

## Polymath Fellowship 2012

*“Here’s to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers ... The ones who see things differently. They’re not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can’t do is ignore them. Because they change things ... Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.” - Apple Inc.*

If this quote describes you, then you should be a Polymath Fellow.

### What is Polymath?

Polymath is a new concept for a global ground-zero incubator designed for the developing world. Our goal is to create innovative medium and large enterprises, often missing, in emerging markets. In many countries, this problem is not one of capital constraint, but one of a meager pipeline of ventures. Thus, we are starting with creating high quality venture seeds that goes into the existing entrepreneurial ecosystem. Polymath is changing the traditional incubation model in a number of key ways:

- Real industry - Focus on innovations in core industries like financial services, communications, health, education.
- Foreign and local talent - Recruit teams of multi-disciplinary global and local talent. International talent from top universities with years of relevant work experience.
- Talent first, idea second – A great team is the foundation for generating scalable businesses; the specific idea is the result of the incubator process.
- Entrepreneurship “technology” - Introduce a scientific methodology of entrepreneurship that draws from design thinking, lean startup, and management consulting.
- Expert network - Build a network of world-class experts that join the ventures in acceleration stints.
- Embedded support services - Legal, accounting, IT, software development, HR, PR who know how to work with small but growing companies.

### What is the objective of the fellowship?

The objective of the three-month Polymath Fellowship in Colombia is to generate a business idea that is ready to receive angel or early-stage venture capital funding by January 2013. Recruiting exceptionally talented people is critical to the success of building high quality ventures from the beginning. At the same time, we want to provide the support and structure to enable these talented individuals to transition to (or continue) with entrepreneurship.



## Why Colombia?

Latin America's (and the world's) emerging middle class has a number of unmet needs that will require the creation of many new companies. Polymath Fellowships aim to lead this economic awakening. We think that Colombia has a strategic position in the region: it is one of the oldest democracies in South America and it is going through a major social and economic transformation.

## How does the fellowship work?

- The fellowship is from June to August 2012 with a possible renewal from September to December 2012.
- Full-time commitment to explore a business opportunity: starting from a cluster of needs to an alpha prototype.
- The fellow will join a multi-disciplinary and global team to find an innovative business opportunity that is developed in Colombia, but serves the national, regional and/or global market. The venture needs to be scalable and has the potential to create a sustainable and profitable organization that can create hundreds of jobs in the next decade.

## What is the profile of a Polymath Fellow?

We care about recruiting those who have the talent and commitment to do things differently. In particular, we are looking for people with the following characteristics:

- Creativity - Ability to find many solutions to one problem
- Problem solving - Passion to solve complex problems
- Entrepreneurial vision - Capacity to deal with extreme uncertainty
- Commitment to change - Deep commitment to transform the world

## What are the basic requirements?

- Minimum 3 years of work experience; however, 5 or more years are desirable
- Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science from a top school in the field
- At least 5 years living in Colombia
- Fluent in English and Spanish

## What is the application process?

1. Send your CV with a short email explaining why you are interested in the Polymath Fellowship. Send it to [fellows@polymathventures.co](mailto:fellows@polymathventures.co). The deadline is April 15 2012; however, early application is encouraged.
2. Attend the invitation-only session in Medellín or Bogotá.
3. Participate in the interview process.