

EWB Canada has decided to call off the fellowship this year due to some restructuring at head office and therefore we will no longer be requesting the full \$12,500. Instead, we would like to ask for \$3000 to cover new initiatives for us to hold on campus in place of the fellowship. This \$3000 would be budgeted for food and prizes at things like networking/speaking events, educational events, case competitions, etc.

1. What are some areas you've looked for sponsorship opportunities? What other funding options are you considering to support your project?

We started contacting companies in the summer and are actively still contacting companies. We are focusing on sectors in tech, sustainability, and DEI specifically as these align with our chapter and EWB Canada's goals. Other than sponsorship, we can host fundraising events to support us as a team. Fundraisers that align with our goals, mission, and vision, such as plant drives, selling sustainable and eco-friendly merch, sustainable gift wrapping during the holiday season, eco auction, etc. Grant applications are another avenue we can go down for funding allocation, primarily environment and leadership focused grants so we can pitch our goals and team effectively. Working with other EWB chapters or other sustainability/tech focused groups and collaborating on events will be a way to gain some funding as costs will be split and less of our existing funds will be used. Reaching out to EWB alumni and getting contributions on their behalf to be used for events and initiatives is another way to secure funding. This ensures passionate EWB alumni can help out a team they were once a part of and can still actively support initiatives and such.

2. Could you help us understand why the parent organization isn't contributing to this initiative? We're wondering if there are additional funding sources you're considering to ensure the project is fully supported.

Can you please specify which initiative you are referring to? In terms of the fellowship, the parent organization is contributing. The fellowship costs a total of \$25,000 per student; this includes travel, accommodation, food, and more during the student's time away. As a chapter, we are required to fund half (\$12,500) in order to send a McMaster student. We have also reached out to the parent organization requesting a full breakdown of how this money gets used for you and the chapter to better understand where our money is going. If you're referring to the GEC, this is a chapter run initiative and therefore our responsibility. Since EWB Canada is a not-for-profit organization, they do not provide funding to chapters directly and recommend we seek funding from our schools, applying to external

grants, holding fundraisers, and charging students fees to attend our events. As students ourselves, we know that students would be limited in the events they could attend if we were to charge them an entrance fee. With our goal being to develop strong, well-rounded leaders, we do not believe in limiting students through fees.

Other funding we will consider is a fundraiser for the fellowship itself where students, alumni, faculty, and companies can donate to send a student. We can also request that the chosen student compensate a portion of the cost or fundraise themselves.

3. Could you share some of the activities your organization is doing that positively impact the student body?

We plan to host educational events that bring both global and local issues to light. During these educational events, students will listen to a presentation and have the opportunity to ask questions to further their understanding. At the end, they will also get a chance to break into groups to answer questions regarding the issue at hand.

We are also planning to host at least one speaking event where a professional comes to talk about how they are using their engineering skills to create positive, systemic change in the world. This will provide students with insight into different, possibly non-industry, career options, and give them networking opportunities.

Additionally, we will keep students connected with volunteer opportunities outside of campus to get students engaged and giving back to the community. We hope that by immersing students in these positions first-hand, they can gain a better sense of prevalent issues just beyond the walls of McMaster. This will also give students several opportunities to grow as well-rounded leaders. For engineering students in particular, this will also help them to develop their human-centered design skills, a key principle taught in 1P13.

In December, we are also hoping to host a food drive where students can donate non-perishables for a chance to win campus store gift cards. This initiative will not only give back to the Hamilton community, but it will also give back to the students when it comes time to purchase Winter term school supplies.

4. How do you decide who will participate in the trip? Have you thought about the possibility of sending more students for a shorter time to involve a larger group?

We typically choose the student through an extensive and rigorous application and interview process to ensure they are passionate about the project, hold similar values to EWB, and are willing to put in the work.

Unfortunately, this fellowship is run through the parent organization and as a chapter we have no say or control over the logistics. Thus, we are only able to select a single McMaster student as per EWB Canada's instruction.

5. We noticed that student revenues are not included in your 2023 beginning balance. Could you clarify how these revenues are accounted for and why they aren't part of the starting balance?

Unfortunately, Gopal and I were not involved in the chapter's finances last year as we were not the previous co-presidents. Could you please clarify what you mean in terms of student revenues?

6. Have you considered focusing on smaller-scale projects in addition to or instead of the trip? It might help in achieving impactful outcomes with the resources available.

We are considering other project options, specifically a larger case competition (or several smaller ones), where we collaborate with a local organization. The goal is that the organization will send someone to talk to students about current issues they are facing and then students will be responsible for coming up with ideas and demo project solutions. On top of that, as mentioned before we also plan to have volunteering opportunities. One specifically we are looking at is group volunteering at the Ronald McDonald house across from campus, this costs \$1000 which covers the cost of food and meal sponsorship for 40 families, however they also have individual volunteer opportunities. We are also planning to look into collaborating with Empowerment Squared to host a small workshop for children to inspire them to pursue STEM.

7. What are your thoughts on organizing a case competition or assembling teams to work on projects locally? EWB could then send those projects where they're most needed, and it would also encourage more student participation.

Unfortunately, due to rules, regulations and restrictions put in place by the PEO (Professional Engineers of Ontario) and none of us being licensed engineers, we are unable to send designs, projects or solutions to be used. However, we are hoping to host a collaborative case competition (please see the response to question 6).

8. Have you reached out to any sister organizations for ideas on maximizing your funding? Collaborating with them might lead to new strategies.

Yes, we have contacts for the TMU and Guelph chapters from collaborating with them last year on the GEC. We have also been in contact with the Waterloo chapter and are hoping to get something off the ground with them.