How to Write a High-Quality Application

Teach For Bangladesh and the Selection Process

The Teach For Bangladesh Fellowship is a two-year leadership development program for exceptional university graduates who have a track record of excellence. The TFB admissions process is highly selective, and is based on a tried and tested model that ensures that selected candidates succeed both in the classroom and beyond. There are four stages in our admission process: (1) Registration, (2) Online Application, (3) Phone Screen, and (4) Assessment Center.

With an acceptance rate of around 8 percent, we select only top candidates. We look for a concise and clearly presented track record of achievements, illustrating that you have the necessary experiences, qualifications, and a clear understanding of the expectations of the program. We ask applicants to reflect on their motivations, and why they want to join Teach for Bangladesh. We recommend applicants to take their time for their application to improve structure and clarity.

Tips for the Online Application

EDUCATION

Awards & Distinctions: Please list awards or distinctions you received related to your academic performance (no extra-curricular activities). Consider distinctions such as being on the honor role of your program or any scholarships you have received throughout your studies.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- List the experiences that you think are most relevant in terms of responsibilities and duration. We are looking for experiences in which you gained leadership experience and had significant responsibilities for a longer period of time.
- What we look for in applicants is leadership potential, so please include details that will help us paint a picture of your achievements.
- Provide measurable outcomes, including figures: How many? How often? How much? See the example below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Clearly and Concisely Stated:</th>
<th>Vague/Unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsibilities</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>As a President of the debate team I managed 20 team members, we met once every week. Throughout the year I organized 3 debate competitions at my university. In addition, I participated in 2 debate competitions outside my university.</td>
<td>I led the team, organized debate competitions, and took part in other national and international competitions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td></td>
<td>Throughout my presidency I increased membership from 7 people last year to 20 this year. I also led 5 staff members during a debate competition in Singapore. At this competition we won the second prize in this international competition. We raised Taka 1 lakh to cover the costs for this trip.</td>
<td>I decided to join the debate team when it was not a very popular club. I improved the debate team, and we went to a competition in Singapore, which took a long time to organize. I had to train all the debaters. We also had to raise a lot of money. But in the end we won second place.</td>
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ESSAYS

- **Plagiarism**: We ask integrity of our future Fellows. If plagiarism is found in your application, it will be immediately disqualified.

- **Clichés**: Clichés such as “education is the backbone of a nation” do not show creativity nor the kind of commitment we seek from our Fellows. Unless you can effectively elaborate on overused phrases, we recommend you not to use them.

- **Length**: Essays should be 250 to 300 words. Essays of 1 or 2 sentences are usually not considered. We want you to reflect deeply on the essay questions and ensure that your responses answer the questions appropriately and thoroughly.

- **Grammar, Punctuation, and Structure**:  
  - Please check your essay for spelling and grammar before sending in your application. Avoid using abbreviations.
  - Structure your essay as coherently as possible.
  - We score separately on grammar and content.

- **On essay 3**: This essay is about overcoming a challenge. Although we need some background information on the issue, we are more interested in how you dealt with and overcame the challenge. We kindly request you to describe the specific steps you took to overcome the challenge.

  EXAMPLE: Performing average at my job as an account manager

<table>
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<th>What we’re looking for (specifics!):</th>
<th>What we’re not looking for (vague statements):</th>
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<tr>
<td>“I took additional classes 3 nights a week for a year, woke up an hour early every day to review my old economics textbooks, and set up bi-weekly appointments with my manager to get feedback and improve my performance. I also made sure I improved by asking for feedback from colleagues and customers.”</td>
<td>“I worked really hard, and eventually got better at my job.”</td>
</tr>
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- **Review, Revise and Refine**: Writing is a process, not merely a product. Don’t expect to just sit down in front of a computer, write, and call it a day. Writing a coherent piece will require you to schedule several blocks of time for the writing up. It can be a good idea to ask someone else to look over your essays and give feedback (but do make sure they are not inserting their own words!).

REFERENCES

References help us to get to know you better. Please list people who know you well and can describe in detail your academic or professional performance.

*Best of Luck!*