



## INSTRUCTIONS: SAWIP APPLICATION 2018

**Be sure to read all these instructions before you complete the online application form.**

### **What does SAWIP look for in a candidate?**

You are applying to join a team, a team whose mission will be to lead and to serve the future of South Africa. You are also applying to join a network of young professionals who share a commitment to excellence. **We are looking for people who will give back, for people who want to join together to shape the future**, not just be shaped by it.

**What makes a great team?** It is not the individuals alone who win games but the mix that one gets from the range of skills and talents of all the players. We are trying to select as diverse a team as possible. How can you make a significant contribution to this team?

We want to know about anything that makes you unique or different from other applicants. How can anyone make a difference by being the same? Ideally, our team will include a balance of young men and women, introverts and extroverts, town and country, working class and middle class, the much traveled and the less traveled, experienced and inexperienced. We are searching for the stars that show outstanding talent, but we are also looking for people with quieter potential. We are building a star team, rather than a team of stars. Hence, do not think that you are too inexperienced to apply. Some people have mistakenly thought this program was only for final years or only for budding politicians. It is not!

We seek to create a group as diverse as possible, from as many academic disciplines as we can possibly attract. If you are concerned about financial resources, you need not be. SAWIP strives to be accessible to everyone - lack of means should never mean lack of opportunity. The SAWIP experience is fully funded by our generous donors and sponsors.

Lastly, remember our first chance to meet you is reading your application. That means we want you to take time to express yourself in a compelling way. No need to oversell or undersell yourself. Just be honest. What will catch our attention is your own authentic voice, one that tells us the story "unique" to you, and what you are about. We appreciate it when applicants display clear signs of research, present their ideas in an organized and succinct way and display a passionate engagement in their world.

**What are the expectations if selected?** SAWIP is a rigorous seven month leadership development program, which aims to challenge you to think broader and grow your leadership. Our program is structured around three key pillars: Active Citizenship, Ethical Servant Leadership and Community engagement. You will be expected to participate in all aspects of the program, including:

- Attendance at two workshops per week between March and May
- Attendance at of one workshop per week between August and October
- Complete 30 hours of community service
- Design and implement a community intervention
- Complete all assessments and assignments set
- Be available to for a 6 week summer program in Washington, DC between June and July

If you have questions about the program please contact: [shannon@sawip.org](mailto:shannon@sawip.org)

## APPLICATION FORM – SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Please note: previous candidates have indicated that the application can take three to six hours to complete.** Hence, doing it at the last minute may prove difficult. If leadership is about preparation, communication and persuasion, then welcome to your first big test.

Good luck and thanks for all your time and effort. We wish you all the best with your studies.

Below are the questions we ask in the online application. **Be aware: the application must be filled out in one sitting as you cannot save and return to it later. Your application will not be submitted until you click “submit” online and receive the confirmation page.** Thus, we have included the questions for the 2018 application below, so you may prepare your answers in advance. THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE USED AS A FINAL APPLICATION FORM – ONLY THE ONLINE APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED.

As you access the form from our website, you will notice that it is extensive. We are asking for:

- Typical information about you (i.e. your background)
- Specific questions that help us understand how you would fit into the program
- Questions about your choices for professional exposure and your plan for community service
- Personal questions that aim to give us a sense of your individuality and motivation

For each question, we give you a maximum character count and an allotted space to fill in. We know many of you have much to say, but we encourage you to be succinct. Leave us wanting to know more. **Be Aware: Questions have a maximum CHARACTER count, not a word count**

You may access the form [here](#).

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

This section deals with pertinent personal information. We ask the following questions:

- **Your full name and surname, as well as your nickname or preferred name and date of birth**

