



In partnership with



Associates Program

THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION ASSOCIATES PROGRAM APPLICANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Mastercard Foundation Associates Program?

The Mastercard Foundation Associates Program connects young Africans with 12-month paid work placements, employability training, and mentorship to help them gain practical experience and access dignified and fulfilling work.

Who is eligible to apply for the Mastercard Foundation Associates Program?

To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be between 18 and 34 years old.
- Hold a minimum of a diploma or its equivalent.
- Be currently unemployed or underemployed.
- Meet the legal requirements to work in the city/country where the role is based, as relocation costs are not covered (this does not apply to remote roles).
- Be willing to commit to full-time participation in the Mastercard Foundation Associates Program.
- Be an Alumni of a Mastercard Foundation-supported program (e.g., Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, YALI, Anzisha Prize, etc.). Not required, but preferred.
- Have completed your country's mandatory national service, if applicable.

2. I live in an African country but am not a citizen there. Can I still apply?

Yes, as long as you possess a valid work permit or meet the legal requirements that allow you to work in your current country of residence. If you are a refugee or internally displaced person, you can still apply.

3. What documents do I need to provide for the application?

You are required to upload a Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume in either Doc or PDF format. You may also be required to provide proof of Alumni status if you indicate you are one.

4. How should I format my CV file name?

Your CV file name must include your full official name (first name and family name) so that the Mastercard Foundation Associates Program can correctly identify your application.

5. Does the Mastercard Foundation Associates Program offer remote work opportunities?

You can indicate a preference for physical, remote, or hybrid work arrangements in the application. However, if you select "Remote," you must confirm that you have a personal laptop, stable internet, and a reliable source of electricity. Please note that indicating a preference does not guarantee that you will get your choice of placement type.

6. How do I apply?

The application forms will be available on our partner websites according to the region of interest—East Africa, West Africa Anglophone, Francophone Africa, Southern Africa, and Remote Roles. You apply by filling out the online application form on the partner website for your region. The official placement partners are Shortlist Professionals, Jobberman Nigeria, Talent2Africa, Talenteum, and Youth Employment Service (YES) South Africa.

7. What happens after I submit my application?

Your application will be screened. If you are shortlisted, a regional partner will contact you via email for the next steps. Shortlisted candidates must participate in a mandatory PREP2SOAR training designed to strengthen job readiness and prepare you for Employer interviews. Check your emails often and join the Transitions LinkedIn community via https://lnkd.in/dCM2_xeB for more opportunities and other useful resources.

8. Will my answers to questions about my income or disability status affect my chances of being hired?

No. Questions regarding disability, refugee status, and personal finances (such as monthly income or household conditions) are baseline questions. These are used for evaluation purposes only and are not analyzed or used during the matching or hiring process to limit bias.

9. When will the work placements begin?

If selected, the earliest available start date for a placement is May 2026.

10. Is my data kept confidential?

Yes. All information provided is treated with strict confidentiality and is used only for purposes related to the Mastercard Foundation Associates Program. Your data is managed in compliance with data protection laws. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting associateprogram@leapafrika.org

11. What should I do if I feel unsafe or witness inappropriate behavior during the Mastercard Foundation Associates Program?

The Mastercard Foundation is committed to a safe and respectful environment for all participants. If you experience or observe any misconduct — including harassment, abuse, or exploitation — please report it through your Mastercard Foundation Associates Program contact, host organization, or the Foundation's confidential channels.

All reports are treated seriously, confidentially, and without retaliation.

Learn more or report a concern:

<https://mastercardfdn.org/en/safeguarding-for-program-participants/>

12. Will I receive compensation during my placement in the Mastercard Foundation Associates Program?

Yes. Associates receive a monthly stipend for 12 months. The amount varies depending on factors such as location and industry, and is typically paid in the local currency of your host country.