

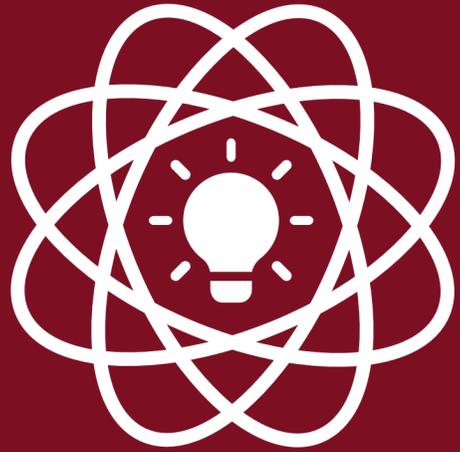


**ASHOKA**  
UNIVERSITY

Young India  
Fellowship

APPLICANT BROCHURE  
CLASS OF 2022





## A Year-long Fellowship.

Started in 2011, the Young India Fellowship (YIF) grooms socially conscious leaders and change-makers for the 21st century.

Offered as Ashoka University's flagship residential postgraduate diploma in liberal studies, the YIF is unlike any other graduate academic programme. Fellows get access and exposure to diverse areas of study, research and practice within a year. This often helps Fellows reimagine themselves and discover their passions.

Fellows study a curated selection of courses taught by renowned educators, work on a team-based project to solve a real-world problem, and, learn how to think critically and write effectively. They are also mentored by inspiring individuals, and live with a community of diverse individuals from many walks of life.

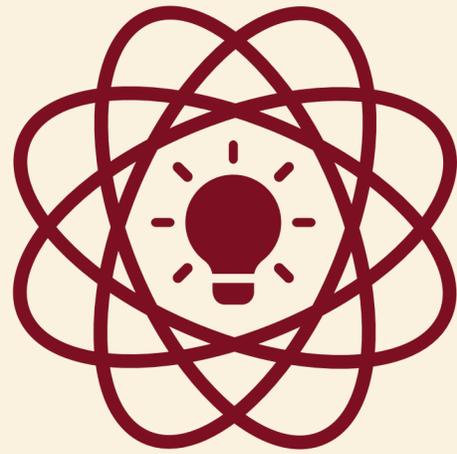


## A Fellow for Life.

Since 2011, over 1700 individuals from India and abroad have commenced their lifelong journeys as Young India Fellows.

Fellows are equipped with perspectives, knowledge and capabilities that help them understand the world better and engage with their field of study or practice through a multidisciplinary approach. This becomes critical for effective leadership, especially in the post-pandemic era.

Fellows keep coming back to the Fellowship, and contribute to shaping and nurturing it further. They continue to support and collaborate with each other and with members of the larger Ashoka ecosystem in their professional and personal pursuits, regardless of what they do.



# A Year-long Fellowship

“

*YIF was one of the most transformative years of my life. It taught me to see, analyze, and empathize with realities that lay outside of my own lived experiences. It pushed me to think critically and inclusively about the issues I choose to work on, reflect on the impact of my professional decisions, and develop the humility to recognize my privilege and not misuse it. YIF was a life-altering experience for me, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.*



**Prineeta Kulkarni**, YIF 2014-15

*Manager, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, New York*

*MBA, Harvard Business School, 2018-20*

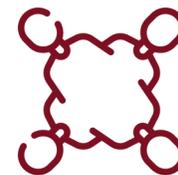
*BSc and MSc, Institute of Bioinformatics and Biotechnology*



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Mentorship**



# A Fellow for Life

“

*YIF helped me recognise my potential. Through group exercises, I realised my unique contribution to the problem solving table. I am now more confident in taking bigger risks to solve complex challenges. My ability to accept diversity and be appreciative of others also expanded through YIF. I am blessed to be part of a community whose members care for each other and I feel connected to. This has been very significant in my life and work.*



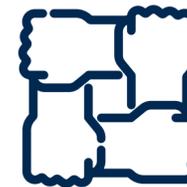
**Abhishek Choudhary**, YIF 2012-13  
*Co-Founder and CEO, Saajha  
Forbes 30 Under 30 and Echoing Green Fellow  
BA (Honors) English Literature, Hansraj College*



