

Dear Community,

This document is an invitation to support four incredible young Australians/New Zealanders to travel to Sweden and participate in The International Youth Initiative Program (YIP).

“YIP’s unique contribution is to strive to bring the creative energies of young people into direct contact with the needs and aspirations of local communities. Through this engagement, YIP facilitates the growth and development of both the young people and the communities in which they develop their activities.” - www.yip.se

Investing in young people with initiative, and in the future.

Seed Australia is heading up this funding for Grace James (21), NZ, Mareike Andersson (20) AUS, Paolo Apostilides (27) AUS, and Poppy Zanderigo (18) AUS, to follow their calling and pursue a new kind of education in order to develop themselves and their capacities to meet the world in all its complexities.

The International Youth Initiative program (YIP) offers the kind of inquiry, study, community, and practical experience that are essential to enable young people to take responsibility for their own development, to develop new faculties and insights with which to meet the challenges of today’s world and to find their own meaningful place within it out of freedom.

All the applicants named above have demonstrated their capacity and strong wish to take hold of the content and experiences of the YIP program through their valuable and active contributions to initiatives such as the Christian Community, Moral Technologies, community art activities and much more.

Seed Australia seeks to foster a living platform of young adults inspired by world and spiritual issues. We hope to create a network that will grow with energy and enthusiasm, build and deepen relationships, and foster new initiatives in Australia.

We believe that investing in the growth of inspired initiatives and community development, in the face of the world’s complexities, and an uncertain future is a great and essential requirement for good social spiritual initiatives and inspiring enterprises in Australia.



YIP

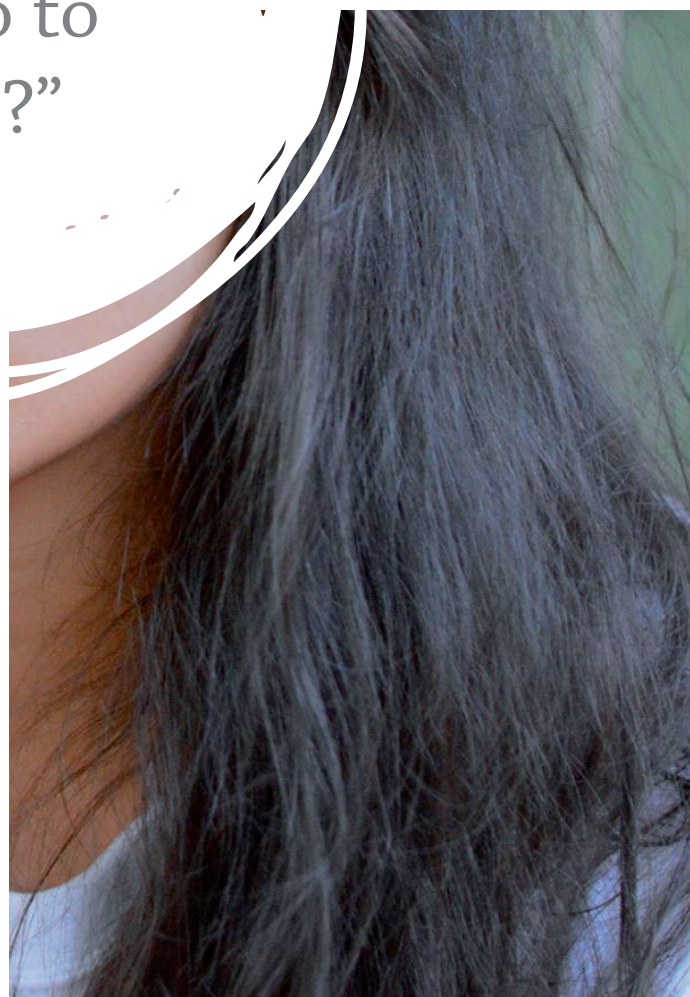
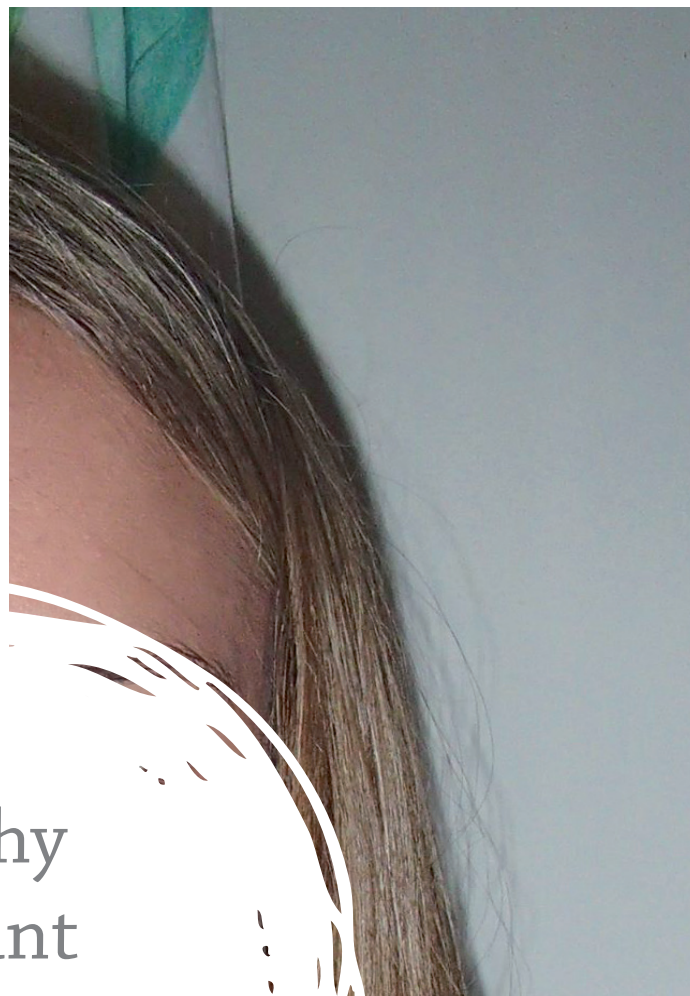
What is YIP?