- **Gender**
- **Home (permanent) and campus (current) contact information**
- **Email address**  
Please provide your current email address and mobile number so we can contact you about interviews. *Failure to provide the correct information may result in your loss of program participation.*
- **Passport information**
  - We need your correct passport number, your full name, identity number and all other details exactly as they are written in your travel document. Failure to write this information properly here could result in visa processing delays.
  - **If you do not yet have a passport:** please attach the receipt from the Department of Home Affairs that you have applied for one. Your application will not be considered unless you either have a passport number or receipt of application. If you have any concerns about obtaining a passport, please contact us immediately as we are happy to discuss your options individually, as needed. However, we can only assist you if you notify us well in advance of the application closing date.
- **South African ID number**
- We want to know your **nationality** and the **faith** you were brought up in or identify with. Questions such as these are simply ways we can ensure we have as diverse a pool of applicants as possible. ***Only citizens or permanent residents of South Africa may apply at this time.***
- **Secondary School Attended and Current University**  
At this time, only students currently studying at the University of Cape Town, University of Johannesburg, the University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University or the University of Pretoria may apply.
- **Course and length of study**  
Please be sure to make it clear what your course is, your current year of study, how many years you have until you complete your current degree and how you finance your studies.
- **Emergency Contact Information**  
Please note your contact's name, surname, contact number and his/her relationship to you.

## PROGRAM PREPARATION

- **Why are you applying? What do you hope to gain from SAWIP? (500 characters)** Why is SAWIP right for you just now and what does it offer? How do you see it fitting your needs and aspirations?
- **Please tell us about yourself. What skills, perspectives and experiences do you bring to a SAWIP Team? (1500 characters)** We want to get to know you as well as possible in this application. How would you describe yourself, your personality, interests, talents, things you like to do and what gets you excited or sets you off?
- **Please share a little about your family and your home community. Write about your South African story and why you represent a young person in this country? (1500 characters)** We are looking for the flavour of your local community; tell us about your South African story, where you fit in and what insights you have as to where you live; whether you are from a big city or a small country town or a rural community. It all gives us a better context of who you are.
- **Who or what has been the most life-shaping influence on who you are and what you believe? (1000 characters)** We are particularly interested in your reflections and the sense you have of your own personal history. How does what you value relate to how you were raised or what you have experienced in your growing up years?
- **Tell us about a challenge that South Africa faces that you care about deeply. How have you practically worked to address this challenge? Describe any obstacles that you have encountered and what skills you may need to continue to work on this challenge. (2000 characters)** How do you connect your concerns with your actions in the world?
- **SAWIP is deeply committed to supporting deep engagement and partnership in South African communities and aims to develop its participants with the skills to do this. Upon completion of SAWIP how do you anticipate investing back into South Africa? (2000 characters)** What are your ambitions for the future? How do you envisage embodying servant leadership?
- **SAWIP looks for students with a strong commitment to service and leadership. Tell us about your community service and leadership and its impact to the communities around you. (1500 characters)** Please explain the impact you have made to the people around you in the roles you have filled, both formal and informal.
- **Tell us about a time when you tried something new or stepped outside your comfort zone to learn something new. (1000 characters)** SAWIP's curriculum has rooted in experiential learning. We'd like to know how you have invested in your own development by thinking outside the box and pushing your boundaries to further your growth.

- **Tell us about the greatest challenge you have faced, how did you manage it? (1000 characters)** Tell us about the stumbling blocks or even failures you've encountered. You don't necessarily have to have resolved or overcome this challenge. We want to know how you manage in adverse situations.

#### WASHINGTON D.C

- **What do you hope to gain from a summer in Washington, DC? (1000 characters)** Tell us how you envisage the summer impacting your development as a leader and professional.
- **What are some of your personal characteristics that will enable you to live with a host family whose background is likely to be different to your own? (1000 characters)** Whilst in the United States you will reside at the home of host family. How do you imagine you will manage this?

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself to strengthen your case for selection? (1500 characters)** – Please DO NOT repeat yourself. SAWIP is for young people who stand out, who have ambitions or intuitions that are unconventional, and who have a unique story to share. We want you to think of how you will bring something different to this team.
- **Have you been out of the country before?** If yes, please tell us where you went, describe the trip, your impressions, and what you learned from your experience. **(500 characters)**
- **Have you ever participated in any other program with similarities to SAWIP?** If yes, what do you think SAWIP can add to what you have already gained? **(500 characters)**
- **Have you ever applied to SAWIP before?** If YES, please tell us why this time you believe you are a stronger candidate for selection? **(1000 characters)**

#### MEDICAL INFORMATION

- **Do you have any medical conditions or special needs that could hinder your participation in the program in South Africa or your travel and stay in the U.S.? If so, please explain.** *Failure to fully disclose medical issues could result in a loss of placement in the program.* Medical and health costs in the US are extremely expensive; thus every member of the team is covered by a comprehensive health insurance. If you have any pre-existing health issues, it is very important that you tell us here. The health insurance

does not cover pre-existing health issues and therefore should you be selected for the team you would need to cover your existing medication. Medical conditions will not disqualify you for selection.

