



EWB Long Term Fellowship Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST)

Role: Incubator Engineer

Venture: MEST

Website: www.meltwater.org

Location: Accra, Ghana

Start Date: Training May 2017, placement start date June 2017

Duration: 12 months

Engineers Without Borders Canada (EWB) is a Canadian NGO that invests in people and ventures to create a thriving and sustainable world. Bolstered by its network of 36 chapters and 1600 members, EWB provides seed funding, talent and mentorship to social enterprises throughout sub-Saharan Africa. For more information on EWB, visit <http://ewb.ca>.

The EWB Fellows Program

The EWB Fellows Program exists to develop a cadre of Systems Change Leaders by equipping them with the opportunities, competencies and skills needed to build a more thriving and sustainable world. Every year we recruit 25-30 outstanding people for the 12-month Fellowship, placing successful candidates in one of our early-stage Ventures located throughout sub-Saharan Africa. This Fellowship opportunity is with MEST and is based in Accra, Ghana.

About MEST

The Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology ([MEST](#)), is a one-year intensive training program which identifies talented young professionals across Africa, and equips them with the tools and skills necessary to build globally competitive technology companies. Since its inception in 2008, MEST has produced 200 graduates from Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria.

Upon completion of the program, MEST invests anywhere from \$20,000-\$250,000 in teams and ideas with proven traction, scalability and commercial viability. Through the MEST Incubator ([MINC](#)), MEST has incubated over 20 portfolio companies ([view our current portfolio here](#)) since 2010. In addition to the seed capital provided in the incubator, MEST teams also receive hands on mentorship from globally trained professionals and access to our extensive network.

About the role

Fellows working with MEST will primarily serve in a teaching capacity for the training program (focusing on business and technology training) and as hands-on mentors (and in many respects team

members) for our incubated companies. Fellows must have a strong “can-do” attitude and a willingness to roll up their sleeves- providing support where and when it’s needed in both our training program and incubator.

A major need at both the training program and incubator is for product specialists and mobile developers. A keen eye for product that includes road maps, strategy and good experience is high in demand. iOS developers are a first priority and Android developers would be great as well. Even a small amount of experience in this area would be a big help. The experience will be special and heart-warming but the days will probably be long. Think of this as an extended hack-a-thon with some brilliant partners!

As an Incubator Engineer for MEST, your responsibilities will include:

- Working hands-on with incubator companies that may require additional technical support. This may involve driving development activities and training team members.
- Offering technical advice to incubator companies, which may include recommendations regarding frameworks and libraries, suggestions on how to solve a particular problem or simply helping out to debug an issue.
- Designing optimal interfaces with principles of user experience.
- Recommending and implementing good software engineering practices, which may include setting up version control, automated build systems, IDE's, bug tracking and suggesting code conventions.
- Assisting teams in creating technical roadmaps and prioritizing tasks.
- Assisting with technical hiring and developer recruitment.
- Resolving support requests and handle system administration tasks for the computer network in the incubator.
- Teaching occasional classes and conduct workshops related to various technologies.

EWB and MEST are partners in that we work towards similar goals of empowering young African entrepreneurs to catalyze change through innovation. Both EWB and MEST provide incubation services and seed funding, as well as operate fellowship programs with similar durations.

EWB is interested in supporting MEST with our fellows to create impact within MEST’s program and increase technical capacity. Simultaneously, EWB is interested in learning about MEST’s operational effectiveness and potential areas of growth in the impact investing space for EWB. This role is therefore considered a learning partnership.

Sound exciting? Here’s who we are looking for.

Skills & Qualifications

We are looking for people with experience in project management. Experience in managing a team of developers is a huge plus. You should be able to quickly familiarize yourself with new technologies and apply them in practice, and you should be constantly looking for ways to improve the development process of our incubator companies. Below is a list of skills an ideal candidate would possess. You don’t

have to be an expert at everything listed below, but should have a good idea of how these technologies work:

- Agile software development and project management
- Web development using modern web frameworks, like Laravel, RoR, Django
- Front-end development (Frameworks like AngularJS, emberJS or knockoutJS are a plus)
- Mobile app development (especially iOS and Android)
- Web design using CSS3 and HTML5 (Experience with pre-processors like Sass, Less, Haml, Jade is a plus)
- Server management using PaaS and IaaS, like Heroku and AWS
- Database management (SQL databases like PostgreSQL and NoSQL database like MongoDB)

Please note: You must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or landed immigrant in order to apply. No exceptions.

Compensation

All costs relating to the placement are either paid for directly by EWB (airfare, insurance, vaccinations, trainings) or indirectly through a living stipend, which covers food, living expenses, local travel, etc. Fellows also receive an honorarium to assist with repatriation costs. The stipend covers basic living expenses for a modest lifestyle in your placement country. You should not expect to save money during this year or use the stipend to cover previous expenses (e.g. student loans).

Additionally, EWB offers a range of benefits including insurance, a settlement allowance, professional development opportunities, and more.

Application Instructions

Submitting your application for the EWB Fellowship involves two steps:

Step 1: Under the subject line “Incubator Engineer - MEST”, submit your CV/Resume to devonmatthews@ewb.ca.

Step 2: Complete the following [online application form](#). Please select "EWB Long Term Fellowship - MEST" as the “Opportunity type”. If you would like to submit your candidacy to more than one role, please fill out separate forms.

Applications will be reviewed, and interviews scheduled on a rolling basis, so please submit your application as soon as possible. If the posting is still on our website, consider the role available.

For further detail about EWB, please visit [our website](#).