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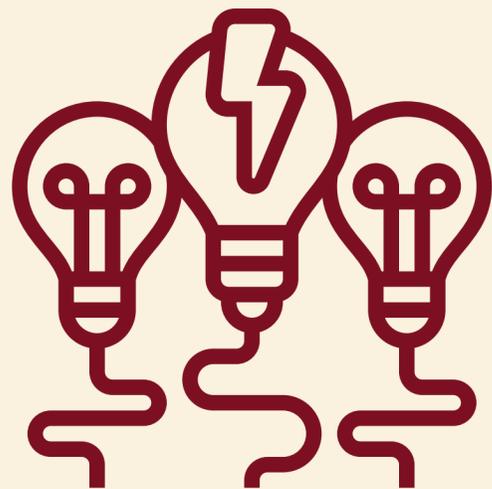
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# Multidisciplinary Curriculum

“

You don't really hear about people doing their Bachelor's, Master's and their PhD in completely different things because it's tough to make these transitions smoothly. YIF actually enabled me to switch from humanities at my undergraduate level to my PhD in the sciences and gave me a safe space for self-reflection at a deeper level.



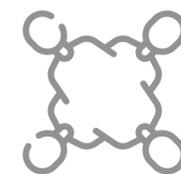
**Sakshi Ghai**, YIF 2014-15

PhD Candidate (Psychology), University of Cambridge  
MSc (Behavior and Decision Sciences), University of Pennsylvannia  
BA (Honors) Philosophy, Lady Shri Ram College for Women

## 21st Century Perspective and Skill Building. Learn *how* to think, rather than *what* to think.

A year as a Young India Fellow offers you the essence of what an Ashoka educational experience is built on. The focus is on learning *how* to think, rather than *what* to think. We offer you an opportunity to understand the world better, engage with multiple perspectives and explore areas of study, research and practice that are unique to YIF and the Ashoka ecosystem.

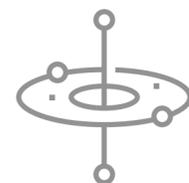
At the YIF, you get to complement the academic depth that you gained in your undergraduate education and previous experiences, with intellectual breadth. You have the flexibility to craft your own Fellowship experience to experiment and to align it to your future goals.



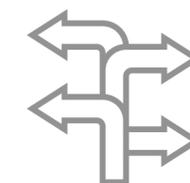
~200 Peers



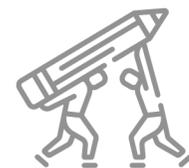
8 Terms  
~6 Weeks each



~8 Core Courses



~12 Electives from  
a pool of 25+



Critical Writing  
Programme



Experiential Learning  
Module

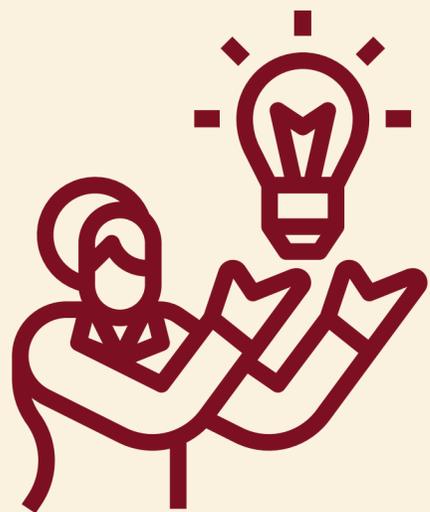


Mentorship  
Programme



Infinite Possibilities

The multidimensional learning opportunities also enable you to build or sharpen 21st century skills that are in high demand, regardless of where you come from and where you wish to go: *Collaboration, Communication, Problem-Solving, Critical Thinking and Leadership.*



# Inspiring Educators

“

*I look forward every year to teaching the Young India Fellows. I find them highly motivated, extremely curious, and very keen to learn. The deep commitment of many of the Fellows to public service makes the teaching experience particularly worthwhile.”*



**Professor AK Shiva Kumar**  
YIF Faculty, Economics and Public Policy  
PhD Economics, Harvard University

## Ever had an educator who profoundly influenced you? We bring together many.

Academicians, scholars and practitioners from Ashoka University and some of the world’s leading institutions deliver a diverse range of courses. Each course is typically from a distinct domain or area of study, though many are interdisciplinary in approach. They all come together to offer a deeper and richer understanding of the world.