The International Youth Initiative Program (YIP) is primarily concerned with strengthening the capacity of young people to take an active role in fostering positive cultural, social, environmental and economic change that will benefit all sections of society and eliminating social injustice, poverty and inequality. YIP is global in scope and international in concept and sees real benefits in bringing young people together from all parts of the world to reflect on the meaning and impact of globalization. YIP pays tribute to young peoples' potential and ability as cultural creatives within local communities and society at large.

YIP is an action-oriented venture that seeks to provide young people with opportunities to recognize their potential to work with each other and with communities to enrich their lives and the lives of all those with whom they come into contact.

YIP is rooted in an understanding of and is aimed at furthering comprehensive sustainable development through a commitment to social harmony and the importance of local solutions to local problems, with the full involvement of local communities.

YIP's unique contribution is to strive to bring the creative energies of young people into direct contact with the needs and aspirations of local communities. Through this engagement, YIP facilitates the growth and development of both the young people and the communities in which they develop their activities.



“Why
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Grace James

My name is Grace James, I have a reverence for nature. I must first and foremost mention this because it is the central point of who I am. I am astounded to be a part of the earth, to have life flowing through me, and to be able to watch the seasons pass so beautifully. Fruit falls from trees and all kinds of nourishment crops up, then decomposes. Because of this reverence, I am a passionate gardener.

So how do nature lovers survive this man made world? Art is what helps me survive. I have a saying that there are certain kinds of longing only music can fix and there is a certain kind of joy only dance can express. So I ride through life taking all the feelings I feel and writing, painting, dancing and singing them out. I am part of different movements bringing people back into connection with themselves, their community, and nature. Working with other passionate people to create needed change is fulfilling on so many levels. Not only do I get to make my own contribution, but I also get to learn from people who have different skills, and usually it's also fun!

