

MAKING A COMMITMENT TO ACTION

In order to apply to CGI U, you must develop a Commitment to Action. A commitment is a new, specific, and measurable plan to address a challenge in one of CGI U's five focus areas: education, environment and climate change, peace and human rights, poverty alleviation, and public health. Use this guide to help you prepare a more effective application.

Do you have an idea for your CGI U Commitment to Action?

YES

NO

Brainstorm: What are you passionate about? Talk with friends, family, professors, and mentors to generate ideas, identify resources, and solicit feedback.

DOES IT ADDRESS A SPECIFIC ISSUE, PROBLEM, OR CHALLENGE?

YES

NO

CGI U commitment-makers work to address specific challenges on campus, in the local community, or in a different part of the world. Take time to research the issue you hope to address before developing your action plan.

WILL IT BE A NEW PROJECT OR INITIATIVE?

NO

YES

DO YOU HAVE REALISTIC GOALS AND A CLEAR ACTION PLAN WITHIN A DEFINED TIMEFRAME?

YES

NO

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED THE SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION YOUR COMMITMENT WILL IMPACT?

YES

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE LOCATION WHERE YOU WANT TO IMPLEMENT YOUR COMMITMENT?

YES

DO YOU HAVE PARTNERS IN MIND THAT COULD HELP YOU IMPLEMENT THIS COMMITMENT?

YES

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A TARGET POPULATION YOU HOPE TO IMPACT?

YES

DO YOU HAVE A REALISTIC PLAN TO ACQUIRE THE RESOURCES (INCLUDING FUNDING) YOU WILL NEED TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS?

YES

DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU WILL MEASURE AND DETERMINE YOUR COMMITMENT'S SUCCESS?

YES

Congratulations! You're ready to submit your Commitment to Action!

NO

BUT DO YOU HAVE A STRONG RELATIONSHIP THERE?

NO

NO

Students are most successful when they work in a defined area where they have a pre-existing relationship or partner.

Commitments should have defined goals and a timeline for action (usually no longer than one or two years). While your work may be ongoing, your CGI U commitment should have a clear endpoint.

Each commitment should be a new initiative. Being "new" can mean an expansion of an existing effort that focuses on a different geographic area, works with new partners, or shifts in focus or scope. Be innovative!

Some students complete their commitments individually, but most require support along the way. Identifying and engaging potential partners early is recommended.

Commitments should tangibly impact a specific population. Gather input from your target population to learn how they understand and already tackle the issue you seek to address. Involving the community will result in a more successful project.

Commitments should have measurable results and a method for tracking progress and impact. Flesh out an evaluation plan that employs detailed and realistic metrics and methods.