

cadet status report

Greetings, Cadets!

We asked everyone entering FEAST the same three questions: what you're hoping changes in the next six months, what's standing in your way right now, and one word to describe how you're feeling about your freelance business today.

We read all your responses, and want you to read them too! Starting something new can be nerve-racking. Sometimes the best antidote is realizing that everyone around you is pretty much in the same boat. Hopefully, not the Titanic. But, still!

What You're All Hoping For

The answers varied in specifics but were pretty consistent in spirit. Almost everyone wants the same thing: **consistency**. Just enough consistency to make the whole thing feel like a business instead of a gamble.

A few of your words:

- *"Consistent leads and work."*
- *"I hope to feel confident in building my client pipeline and knowing what to do when one suddenly disappears."*
- *"I want to be more organized and have an intentional plan for growth."*
- *"I hope to have the business side of my freelance practice established."*
- *"I look forward to seeing my freelance business thrive with consistent clients, contracts, and project offers."*

Some of you are hoping to leave full-time jobs, while others are just trying to land a first client. One of you is planning to work internationally! And someone else just wants it to "exist and be profitable," which is a great place to start.

One of the best ways to cultivate consistency is to practice consistency, which is exactly what you're doing by enrolling in a 24-week program. That means we'll be practicing what we preach from day one, and building some really good habits right out of the gate.





What's Standing in the Way

This is where you all sounded the most like each other.

The blockers you named fell into a few clear buckets: not knowing what you don't know, fear of the dry spells, portfolio gaps, and the loneliness of trying to figure out a business that nobody around you totally understands.

One person answered this question with one word: "Myself!!" Man, that one really resonated with us. We remember the feeling! And still sometimes fight it.

A few more of your words:

- *"I don't know the steps to take and in what order, also maybe a little bit of fear..."*
- *"I'm nervous that I will lose a client and not have enough income to make it through to the next one."*
- *"Much of the business side of the work has been hidden from me in my previous roles."*
- *"I think I don't know what I don't know."*

We love that last one. FEAST was built specifically for that weird knowledge gap. There's a lot of stuff you can't Google because you don't know what to search for in the first place!

How You're Feeling Right Now

We asked you to choose one word to describe how you're feeling. Here's the breakdown!**

Excited	6	Overwhelmed	2
Hopeful	5	Curious	1
Stuck	2	Excited/ambivalent	1

**As of June 16

Half the battle with freelancing is what's going on between your ears, and looking at this data, we're feeling pretty good about where you all stand.

Most of you are excited, optimistic, and ready to get moving, which tells us you're not just here to “collect information.” You're here to actually do something with it. That's a really good sign! You'll get the most out of FEAST by being willing to experiment and try things before you feel 100% ready.

And if your word was overwhelmed or stuck, that's ok! That means you're being honest with yourself, and that's usually the best place to start.

A Lil' Message From Us

Every person in this group is coming in with a different story.

Y'all have different experience levels, goals, worries, and life stuff.

Someone in this group is figuring out how to freelance from Ecuador. Someone else got laid off a few months ago and is rebuilding from scratch. And at least one person is mostly hoping somebody will finally tell them what order to do all of this stuff in.

FEAST isn't going to hand you a magic formula, because one doesn't exist. Womp womp! If it did, we totally would. But what it will give you is a framework, a community of people figuring it out alongside you, and a team that's made most of the mistakes you're worried about making and somehow survived.

Building something for yourself is hard. Freelancing is hard. But you've already done the hardest part, which is deciding to take it seriously. But hopefully, not too seriously, because we're gonna have fun in there. We're pretending to be on a space station for Pete's sake.

We're really glad you're here.

We'll see you on **July 6!**

TEAM IDLANCE