I want to learn in a community environment. When I see others grow and change, it gives me permission to grow and change. When I am with people who are learning about the things I'm learning about, we learn from each other's ideas. When we spend time together and listen to each other, we come to know one another. It's a gift to be known, as it is a gift to know someone.

I want to learn in an environment that values the students and teachers fully. Seeing that without one we could not have the other, I want to learn in a way that empowers me to create change in this world where I see change is needed. I think YIP will give me the tools I need to go out into the world and create a world that needs me in it.



“Why I want to go to YIP?”

Paolo Apostolides

I would love to experience the Youth Initiative Program (YIP) in Järna, Sweden in August 2016 and I am currently striving to make this a reality. My name is Paolo Apostolides, and I am 27 years old. I am going to YIP because I am eager to widen my perspective about what tasks and actions are possible in the world, and to discover what potential role I could play in them. I grew up in Sydney, Australia, where I attended a Rudolf Steiner school in my primary years then moved through the public system and eventually rounded up my final two years in a Rudolf Steiner high school.

I have always been enthusiastic about hands-on work, including designing and building. This led me to earn a Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Allied Arts in Arch) at the University of Sydney. I am currently working towards a Master of Architecture. In 2014 I was lucky enough to secure an internship at an architecture firm in Basel, Switzerland, which supported my stay and allowed me to attend various conferences and talks at the nearby Goetheanum in Dornach. I became involved with the Youth Section of the Goetheanum, attending weekly gatherings, where I witnessed a camaraderie and responsibility between youth, which was new to me. This led to a strong enthusiasm to continue such gatherings in Sydney on my return home. On this trip I also had the opportunity to volunteer with a Swiss architect on the renovation of the Christian Community Chapel in Paris, which was a

great experience in collaboration with other interesting and enthusiastic people.

I heard about YIP through word of mouth and while overseas I made my way up to Sweden to experience the ‘initiative forum.’ I was very much inspired by all the self-motivated individuals I met there. Very recently during a Moral Technologies Conference, I met people who were all looking beyond themselves into the wider community and the future, a perspective I feel I want to work with in the 10 month YIP program.

I am very interested in the existential expression of architecture, not as a self-expression but as a worldly one. I am intrigued by how the elemental parts of our environment can be experienced through architecture and how the composition of these elements can make us want to jump, sing or cry. I have questions that I hope to work with during my time at YIP, such as how work can become meaningful not just to myself but also to the wider community. I have questions to do with need, responsibility and the utilitarian existence of design. I feel this experience would also enrich my approach to architecture, my local community and the world. I am excited about the idea of growing my potential for taking part in strengthening local community. I have a hope that this new adventure will enliven this potential.



“Why I want to go to YIP?”

Mareike Andersson

My name is Marieke Andersson, I am a 20 year old student living in Adelaide, Australia. I graduated from high school in 2014 and then began International Studies at Flinders University, though I am currently on leave of absence. I lived in Germany until I was 11 years old, when fate decided that my family would move to Australia, due to my father's work as an academic. I visited three different schools, which were all Rudolf Steiner Waldorf schools, which enriched me with a broad and wholesome education and sparked my interests in art and music. After having completed my year 12 project about asylum seekers and refugees, I am still involved in work with asylum seekers and refugees here in Adelaide in my spare time. I also volunteer for the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and the Fairtrade Society at my university. I am also part of my University's Volleyball Club, and work two jobs to keep myself afloat financially.

When I heard about YIP I instantly knew that this was my world. I have decided to try my hardest to enable myself to be part of it. YIP would allow me to gain a deeper and better understanding of the world and how I can maximize my capacity to give the world my absolute best. I have always had a boundless interest in the greater picture of the world and its issues. Being part of this program would strengthen and enrich my will to show initiative and be part of a movement of change in today's complex world of issues. This is a dream I want to fulfil!



