Global Citizen Year proudly selects exceptional young leaders, independent of financial circumstances, and helps them develop the insights, skills, and networks for a lifetime of positive impact.
Program Cost

The tuition for Take Action Lab is $21,000 USD. This does not include flights and other out-of-pocket pre-travel expenses that vary per student.

We don’t believe in hidden costs, and have aimed to provide a thorough and transparent breakdown of tuition and expenses below.

Tuition Includes

Curriculum & Cultural Activities

- **Foundations course:** Before going abroad, this four-week course prepares the cohort to approach their time abroad with self-awareness, humility, and a learning mindset. Guided by experienced instructors, students reflect deeply on identity, privilege, belonging, and what it means to be a responsible global citizen. This virtual course equips students with an introduction to the historical and social context in Cape Town and forges a strong sense of community in the cohort.

- **Orientation Week:** Upon arrival in Cape Town, students receive a thorough week-long training to equip them with the cultural and risk-management skills to deeply and safely immerse.

- **Cultural activities & excursions twice a week:** Global Citizen Year hosts cultural activities or excursions each week, providing experiential opportunities to deepen students’ understanding of South Africa.

- **Reflection Week:** During the final week of the semester, students make meaning out of the rich experiences they’ve had in South Africa. Through guided reflection, students consider how they want to integrate their new perspectives into life going forward.
Apprenticeship Matching & Support
Our team has cultivated a strong network of outstanding apprenticeship placements in Cape Town. Each student is matched with a South African organization advancing a human rights cause aligned with their interests. Students will spend four days at their apprenticeship each week, supporting the mission, and deepening their own awareness by working on-the-ground with experienced human rights advocates and the communities they serve. A staff supervisor at the apprenticeship will support each student in setting and working toward meaningful goals for their apprenticeship experience.

Room & Board
- **Housing in Cape Town:** Global Citizen Year provides several houses where students live together during their 12 weeks in Cape Town. Houses are fully furnished and include shared common spaces, bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and laundry facilities. Each student has their own private bedroom with a bed, desk, and storage. Wifi, water, electricity, and cleaning fees are included.
- **Living Expense Stipend:** Qualifying students receive a stipend toward basic living expenses while in Cape Town. This stipend is meant to be used for the following expenses:
  - Groceries & meals
  - Daily commute to your apprenticeship and all program activities
  - Cell phone credits and mobile data (student must bring own smartphone)
  - Basic personal expenses and incidentals (e.g. toiletries, laundry supplies, etc.)
  - Common health expenses (e.g. routine medical care costs, medications, etc.)

The stipend is sufficient to cover basic living expenses in Cape Town. Students who choose to spend on travel and leisure or other non-essential expenses beyond the stipend should have personal resources available to do so.
Local Support Team
Our local team of trained youth development professionals live in Cape Town and support students throughout their time abroad. In case of health or safety incidents, they are close by and available for immediate support.

Airport Transfers on Arrival and Departure
Our team will meet you at the airport on arrival. On both arrival and departure days, we’ll arrange transportation to and from the airport.

Estimated Out-Of-Pocket Expenses
Students should also budget for pre-travel and travel expenses not included in tuition. The exact costs will vary depending on personal circumstances (i.e. distance from home to Cape Town, whether the student has a passport, etc). We recommend that prospective students research what these costs would be, based on their individual circumstances.

Pre-Travel Expenses *
- Passport & visa fees, if needed
- Pre-departure health expenses, including vaccinations
- Costs associated with retrieving health history forms or possible supplemental forms (if applicable)
- Technology required for the program

Travel Expenses
- Round-trip air travel from the student’s location to Cape Town, South Africa
- International travel medical insurance
- Ground transportation to and from the airport in the student’s home country*
- Snacks, meals or other unexpected expenses while in transit to or from Cape Town*

*We are not able to offer Financial Aid to cover these costs
Merit Scholarships

Global Citizen Year awards merit scholarships to students who demonstrate a track record of curiosity, conviction, and courage, and a hunger to make a positive impact in their community and the world.

Global Changemaker Scholarship

All applicants are automatically considered for the Global Changemaker Scholarship. This is a merit scholarship awarding up to $10,000 to a select number of students with a track record of creating impact. In awarding the Global Changemaker Scholarships, we look for students who demonstrate initiative and collaboration in proactively shaping a better future, whether in their local community or the world at large.

- **Eligibility:** All applicants are eligible.
- **How to Apply:** All applicants are automatically considered.

Educator Nomination Scholarship

We invite educators to nominate exceptional students for Take Action Lab at globalcitizenyear.org/nominate-a-student/. Nominated students will be awarded a $500 merit scholarship should they enroll in the program.

Our Commitment

We are dedicated to making Take Action Lab accessible to talented young leaders from all backgrounds. We also know that people from the Global South and people who identify as BIPOC are underrepresented in positions of leadership and disproportionately impacted by income inequality. Therefore, our financial aid targets individuals without the means to afford Take Action Lab, with a need- and demographically-aware philosophy to ensure that we are giving access to traditionally underserved groups.
Financial Aid

Need-based financial aid is available to help cover the costs of tuition ($21,000 USD). We also offer financial aid to help cover some travel expenses in cases where students would not otherwise be able to participate.

Financial aid offers vary depending on students’ financial aid applications. Financial aid is limited and not guaranteed.

Financial aid may fully or partially cover

- Tuition
- Round-trip flights to Cape Town, South Africa
- International travel medical insurance

Financial Aid does not cover

- Vaccinations costs and fees
- Costs associated with retrieving health history forms or possible supplemental forms (if applicable)
- Passport & visa fees
- Laptop computer and smart phone required for this program
- Ground transportation to and from the airport in the student’s home country
- Snacks, meals or other unexpected expenses while in transit to or from Cape Town
How to Apply for Financial Aid

1. Submit an application for Take Action Lab.
2. Our Admissions Committee will review applications and invite applicants who are determined to be a strong fit for the program to proceed to Stage 2.
3. In Stage 2 you’ll work with us to check that you’re in a position to travel abroad and to thrive during the program. Applicants will complete the financial aid application. (Detailed instructions will be available on the student portal for applicants participating in Stage 2.)
4. Our Admissions Committee curates a diverse, global class from all applications that meet the feasibility criteria. We consider individual merit, the balance of the class as a whole, and what support (including financial aid) we are able to provide. Selected applicants will receive their official enrollment offer including their tuition/financial aid package.

Each semester, we carefully review all incoming financial aid applications, and regularly have more outstanding candidates than aid available. Financial aid is limited and not guaranteed.

Have Admission Questions?

Check out our FAQs or email our team at admissions@globalcitizenyear.org.