MELA
Selection Criteria

"The program provides an unmatched hub for networking, with candidates carefully selected from the Middle East. I expanded my network and built precious life-time relationships with those similarly vested in the development of our region."

Omar EL Labban
Associate
Beltone Private Equity
Egypt

Participant Recruiting and Selection

MELA is designed to be a member driven organization. The advisory board and the heads of each country chapter play a major role in determining the future course of MELA, which will ultimately be led and managed from within the region. Therefore, the criteria for selecting the MELA members are critical to its success.

Approximately 40 young "up-and-coming" leaders will be selected from business, government and civil society to attend each leadership program and thereby join the MELA network.

Participant recruiting and selection involves an application process which culminates in personal interviews to assess how well each prospective participant meets the criteria of the program and the network. The selection criteria are detailed in the following pages.

Threshold Requirements

- 28-45 years old citizens from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, who are highly proficient in written and spoken English.

- Working in the operational and professional sectors of business, NGO, civil society, education or government.

- Individuals distinguished by their integrity, honesty and high personal ethics.

Additional Considerations

- High-potential individuals with the promise of becoming prominent leaders and change agents in their organizations, industries and communities – who still have significant room to grow, are open to be challenged and ready to be changed.

- Self-starters motivated by a personal vision, thinking in terms of life goals and aspirations towards personal growth and capable of mapping their future prospects.

- Communicative, sociable (comfortable in cooperative settings), enjoy team environments; self-confident yet prepared to learn from others.

- Socially engaged and active in wider issues of progress and development in their countries beyond narrow self-interest ; ambitious not only for personal improvement but also with a sense of responsibility for contributing to social improvement. Eager to represent their country and culture to their peers in the region

- Ready to be involved in new styles of experiential learning and participatory modes of interaction – where the participant is required to play a much more active role than in a conventional classroom instruction.

- Actively curious about other countries and cultures in the region, open-minded and anxious to banish nationalistic stereotypes. Ready to share and exchange best practices with other participants from within the region as well as globally.

- Eager to be an active member of the post-academy MELA network, not only to leverage its capabilities but to contribute to its development. Having experience and understanding of volunteerism – willing to donate their time to building a voluntary organization like MELA.

MELA Candidate Evaluation

A   PERSONAL QUALITIES

1   Does this candidate have a strong sense of integrity, honesty and good work ethics?

2   Is this candidate the kind of person who projects and attracts bonds of trust?

3   Is this candidate open, approachable and a good communicator?

4   Does this candidate exude passion, positive energy and enthusiasm?

5   Is this candidate sociable, collaborative and a team player?

B   PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH POTENTIAL

6   Does this candidate have a compelling plan or vision of personal and professional growth?

7   Does this candidate have room to grow within the current organization & beyond?

8   Is this candidate likely to be a prominent leader in his or her own organization, society?

9   Is this candidate open to being challenged to excel? Does this candidate have the curiosity to explore new horizons?

10   Is this candidate innovative, a self-starter, confident and entrepreneurial?

C   SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND NETWORKING SKILLS

11   Does this candidate demonstrate empathy for social engagement within his/her society?

12   Is this candidate driven by a sense of mission to improve his/her surroundings?

13   Is this candidate ready to share and exchange best practices with other participants within the region as well as globally?

14   Has this candidate already been active in other volunteer networks within the region?

15   Does this candidate appreciate the special value of the international and cross-cultural nature of the SEALA, SIBF, CELA and MELA networks?

D   FIT WITH MELA LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS AND THE NETWORK

16   Will this candidate be fully active in MELA's participatory (team) learning environment?

17   Is this candidate likely to apply and spread lessons learned from MELA on returning home (e.g. working with teams of professional colleagues)?

18   Is this candidate positive and open to MELA's mix of nationalities and focus on regional cooperation?19   Is this candidate likely to participate in post-Masterclass networking activities?

20   Is this candidate willing to contribute their time to support the development of MELA?

Michael Kouly
MELA Board Member

Cambridge Institute for Global Leadership, Lebanon

"At MELA, you will spend every minute of your day learning either from speakers or facilitators or from the rest of the participants, each of whom has a very unique and special story that brings nothing but riches. I can't talk enough about this because no words can summarize the surprise that you will discover when you meet these fascinating people… Where else could you meet fifty people who will become dear friends to you from all over the world. And, you can reach them with one email or telephone call knowing that they are willing to help you with all their mind, capabilities, power and heart? So, I can't think of any better investment that you can make for yourself than coming to MELA. It's a gift. It's the best gift you can give to yourself."