

## “What I Would've Liked To Read When I Was About To Apply”

The Hansen Summer Institute -HSI- is a bridge that connects young people, cultures, minds and ideas to generate mutual understanding, friendship and international cooperation for a more sustainable and peaceful world.

Imagine a room with 25 young leaders from all over the world. Each one of them has a different background, ideas, experiences, knowledge and aspirations. Regardless of their differences, they all have a common goal: to improve the world in which we live in. To do this, they gather for three weeks in the University of San Diego in San Diego, California, one of the finest cities of the United States.

After a very competitive selection process, 25 of the best minds are chosen from across the globe, on its last edition more than 1,500 applications were received. To be selected as a HSI fellow is not only a privilege, it's also an opportunity to be part of a diverse global family that fosters positive change and transformation.

During these three weeks, the HSI fellows participate in a very intense program that includes dynamic lectures, workshops, conferences, field trips and co-creation sessions around the topics of leadership, human rights, social entrepreneurship, public speaking, negotiation and conflict resolution, just to mention a few. All of which is made while being immersed in the American culture. Since hard work has its rewards, HSI fellows also have a lot of fun. The program includes several cultural and recreational activities, such as the traditional 4th of July celebration, as well as visiting different beaches and parks around the city.

The HSI helps its fellows to put knowledge into practice and transform their ideas into reality. Fellows learn how commerce, peace and social development are very closely linked; during the three-week program, the fellows worked collaboratively on the development of different social ventures to solve social issues through innovative ideas. As fellows learn to work collaboratively in an international environment, borders disappear and international cooperation comes alive.

Each year, HSI welcomes 25 bright students from all over the world and three weeks later, 25 leaders head back home very well equipped with tools and resources and as a part of a wide network of bright leaders with great potential. Change starts in San Diego but it impacts the world as HSI alumni use the tools and knowledge gathered to their local projects and initiatives back home.

The HSI is possible because of the support of the Fred J. Hansen Foundation and the efforts of Ronald Bee - managing director and Bonnie Lamb -program coordinator. They are all committed to the success of this program and the personal growth of each one of their fellows, 185 of them so far.



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