“Why I want to go to YIP?”

Poppy Zanderigo

My name is Poppy Zanderigo and I'm 18 years old. I finished high school last year at Canberra Girls Grammar School where I had been since year seven. I graduated studying double Drama, Music, Law and English. Before that I attended Orana Steiner School from kindergarten to year six.

I have always been a creative – all my life I have been painting, drawing, playing music, acting, dancing. I particularly love acting as a form of communication between myself and society, and being able to experience the lives of other people and their emotional journeys fascinates me in many ways. Theatrical performance is all about emotion and reaction. We live our lives based on reaction, and portraying this through a medium like theatre or film can convey the emotion and the truth that no other medium can. It is so much more than just saying words written on a paper. It's saying those words to make someone else believe they are your own.

The knowledge of visual art that I gained studying at Orana has been a beautiful compliment to my acting experience. Through sketching, painting and performance art I can express myself and my ideas and beliefs.

From what I have learned, YIP is teaching young people who have passion and a drive to harness that passion to create a better world. I would love the opportunity to participate in YIP for that reason and several others. First, I would love to learn more about anthroposophy, how people are incorporating that philosophy into their lives, and how I can incorporate it into my own. I went to a Steiner school for all my primary education, but I have only recently

started to learn about why I was taught what I was, where it came from, and how it has affected me as a human being.

Second, I would love to build my confidence and knowledge. I believe this program will help me improve my ability to work with new people and work in environments that I might not have previously experienced, and force me to really dive deep and bring forward input that I might have previously restrained or not even been aware of. I think the things I would learn over the 10 months at YIP, whether they are related to acting and performance or not, would greatly strengthen my capability for understanding, and would put me steps ahead of where I would have been otherwise with regards to confidence, universal knowledge, and empathy.

I also love connecting with people, especially those with a deeper understanding of the world around them, and those with passion and emotion. After meeting and connecting on a deeper level with several people who have been to YIP, I feel extremely excited to have an opportunity to learn and grow like they did.

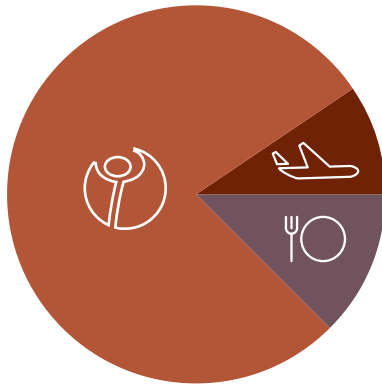
I care a lot about human beings and their right to live a free and fulfilled life, particularly people who have been marginalized for being different and breaking the status quo by standing up for themselves and others around them and fighting for acceptance.

I believe this program combines several important environments for youth who want to inspire and create outlets for change and global development, and because I am a youth wanting these things, I believe I could benefit greatly.



Finances

The approximate costs of attending YIP per participant for the full 10-month program can be broken down as follows:



\$16,600 - Course fee including application fee, food (weekdays only), accommodation, internship costs and materials.

\$2,000 - Return flights to Sweden

\$2,400/2,600 (\$60 per week X 40 weeks) - Weekend food and local travel

\$21,000 - Total

The applicants are currently working full time to save money. They have some financial support from their families and are applying for loans in order to raise the amount they need to participate in YIP.

If you feel inspired to contribute towards enabling these wonderful young people to step into the future that is calling them in Sweden, any amount is most gratefully received.

Or you might like to make an interest free loan offer?

If you have inspiration, contacts or ideas towards this fundraising goal, please be in touch!

Rose Nekvapil – 0423491286 – rose.nekvapil@gmail.com

To make a donation:

Seedpod Australia Inc.
BSB: 633-000
Account: 156755910

With warmest thanks!

Rose Nekvapil, Vaike Neeme, Lisa Devine
www.seedaustralia.net.au


AUSTRALIA