

Astrient Fellowship Program Overview

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009 Academic Year

Introduction

The Astrient Fellowship program provides students with the opportunity to participate in projects designed to ameliorate or solve concrete issues facing developing or economically disadvantaged communities. From technology adoption to equitable globalization, the Foundation's projects are designed to foster socially responsible entrepreneurship to improve developing communities.

Each academic year, the Foundation's selection committee selects up to three students as Astrient Fellow-elects. Fellow-elects participate in one or more of the Astrient Foundation's research, policy or software technology projects for approximately eight months. Fellow-elects will receive stipends throughout their fellowship term. Fellow-elects who successfully complete the fellowship program will receive an award and will become an Astrient Foundation Fellow.

The Astrient Fellowship program is currently open to all rising sophomores, juniors or seniors enrolled as full-time students at Ashesi University. Students must also be in good academic standing to be eligible for consideration.¹

The Application Process

Applicants complete and submit the Astrient Fellowship Program application online via the Astrient Foundation's website. Using the Foundation's evaluation and rating software available on the Foundation's website, the selection committee will then review and rate each application. The Foundation will then consult the applicants' university to determine whether the applicants are in good academic standing. Upon receipt of such input, the Foundation will select up to three applicants as Astrient Fellow-Elects.

To apply for the Fellowship, applicants should:

- 1) Create an account on the Foundation's website, www.AstrientFoundation.org;
- 2) Select "Organizer" from the main menu;
- 3) Select "My Forms" from the side menu;
- 4) Select "Start a Form" located above the forms list;
- 5) Select the "Start This Form" link that pertains to the Fellowship application for current academic semester; and,

¹ Family members and immediate relatives of the Astrient Foundation's board, committee members, advisors, or employees are not eligible for the Fellowships.

- 6) Type your answers into the form. If you are unable to complete the form in one sitting, you may save the form throughout the process by selecting "save" and return to it at a later time to complete it prior to the application deadline.
- 7) When you complete the form, select "submit." Once the application has been submitted, it will immediately be sent to the selection committee for review and you will no longer be able to edit it.

Once a form has been submitted, a copy of the form is saved in the applicant's account, and an email containing a copy of the form (as an attachment) is emailed to both the Foundation and the applicant.²

After the selection committee makes its determination, the Foundation will notify the Fellow-elects of their acceptance into the Fellowship program.

The Fellowship Experience

Fellow-elects will contribute to one or more of the Foundation's open projects. Projects for the Astriant Foundation are socially responsible and fall into one of the following categories: research, policy and/or software technology. Fellow-elects are required to select projects of interest and submit a project participation form during their first week as a Fellow-elect. A complete list of projects are available on the Foundation's website.

Project members may be located in different locales. Voice over IP (VOIP), email, and Instant Messaging (IM) are some of the methods used to facilitate communication between project members residing in different states and/or countries. Each project has one or more project leaders and are developed through three project phases: inception, development, and release. The project leaders determine the goals, schedule, and number of participants of a project. After the goals and schedule are determined, the project enters the development phase. The construction of deliverables occurs during the development phase. Deliverables include, but are not limited to, software, multimedia, and documents. Depending on the type of project, the release phase may involve the deployment or distribution of software or the publication or presentation of media.

² Submitted forms are reviewed through the website using the following steps.

- 1) Select the "Web Forms" feature from the "administration" screen,
- 2) Select the form name from the list of forms and
- 3) Select the "View Inbox" button located at the bottom of the form details.

The form inbox lists all of the forms and/or applications that have been submitted. Once submitted these document(s) are reviewed, rated, and discussed from the form inbox screen. Also, by selecting the applicant's username, the biographical details of the applicant will display.

Each month the Fellow-elects will be evaluated based upon the project leaders' assessment of the Fellow-elects' level of participation and productivity. Over the course of the Fellowship period, Fellow-elects will be expected to maintain full-time enrollment at their universities, remain in good academic standing, and demonstrate integrity and good character.

In addition to receiving a monthly stipend, Astrient Foundation's Fellow-elects are exposed to a variety of technologies, networking opportunities, mentoring and receive intensive training. Upon successful completion of the Fellowship program, Fellow-elects are rare awarded and conferred the title of Astrient Foundation Fellow. As an Astrient Foundation Fellow, they will join a growing group of talented, experienced and socially conscious leaders who are committed to making positive sustainable improvements in the world around them.