Natural Sciences



Humanities & Social Sciences



Leadership & Business



Heritage, Arts & Environment

**Imagine** learning about leadership from Sanjeev Bikhchandani, justice from Pratap Bhanu Mehta, gender from Urvashi Butalia, Shakespeare from Madhavi Menon and Jonathan Gil Harris, law from Madhav Khosla! Course offerings include public policy, art appreciation, statistics, philosophy, gender studies, group dynamics, design thinking, communication, Indian elections, and more.

### Multidimensional Engagement and Learning

The diversity in courses and faculty is also reflected in the varied styles of teaching and assessment. While catering to multiple learning styles, this allows you to learn from a range of perspectives and build a better understanding of the world and yourself.



Discussions



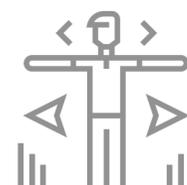
Group Work



Lectures



Field Visits



Simulations



Creative Projects



Academic Writing



Case Studies



You will study about 20 courses across diverse disciplines, taught by inspiring faculty from Ashoka University and other leading organizations and institutions. Here is an indicative, non-exhaustive list.

### **Foundations of Leadership**

Dwight Jaggard  
Professor and Former Chair  
of the Faculty Senate,  
University of Pennsylvania

### **JM Financial Lectures on Reason and the Makers of Modern India**

Rudrangshu Mukherjee  
Historian and Author,  
Chancellor, Ashoka University

### **Art Appreciation**

Anunaya Chaubey  
Artist and Provost,  
Anant National University

### **Heart of Leadership and Group Dynamics**

Kenwyn Smith  
Professor,  
University of Pennsylvania

### **Economics and Public Policy**

AK Shiva Kumar  
Development Economist and  
Visiting Professor, Harvard  
University and ISB Hyderabad

### **Women, Society and Changing India**

Urvashi Butalia  
Author, Publisher and Founder,  
Zubaan Books

### **Mathematical Thinking**

Maya Saran  
Assistant Professor of Mathematics,  
Ashoka University

### **Kabir: The Poet of Vernacular Modernity**

Purushottam Agrawal  
Renowned Kabir and Bhakti scholar

### **Indian Ecosophy / Global Ecosophy**

Aseem Shrivastava  
Environmental economist and activist

### **Problem Solving and Statistical Thinking in Modern Life**

Santosh Venkatesh  
Associate Professor,  
University of Pennsylvania

### **Whose Heritage Is It?**

Shobhita Punja  
Art historian and independent scholar

### **Design Thinking and Innovation**

Ranjan Banerjee  
Dean and Professor, SPJIMR, Mumbai

### **Ruppel W Sharma**

Professor and Head, SPJIMR, Delhi

### **Leadership Lessons From The Road Less Travelled**

Sanjeev Bikhchandani, Padma Shree  
Founder, Infoedge (Naukri.com)

### **Making Sense of Indian Elections**

Gilles Verniers  
Assistant Professor of Political Science,  
Ashoka University

### **Totalitarian Century / The Ideology Seminar**

Dilip Simeon  
Author and Historian

### **Issues in Social Democracy and Social Justice in India**

Narendra Jadhav  
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

### **What is Justice?**

Pratap Bhanu Mehta  
University Professor of Political Science,  
Ashoka University

### **Deconstructing Select Indian Foreign Policy Challenges and Responses: A Practitioner's Perspective**

Arun Kumar Singh  
Former Ambassador of India  
to the United States

### **Morality and the Good Life**

Clancy Martin  
Visiting Professor of Philosophy,  
Ashoka University

### **Building Careers, Habits and Institutions**

Pramath Raj Sinha  
Founding Dean, ISB Hyderabad

### **Shakespeare and the World**

Jonathan Gil Harris  
Professor of English, Ashoka University  
Madhavi Menon  
Professor of English, Ashoka University

