

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Who is eligible to apply?

VIP-e 2025 is open to ambitious ecopreneurs aged 16 to 22 who are passionate about creating sustainable ventures and committed to making a positive impact on the planet.

2. What stage should my business be at?

Applicants should have an early-stage venture with a well-thought-through concept and, ideally, a working prototype. Participants must demonstrate a strong desire to commit to developing this project further over the next year.

3. Do I need prior knowledge of systems thinking or planetary boundaries?

No prior experience is required. Acquiring knowledge of systems thinking and planetary boundaries is built-in as a prerequisite to the program, such that all participants enter with the same foundational knowledge and are ready to fully engage in the program. Materials will be provided ahead of the program.

4. Is travel insurance and a visa required?

Yes, participants are responsible for obtaining their travel insurance and ensuring they have the necessary visa to enter Switzerland. Upon acceptance to the program, the Villars Institute can provide an official invitation letter to assist with the visa application process.

5. What language will the program be conducted in?

The program will be conducted entirely in English. Participants must have a high level of English proficiency to allow them to fully engage in workshops, discussions, and mentorship sessions.

6. Can Villars Fellows apply?

Absolutely, Villars Fellows are eligible and encouraged to apply to VIP-e 2025.

7. What is the partner application question?

The application form includes a section asking if you were referred by a specific partner group or organization. If applicable, please specify the name of the group.

8. Is financial assistance available? What if I can't afford the program?

Yes! The Villars Institute is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible program. The application process is needs-blind, and generous scholarships are available.

Scholarships cover: Full program tuition and Room & board for the week in Villars

We strongly encourage all qualified applicants to apply, regardless of financial circumstances.

9. Who are the mentors for VIP-e 2025?

VIP-e features a curated team of world-class mentors spanning diverse areas of business, sustainability, and subject-matter expertise. Mentor names and profiles will be announced closer to the program dates.

10. Do I have to cover my own travel costs?

Yes, participants are generally responsible for covering their own airfare to and from Switzerland. In extreme circumstances, exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.