information from you.

- Contact information
- CV **Please attach your CV to the end of the application form. The final document should include the application form and CV in ONE file. Applications that do not follow this format and naming convention will not be accepted. The file should be in PDF format and it should be labeled Country of Citizenship – Last name, First name Middle name. For example, Jane Lyon Doe from Mauritius would label her final PDF file as Mauritius – Doe, Jane Lyon**
- Photograph (face and shoulders only & must be high-resolution) **Please copy and paste photograph to the beginning of the application form
- A 2 minute recorded video responding to points below. The video must not exceed 2 minutes. The video does not have to be professionally done (it can be taken with a camera or phone, for example) but the picture and sound should be clear. You must upload your video to YouTube and provide the YouTube link in the application. Only a YouTube link will

be accepted. Please note that a clear and well-presented video will positively impact your application.

- o Why do you want to be a NEF Ambassador?
- o What special skills and contributions would you bring to your role as NEF Ambassador?
- Very brief answers to the following questions (250 words max for each)
 1. 1) As a NEF ambassador you will attend the NEF Global Gathering 2020 that will take place in Nairobi, Kenya. What do I want to learn from and share at the NEF Global Gathering?
[Click here to enter text.](#)
 2. As a NEF ambassador, you will be tasked to organize the Africa Science Week. Describe 3 activities that you would include in your Africa Science Week?
[Click here to enter text.](#)
 3. As a NEF ambassador organizing the NEF Africa Science Week or any other public engagement activities, you will need to request support from local stakeholders. Please provide examples (with links) of events that you have organized and details the kind of support whether monetary or in kind you got from local stakeholders?
 4. Please provide one to two examples of how well you are engaged in your community. Describe in details your involvement and how you build that influence and why you choose those activities.

Background:

The Next Einstein Forum (NEF) is an initiative of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in partnership with the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Launched in 2013, the NEF was born out of a recognition that there was no gathering on African soil where the very best actors had the opportunity to come together from their diverse communities of science, industry, civil-society and policy, from Africa and around the world, to leverage science for global development. Further, there was no platform where topics were addressed strategically and holistically, with opportunities for cross-fertilization. In existing forums, the public is often ignored in the design and outcomes of forums. Women and young people were often significantly underrepresented in participation and/or speaking opportunities at such Forums.

The NEF has four pillars: The NEF Global Gatherings, NEF Policy Work, the NEF Platform and the NEF Community of Scientists. The NEF also has two cross cutting commitments, the commitment to scientific excellence that speaks to both research and education and a commitment to gender equity.

The third NEF Global Gathering will be held in Kenya as a 5-day event in March 2020.

The NEF Ambassadors are the NEF's young science and technology champions, one from each African country. NEF Ambassadors, who are all under 42 years, drive the NEF's local public and private engagement activities including the NEF Africa Science Week while growing their own careers through the NEF's partnerships that offer opportunities for mentorship and collaborations with established researchers. The NEF Ambassadors have a 2-year mandate.

NEF Country Ambassadors Responsibilities:

- ✦ Act as NEF's ambassador representing one's own country at NEF events.
- ✦ Attend the prestigious, invitation-only NEF Global Gathering in March 2020 alongside Nobel Prize winners, Heads of State and representatives from leading global corporations. Ambassadors will receive paid travel expenses to the NEF Global Gathering event in 2020.
- ✦ Participate in interviews, panels and the showcasing of research, NEF work, and articles on science, social science and technology, among other events during/following the NEF Global Gathering 2020.
- ✦ Organize the annual NEF Africa Science Week in their country
- ✦ Write original content and cross-post content for the NEF, including but not limited to blog articles, news updates on science in one's local community, profiles of scientists in one's community, and other activities to promote the NEF.
- ✦ Be part of the NEF Community of Scientists,
- ✦ Talk positively about the NEF to people whenever you can.
- ✦ Actively promote the NEF to your social media following and regularly contribute ideas to the NEF team about ways to keep the online community informed and interested in the NEF.
- ✦ Ambassadors should expect to spend a total of between 1 to 2 hours per week writing, editing, posting updates, news and articles related to science in Africa and the NEF, and conversing with NEF Fellows and the scientific community at large. The hours may increase during the week of the Global Gathering event.

- ✦ Make presentations to students, audiences, special classes and events about the NEF and science in Africa.
- ✦ Other responsibilities suggested and recommended by you.

NEF Country Ambassadors Benefits

- ✦ Ambassadors will receive significant exposure to the NEF readership community.
- ✦ Have the opportunity to network with other experts and NEF Ambassadors and NEF Fellows, as well as top scientists, social scientists and technology leaders from around the world.
- ✦ Have the opportunity to influence science, social science and technology policy through NEF articles and documents and share their own work.
- ✦ Get the chance to pitch their own projects and ideas to high profile NEF members and contribute to the establishment of a positive global view of science in Africa.

Conditions of Eligibility

- ✦ 42 years of age or less as of 31.12.2017 (Born after 1 January 1975)
- ✦ Resident and citizen of an African country with a history of leadership and engagement in the residing community
- ✦ Advanced studies or professional certificates, personal projects, demonstrated entrepreneurial achievements and similar - a PhD is not required
- ✦ Applicants are encouraged from all fields of science, including basic sciences, STEM, health and social science fields.
- ✦ Outstanding writing and keen critical thinking capabilities, and be comfortable working in a collaborative environment.
- ✦ Demonstrated passion for raising Africa's profile in science and/or social science
- ✦ Having an active profile in the community of work/study and/or online including social media
- ✦ Able to clearly communicate to an audience in English or French.

