



HARAMBE | ENTREPRENEUR | ALLIANCE

HBWS FAQ

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HBWS Application – Essay Questions

- Your Venture
- Progress to Date
- Essays



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1. What is the Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance (HEA)?

Our Alliance is a network of highly educated young African entrepreneurs spearheading high impact social and business ventures across the length and breadth of Africa. In partnership with reputable private and public sector groups our Alliance is establishing an ecosystem to support the entrepreneurial aspirations of young African leaders with mentors, feasibility study grants, scholarships, pro bono legal services and access to angel and venture capital.

2. How can I access an HEA Opportunity, i.e. angel investors, fellowships, internships, scholarships, etc.?

Any young African wishing to gain access to any HEA Opportunities must apply to join the Alliance and participate in Harambe Bretton Woods Symposium (HBWS).

Some HEA Opportunities require you to fill out third party applications in addition to the HBWS application. For instance if you are applying for the Harambe Scholars Program at Fletcher, Oxford or Yale, you will also have to fill out their applications, in addition to taking the required GMAT / GRE tests. Please carefully review the flyer of each HEA Opportunity for specific instructions.

A complete list of current HEA Opportunities can be found in HEA Opportunities section of the HBWS application.

3. What is the Harambe Bretton Woods Symposium (HBWS)?

The Harambe Bretton Woods Symposium (HBWS) is the annual gathering of the Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance and an opportunity to welcome the new Class of Harambeans. During the four day gathering new HEA Associates introduce their ventures, HEA Opportunities are awarded, while accomplished Harambeans and Harambe Angels share their experiences and insights on Africa with the incoming Class of Harambeans.



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4. When and where will the next HBWS be held?

The 11th annual HBWS will be held April 13 – 16, 2018 at Harvard University and the historic Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA.

5. How do I apply to join HEA, the HBWS or access a specific HEA Opportunity?

If you would like to join HEA, attend the HBWS or access any HEA Opportunities, you must complete an online application available on www.healliance.org/join.

6. What are the HBWS application deadlines?

- Early Admission Deadline is November 30, 2017
- Regular Admission Deadline is December 30, 2017

Applicants who submit their applications by the early admission deadline will be notified by February 2, 2018. All other applicants will be notified by March 9, 2018.

7. What are the eligibility criteria?

Eligible candidates to the Alliance must be of African birth or origin; currently enrolled in a college or university or be recent graduates; and be at the early idea stage or advanced stages of a social or business venture focused or related to Africa.

However, please note that every HEA Opportunity has specific eligibility criteria. So please reference the flyer of your HEA Opportunity of preference for more information.



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8. What if I do not meet the eligibility criteria of any of the HEA Opportunities?

If you do not meet the criteria of any of the listed HEA Opportunities you may still be admitted to the Alliance on the basis of the strength of your venture or idea. Additional opportunities may be available to you upon admission to the Alliance.

9. What do I have to submit to apply?

Candidates must submit an application consisting of the following completed sections:

- Your Venture
- Progress to Date
- Essays
- HEA Opportunities
- Mentors
- Recommendations
- Leadership & Work Experience
- Awards / Recognition & Skills
- Education
- General Information
- Terms & Conditions



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10. How do I submit recommendations from my referees?

In the Recommendation section of the HBWS application you will be invited to submit the contact details of two referees.

Once you submit your application your referees will receive an automatic notification with the details of the recommendation form. Please encourage your referee to complete the recommendation form by the January 10 deadline.

You will also receive a notification once your referee submits your recommendation.

11. How many applicants will be admitted?

Between 30 and 40 applicants are admitted to the Alliance each year.

12. Will I be interviewed by a Harambe Entrepreneur?

Yes. A pool of prescreened applicants will undergo several interviews with current Harambe Entrepreneurs.

14. What is the Harambe Bretton Woods Declaration?

"We will check our road and the nature of our battle, yet in the end, the Africa our generation desires can be won, it exists, it is real, it is possible, it is ours."

The Harambe Bretton Woods Declaration is a solemn document that outlines the beliefs and principles of our Alliance. HBWS participants sign the Declaration at an official signing ceremony in Bretton Woods, which renders official their association to the Alliance.

The declaration is what binds Harambe Entrepreneurs together. As per tradition it is signed by every class of Harambe Entrepreneurs in the historic Gold Room of the Mount Washington Hotel.



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15. What are the costs associated with the HBWS?

HBWS participants must cover the following costs:

- \$100 Registration Fee
- Travel to and from the rendezvous point at Harvard University in Boston, MA

16. When and how do I pay the HBWS Registration Fee?

The HBWS Registration Fee must be paid online two weeks prior to the start of the HBWS.

17. Will HEA issue a visa letter for the US Embassy or a fundraising letter for my university?

Yes. Admitted applicants will receive the assistance from the HEA Admissions Team to secure travel documentation to the United States and to raise funds for travel to the meeting point at Harvard University from their university and / or supporters.



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HBWS Application – Essay Questions

In order to ensure that your thoughtful responses to our essay questions are kept safe, we recommend you to first draft and save your answers offline, before pasting them into our online application at www.healliance.org/join

NOTE: Please be mindful of the prescribed character limit allocated to each question, and be conscious that it is NOT a word count.

Your Venture

High-concept pitch. In one line, briefly describe what your venture does in a way that we'll get it.
(max. 150 characters)

What challenge / opportunity are you addressing? Describe the market opportunity.
(max. 600 characters)

What is your solution (what will you make or do)? For whom are you solving this problem?
(max. 600 characters)

Please describe your venture from a customer's point of view, by explaining a typical customer journey.
(max. 600 characters)

Who are your competitors, and who might become competitors?
(max. 600 characters)

How are you going to generate revenue?
(max. 600 characters)

How are you connected to the challenge / opportunity? Describe your personal nexus.
(max. 600 characters)

What do you envision the long-term impact of your venture to be?
(max. 600 characters)



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Progress to Date

What potential industry partners and / or customers have you met with to validate your idea? List your top three contacts (name, position), and what you learned from meeting with them.
(max. 600 characters)

Describe for us the market research you've conducted: detail data collection method, audience reached, and number of people engaged.
(max. 600 characters)

How far along are you in developing your venture's product / offering?

- Incorporated venture
- Completed prototype or proof-of-concept
- Actively developing product / offering
- Piloting product / offering with users
- Product / offering in production / on the market
- None of the above

(Check all that apply)

Building on your selection above, please describe what you have completed to date.
(max. 600 characters)

What traction / feedback have you received from customers / users?
(max. 600 characters)

Describe the traction / feedback and the number of users / customers you've gotten it from
(max. 600 characters)

Have you received any funding to date?

Please itemize the amounts from each source. (i.e. Competition / Challenge Prizes; Friends / Family; University funded / grants; Angel funding; Venture Capital; Crowdfunding; Revenue.)
(max. 600 characters)

Please share with us your timeline and corresponding milestones for the next 6 months.
(max. 600 characters)



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Essays

Why would you like to become a Harambean? Why is our Alliance of value to you?

(max. 1000 characters)

What specific benefits you hope to gain from your participation in the Harambe Bretton Woods Symposium?

(max. 600 characters)

Harambe is not a transaction; it's a community.

How would you contribute to the vibrancy of the Alliance?

(max. 600 characters)

What is your favorite book? List author, title and describe a lesson learned.

(max. 1000 characters)

Please describe a major personal or professional failure and the enduring lesson you have drawn from it.

(max. 1500 characters)

What is your career vision and how, in your opinion, will it contribute to the development of Africa?

(max. 1000 characters)