

Updated on 11th May, 2026

ShikshaNext EdTech Accelerator - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Eligibility and Shortlisting

1) How do I apply to be a part of the Accelerator?

Applications for the EdTech Accelerator will be accepted till 22nd May, 2026.

In Phase 1 of applications participants will be required to complete two forms — the Eligibility Form and the Expression of Interest Form. The selection process entails an open call for applications through an initial Eligibility form. Participants who meet the eligibility criteria are requested to fill an Expression of Interest form (shared on a rolling basis). Please find more details regarding the selection process and application form link on our website [here](#).

2) Can you please share Phase 1 application form questions in a PDF so that I can prepare the material before filling out the form?

Once an applicant submits the eligibility form and is considered eligible, the Accelerator team will share the specific Typeform link, along with a PDF of all the questions requested as part of that, for them to fill out to submit their application. You can refer to this to prepare all the information you would need to then fill out the application form.

3) Can I submit an application for multiple cohorts?

The Phase 1 application form will ask you to declare a primary and a secondary preference for cohorts- please note that these preferences are non-binding. During Phase 2, each shortlisted organisation will prepare a detailed proposal, and will finalise their cohort preference through a consultative process with the Accelerator team.

4) Will I be provided any support and feedback through the selection process for my application?

Yes, the Accelerator team will be available for “office hours” to provide support, clarity, and feedback during Phase 1 of the selection process (these can be booked here). During Phase 2, the Accelerator team will work closely with the shortlisted organisations, in a consultative manner, to support them in drafting and submitting detailed proposals for the final phase of selection - Phase 3. Session dates, agenda, and registration links will be published via our [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) handles. Organizations can also reach out to shikshanext@centralsquarefoundation.org for any queries.

5) What is the selection process and timeline?

The application process will run from 11th May, 2026 to July 2026 across three phases;

- **Phase 1 - Eligibility and Expression of Interest** (11th May–22nd May 2026): Interested applicants are requested to fill out two forms by **22nd May**:
 - 1a. Form 1 is the eligibility form (linked on the [EdTech Accelerator website](#)), it takes approximately 10 minutes to fill out
 - 1b. If your organization/EdTech solution is eligible for the ShikshaNext EdTech Accelerator based on the information submitted in this form, you will receive an expression-of-interest form within 24-48 hours (on a rolling basis)
 - 1c. Form 2 is the expression-of-interest form and takes approximately 30 minutes to fill out once you have collected all the necessary information
 - 1d. The **last** date to submit both forms is **22nd May, 2026**
- **Phase 2 - Request for Detailed Proposal** (25th May–12th June 2026): Shortlisted applicants are requested to share detailed proposals and conduct a EdTech Tulna self-evaluation
- **Phase 3 - Pitches and Selection** (week of 15th June 2026): Applicants will pitch their proposals to the Selection Committee, after which the selected EdTech solutions will be announced by July 2026.

Fit for the Accelerator

6) My organization is not registered as a legal entity in India, am I eligible to apply?

The EdTech Accelerator is designed to support organizations committed to users (learners, teachers, parents etc.) from low-income households in India. If your organization is not currently registered in India, if you get selected for the Accelerator, you will be required to establish an Indian for-profit entity or can apply through a local for-profit partner, who must be listed as the primary applicant in the application. Please refer to the section on Joint Applications for further details.

7) My organization is a for-profit organization. Is the Accelerator only open for not-for-profit organizations?

No, the EdTech Accelerator is open to applications from both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

8) As part of a joint application, should we apply as a For Profit or Not for Profit?

For foreign organisations that are following the joint application route, please note that the EdTech Accelerator will only consider joint ventures where the partner organisation is registered as a For Profit entity in India. Hence all joint ventures should apply as a For Profit. **Please note, the primary applicant in such a scenario would be the for-profit partner organisation in India.**

9) My technology solution is built for use on a desktop/laptop/tablet. Can I still apply for the Accelerator?