- We ask about **dietary restrictions, smoking habits, and drinking habits.** Please be up front here. There is no penalty for drinking or smoking regularly-but we need to know because some host families are more tobacco and alcohol tolerant than others.
- **Do you have anything else to add regarding health issues? If yes, please explain.**

## DOCUMENTATION

Once you have completed this application, please send the following to **applications@sawip.org** with "**SAWIP 2018 application\_Surname\_Name**" in the subject line by the application closing date 07 February 2018:

- **A copy of your short resume.** Your resume may not exceed 2 pages.
- **A short, professional biography** telling us of your professional experience (for an example, please go to: <http://sawip.org/sawip-team/sawip-team-2016/> ). Your professional biography may not exceed **200 words**
- **An academic reference.** This is a short online form to be completed by someone whom we can readily contact and who can speak about your academic qualities. This needs to be submitted should you be contacted for an interview. The form can be found here: <https://goo.gl/forms/uE7q3UkDYpFyvVNf1>
- **A personal reference.** This is a short online form to be completed by someone we can readily contact and who can speak about your personal qualities. This needs to be submitted should you be contacted for an interview. The form can be found here: <https://goo.gl/forms/uE7q3UkDYpFyvVNf1>
- **A copy of your most recent official academic transcript.** If you are selected for an interview you will be required to bring a certified copy of your most recent academic transcript. Note, that should you be selected for the program SAWIP will inform your university and department.
- **A copy of the face page of your passport.** If you do not yet have a passport, please include proof of purchase.

**A note on your references:** Please do not wait until the last minute to ask your personal or academic references to complete their online forms. The information they provide is very important to us, so we ask that you select individuals who know you well. **It is your responsibility to provide them with the [link](#) they will need to complete the form that will serve as your reference letter.**

**Please note, incomplete applications will not be considered and all materials must be completed and received in full by 07 February 2018**

### **PLEDGE OF VERIFICATION**

We want you to assure us that all this information is correct and can be corroborated. As this is an online application, simply tick the box under the pledge, type your name and the current date on the form before hitting submit.

### **CONFIRMATION**

Once you have completed the pledge of verification and clicked “submit,” you will be directed to a confirmation page stating:

“Thank You. Your application has been recorded. Please remember to submit your documents to Applications@sawip.org by 07 February 2018.”

**Be Aware: If you DO NOT see this message, your application has not been submitted.**

## **Instructions for when you have finished filling in the application**

### **THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS AN EXERCISE IN SELF-LEARNING**

When you have completed the application, we hope that you have not just completed a task for SAWIP. We hope we have been a positive reason for you to ask yourself some key questions about your future, about what you believe in, and what contribution you want to make to your world. If young people are to shape the future, we believe that these are questions you will need to grapple with. As Gandhi urged, “You must be the change you want to see in the world.”

### **IF YOU ARE NOT SELECTED**

In previous years, people who have not received an interview are disappointed. Most of the time it was because they misunderstood what we were asking, or they did not take sufficient time to care about how they sounded on the page. Others failed to convince us that they were ready for the program right now. To be successful, you will need to take time and care.

Those of you who make it through to the interview stage and do not receive a placement might wonder whether it was all worth it. We hope it was. Every year the competition for SAWIP becomes more and more competitive, so to get an interview is a major achievement. We want people to feel a sense of pride to have made it that far. We invite you to contact us after the selection process if you are still interested in finding ways to become involved.

### **APPLY NEXT YEAR**

If you are still a full-time student in 2018, all may not be lost. Over the years, candidates who have tried a second time often present a much more compelling case. There is never any guarantee, of course. However, people who miss out one year and take that as the program’s challenge to prove their skills and ability next time around are the people we are eager to see again.

Visit SAWIP's website, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages to read, watch, and comment.

**Good luck!**