

Writing Preceptor Positions, Young India Fellowship (YIF), Ashoka University

Position: Writing Preceptor, Critical Writing (CW) Programme

For: The Young India Fellowship (YIF), Ashoka University

Reporting to: The Assistant Director, YIF CW

Ashoka University, a Liberal Arts university in Delhi NCR, India, invites applications to appoint Preceptors in Critical Writing for the Young India Fellowship.

How to Apply?

In order to apply for this position, go to <https://facultypositions.ashoka.edu.in/> and complete your application latest by **20 April, 2019**. Please read the FAQs at the end of this document carefully for details on the kind of documents that you need to upload, as well as for other queries. If your query is not addressed anywhere on this page, then feel free to write to yifcw@ashoka.edu.in.

What is the YIF?

The Young India Fellowship (YIF) is a one year multidisciplinary postgraduate diploma programme in Liberal Studies. The Fellowship brings together a group of 300 bright young individuals who show exceptional intellectual ability and leadership potential from across the country, and trains them to become socially committed agents of change. The YIF exposes them to a diverse set of subjects and perspectives, delivered by some of the finest teachers and practitioners from India and around the world. The aim is to help Fellows become well-rounded individuals who are able to think critically from multiple perspectives, communicate effectively, and become leaders with a commitment to public service.

What is the YIF Critical Writing Programme?

The Critical Writing Programme is an integral part of the Young India Fellowship. Over a span of 10 months, this course aims to develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills that help Fellows engage with the world of ideas, and enable them to develop and express their own ideas in a well-reasoned, lucid, and engaging manner. These skills act as building blocks for the multi-disciplinary Liberal Arts education that they receive during the course of their Fellowship, and enhance their abilities to navigate the academic, professional, and social spheres around them. You can read more about our pedagogy here: <https://www.ashoka.edu.in/page/yif-writing-134>

Who are we looking for?

Candidates with an MPhil or an MA degree who have extensive experience in academic and/or journalistic writing, along with teaching experience, will be good fits for this position. We are keen to recruit dynamic scholars from a range of subjects, including, but not limited to, history, sociology, anthropology, literature, journalism, linguistics, education, economics, and political science, who have strong academic writing and communication skills, and are passionate about teaching.

Prospective applicants should be keen to work closely with students, collaborate with colleagues from a range of disciplines, and help the YIF Critical Writing programme grow.

Successful applicants will:

1. Synthesise their academic training with scholarship from writing studies to teach a cohort of ~30 Young India Fellows to think, read, and write critically.
2. Conduct a total of 4 classes every week, each of ~1.5 hours in duration (2 classes per section, each section consisting of ~15 students).
3. Design two syllabi (one at the beginning of each semester), assignment sheets, pedagogic resources, class exercises etc. and develop effective pedagogic practices that help achieve the learning outcomes of YIF CW.
4. Conduct office hours to mentor their students' writing in a personalized and empathetic manner. Each Preceptor should meet each of their students for at least one office hour every month.
5. Give weekly feedback to students on their writing and submit semester-wise grades and other evaluative data to the YIF Programme Team on time.
6. Be physically present on Ashoka's Sonapat campus for a minimum of three days every teaching week—an engagement that may extend to four days during weeks when the workload increases.
7. Report to the Assistant Director (YIF CW), conduct day-to-day administrative tasks of the writing programme, and participate in weekly meetings to develop the existing curriculum, pedagogic practices, and policies, in line with the needs of the YIF.
8. Participate in and help organize Preceptor training workshops, student workshops, CW related events and other activities that help in the growth and development of the writing programme.
9. Mentor students to apply to colleges, publish and/or present their work at appropriate avenues and maintain a record of the same.
10. Reflect on their experiences of teaching writing, and possibly publish something in the discipline of writing studies.

Start Date: August 1, 2019

Duration: 10 months; can be renewed further based on University's needs and candidate's performance.

Remuneration: As per University norms.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Application Process

1. What do I need to select under “Position” in the form?
 - a. Please select “Young India Fellowship: Critical Writing”.
2. What do I need to select under “Desired Opening” ?
 - a. Please select “Preceptor”.
3. If I do not have a PhD, what do I enter under “PhD Subject” in the Academic History section of the form?
 - a. Please write the name of the discipline in which have your highest degree.
4. What all do I need to upload in the “Documents” section?
 - a. Please upload pdf files only.
 - b. Leave the “Cover Letter” section blank. We do not require this.
 - c. Upload a detailed CV.
 - d. Upload a 1 page Statement of Teaching Philosophy that focuses on what you understand by critical reading, writing, and thinking abilities, along with the strategies that you will use to teach these to a group as diverse as the YIF.
 - e. Leave the “Research Statement” section blank. We do not require this.
 - f. You need to upload two academic writing samples (minimum 1500 words, maximum 3000 words each). Upload the first one under “Research/Writing Sample” and the second one under “Additional Document #1”.
 - g. Finally, in the “Additional document #2” section, upload a 1-2 page sample lesson plan that demonstrates how you will apply your teaching philosophy to teach students how to write an argument for an opinion editorial. This should include:
 - i. a list of readings that you will use in class;
 - ii. lecture notes that demonstrate how you will engage with these readings in class;
 - iii. sample prompts for writing exercises that you will give to students to make them write an opinion editorial using these readings.