There are really exciting innovations happening in the EdTech sector including solutions that work on laptops/tablets. However, students from underserved segments have traditionally lacked device access. With the increase in household smartphone penetration in India over the last 3 years and the increase in data consumption, smartphones have become more accessible to children from low-income segments. Hence, the EdTech Accelerator will support solutions that have an instance built for use on an Android operating phone to reach children from underserved communities in India, or solutions that are committed to building an instance for Android mobile devices within the next 6 months.

10) My technology solution does not serve children in the 4–10 age group. Can I still apply to the Accelerator?

The EdTech Accelerator is focused on supporting technology solutions that serve children within ages 4–10 years and strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) outcomes. Solutions that currently cater to this age group, and those that currently do not but are committed to build for at least 1 age band within 4–10 years will be considered for the EdTech Accelerator program. EdTech solutions that do not yet serve ages 4–10 and do not plan to build for at least 1 age band in the next 6 months will not be eligible for the EdTech Accelerator

11) My technology solution is designed to be used in school by the teacher to help students learn. Can I apply to the Accelerator?

Yes, the EdTech Accelerator welcomes technology solutions that support children's learning both in school and at home, as long as they can clearly demonstrate a pathway to improve student learning outcomes for children aged 4–10 years.

Cohorts

12) How do I know which cohort is a good fit for me?

The EdTech Accelerator will support solutions across three broad domains: **Student / Parent Facing Learning Solutions, Teacher Facing Learning Solutions, and System Facing Learning Solutions**. Each domain broadly represents ways in which technology solutions can strengthen student learning outcomes for children aged 4–10 years.

During Phase 1 of the selection process, solutions can indicate their primary and secondary domain preference based on where their solution best fits- the preference mentioned here will not be binding. Shortlisted solutions will move forward to Phase 2, their cohort preference will be finalised during this phase through a consultative process.

13) What if my organization's use case is different from, or spans across, the defined Accelerator cohorts?

The Accelerator domains are designed to broadly represent the different ways in which EdTech solutions can strengthen student learning outcomes for children aged 4–10 years through **Student/Parent learning facing**, **Teacher learning facing**, or **System facing solutions**. While many solutions will fit within a single domain, we recognize that some organizations may work across multiple areas or take integrated approaches that span cohorts. For the purposes of this Accelerator the solution should select one primary use case.

In the second phase of applications, the Accelerator team will engage with you to discuss your use case in detail and align on the cohort that is most appropriate based on your core offering and intended impact.

Accelerator Support

14) How much funding support is provided as part of the Accelerator?

As part of the Accelerator, all eight participant solutions which get selected will be supported with funding in the range of INR 75L each, in funding for year 1 of the Accelerator (starting May 2026) towards the finalised goals in each proposal. Year-on-year funding and the decision to continue funding will be based on the performance of the previous year, and the submitted proposal, amongst other criteria.

15) What kind of support will I receive as part of the Accelerator over 3 years?

In addition to the catalytic funding, to support product iteration and strengthen pedagogy, selected participants will also be provided with mentorship from industry experts and curated capacity-building workshops to enhance product development and delivery. Participants will also have opportunities to showcase their solutions, gaining visibility and feedback from Indian and global stakeholders, while building evidence to demonstrate the efficacy and impact of their learning solutions.

16) How will the impact assessment be conducted for my technology solution as part of the Accelerator?

The Accelerator has processes in place to conduct regular monitoring and evaluation for selected partner organisations. The selected participants will be required to share

a product level monthly report (excluding personally identifiable information) for aggregate metrics on scale, engagement, retention etc. The Accelerator will work with partners to establish product efficacy in Y2 or Y3, depending on product readiness. The exact research methodology for model evaluation will be decided on a later date and then aligned on with selected partners.

17) Will there be any support provided to applicants during Phase 1?

To support applicants during Phase 1, the Accelerator team will be hosting an AMA Webinar on 15th May where interested applicants can learn more about the accelerator, application process, and ask questions directly to the team.

In addition, applicants will be able to book office hours through our [Scheduling link](#) for specific queries or application support.