Selection Process:

A panel of eminent scientists including members of the NEF Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) will do the selection.

The selection process will aim for the following:

- At least 40% of selected NEF Ambassadors are women
- At most one NEF Ambassador from each African country

The selection process will take into account the following criteria:

- (20%) Advanced studies or professional certificates, personal projects, demonstrated entrepreneurial achievements and similar - a PhD is not required
 - Outstanding academic qualifications, as measured by the standards of the particular academic discipline. Examples of notable achievements include:
 - Publication record
 - Prizes and other awards, such as especially distinguished fellowships or memberships in prestigious academic circles (for example, in high-ranking committees, bodies, academies, etc.)
 - Independently raised funding from outside sources in a competitive process
 - Number of patents
 - The type and number of invited talks at international conferences
- (20%) Demonstrated passion for promoting the sciences, including science, technology, engineering, mathematics or social science in Africa
- (20%) Outstanding writing and keen critical thinking capabilities, and be comfortable working in a collaborative environment and the ability to clearly communicate to an audience in English or French
- (30%): You must have an active presence either on one of the social media channels or in a reputable organization in your community. This criterion involves having a strong audience and consistent engagement with your followers.
- (10%) Other distinctive characteristics

Frequently Asked Questions about the NEF Ambassadors Program

Q: What is the time commitment for the Ambassadors Program?

A: The program is designed to help NEF Ambassadors improve their profile and enhance their careers by promoting the NEF and through activities that provide significant exposure to leaders from around the world. The activities will benefit the Ambassadors. That said, some work is required. This amounts to a total of 1 to 2 hours per week writing, researching, editing, talking with scientists, and leading activities online and in the community to promote the NEF and science in Africa at large.

Q: Who should apply to the NEF Ambassadors Program?

A: While the Program is open to all, emerging scientific or technology leaders with a visible public profile and a passion to share information with the community are encouraged to

apply. This opportunity will be attractive to anyone who is looking to work in science and technology, communications, policy and diplomacy.

Q: I'm outside the continent of Africa. Am I eligible to apply?

Our requirement states that all Ambassadors must be residents of an African country. We believe that in order for Ambassadors to effectively do outreach events to promote the NEF and to write content on science and technology updates happening in their own communities, they must be located within and/or engaged in activities in the local community. Applicants who do not hold an African passport, but are considered residents or its equivalency in an African country will be considered.

Q: Is this a paid opportunity?

A: As the NEF is not a for-profit operation, there will be no financial compensation offered with this opportunity. Ambassadors receive a ticket and paid travel expenses to the NEF Global Gathering event in Kigali, Rwanda as well as sound non-financial benefits from participation, including high-impact exposure to Nobel Prize winners, Heads of State and representatives from leading global corporations. Other benefits include mentorship opportunities from the Scientific Programme Committee members, the NEF Fellows, and our larger networks of scientists and leaders around the world.

Q: What is the editorial process for publishing articles for the NEF?

A: As a NEF Ambassador, you will work closely with the NEF team and expect to receive editorial guidance on the content, structure and flow of our pieces. It is not uncommon for articles, and even short pieces to go through several drafts before appearing on our platforms. This will only enhance your work and public profile.

Q: What are some tips for submitting a successful application?

Each part of the application should be taken seriously. The main purpose of the written statement is to give us a sense of your writing and your ability to clearly and convincingly communicate your thoughts. Please put some time into revising and editing your statements. Also, make sure your written statements adhere to the word limit guidelines. The purpose of the 2-minute video is to give us a sense of who you are and your personality. It does not have to be professionally made, but it can be creative and should be polished and well done. We should get the impression that the applicant invested time in planning and making the video.

Q: How can I learn from the experiences of the first class of NEF Ambassadors?

There are many ways for applicants to familiarize themselves with the NEF Ambassadors program. First, you can view sample NEF Ambassador videos and their experience at the NEF Global Gathering 2018, including the videos of [Gameli Adzaho \(NEF ambassador 2015, Ghana\)](#), [Bobson Rugambwa \(NEF Ambassador 2017, Rwanda\)](#) and [Mandingha Etoke Beka \(NEF Ambassador 2017, Congo Brazaville\)](#)

Second you can view videos of the NEF Africa Science Week from various countries across Africa [here](#) or [a recap of the NEF Global Gathering 2018](#).

Finally, if you are interested in connecting via email or social media with any of the NEF Ambassadors, you can view their profiles on the [NEF website](#) and email nefambassadors@nef.org and we will gladly connect you.

Q: What are some programmes that the NEF Ambassadors have led or been involved with?

- **NEF Africa Science Week:** The NEF Ambassadors lead this signature program designed for many age groups and provides an opportunity for citizens to engage in everyday science. The NEF Africa Science Week will be Africa's annual celebration of science and technology and thousands of individuals – from students, to scientists to technologists – to encourage citizens to get involved, participate in the 1mil1 campaign and become interested in science all across the continent. During Africa Science Week, NEF Ambassadors in countries across Africa organize major events throughout the week.
- **NEF Community of Scientists:** The NEF ambassadors as part of the NEF community of scientists are in the midst of creating a unified African scientific identity by coming together with NEF Fellows to create the brain trust of Africa.
- **Attend and organize events:** The NEF ambassadors have attended various events representing NEF as well as to present their work. Some of these conferences include ESOF, YASE conference and others.

Q: What is the deadline for the application?

Deadline for submission: July 30, 2019

- End of Call for Application -