### **India and the World: A Strategic History Since 1945**

Rudra Chaudhuri  
Senior Lecturer, Department of War  
Studies, King's College London

### **Indian Financial Regulation and Policy**

KP Krishnan  
Former Secretary, Ministry of Skill  
Development and Entrepreneurship,  
Government of India

### **Indian Society: Imaginations, Structures and Identities**

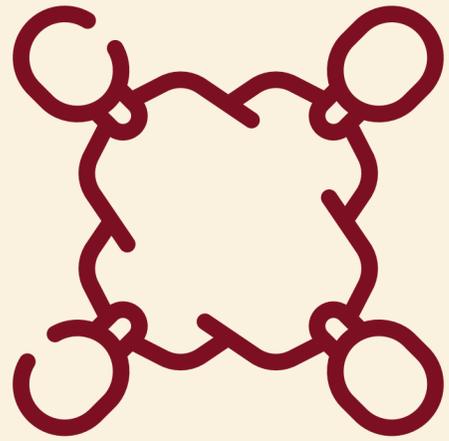
Surinder Singh Jodhka  
Professor of Sociology,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University

### **Philosophy and Cognitive Science**

Ritwik Agrawal  
Doctoral Researcher,  
University of Missouri

### **Indian Constitutionalism: Theory and Practice / The Rule of Law**

Madhav Khosla  
Author, Ambedkar Visiting Associate  
Professor, Columbia Law School



# Diverse Peer Group

“

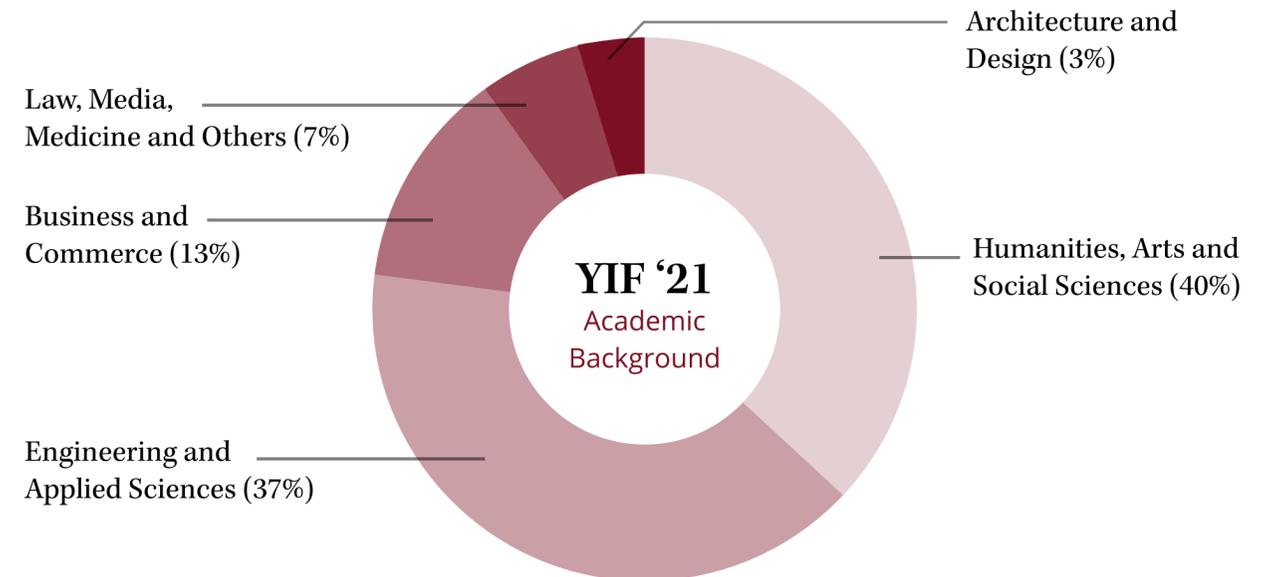
The best thing I found about the YIF was the diversity of peers, their stories and perspectives, and the openness with which everybody discussed ideas. We had agreements, disagreements, and we agreed to disagree. The YIF gave me a completely fresh perspective. I have also gained a lot from the YIF after graduating, through collaborations on multiple projects with other alumni.



**Pavneet Kaur**, YIF 2013-14  
 Indian Administrative Service Officer, Government of India  
 BE, Pune Institute of Computer Technology

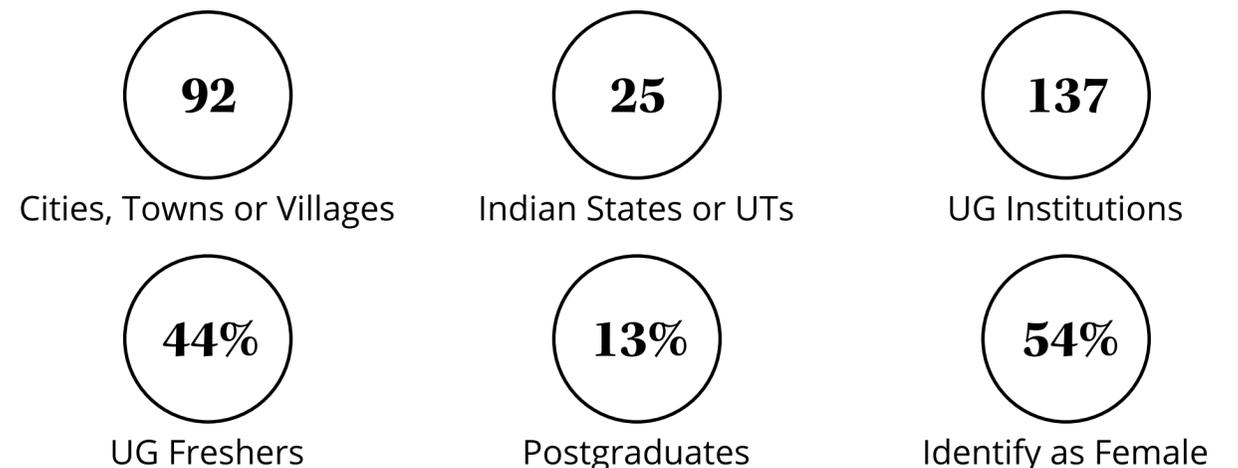
## Ever challenged your understanding of the world around you? Try the YIF classroom.

At the YIF, an engineer, a filmmaker, a history major, a Kathak dancer, a banker, a social entrepreneur, a pharmacist and a journalist, all attend lectures together. This creates an unparalleled peer learning environment rich with multiple perspectives.

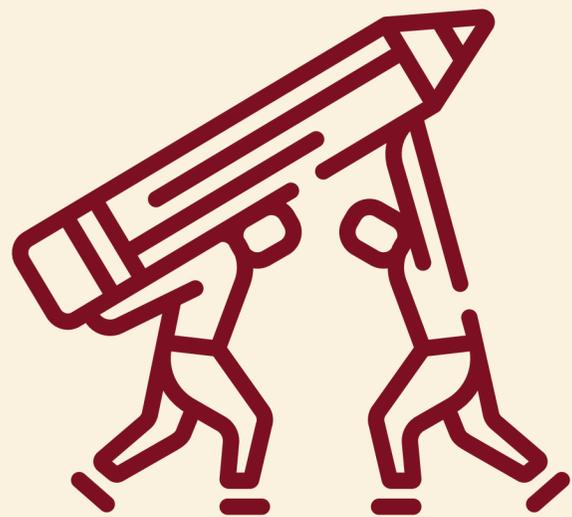


Every aspect of the YIF, whether academic, experiential, cultural or informal, allows you to engage with your diverse set of peers in multiple ways and build a close-knit community. Every year, fellows come together to organise the *Friends of YIF Day* - an opportunity for you and your peers to showcase your talent to members of the Ashoka community. Fellows also self-organize to learn from each other - from Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and becoming a pro at Excel, to learning arts like sculpting and body flow movement.

### Class of 2021: The Tenth Cohort of 190 Young India Fellows







# Critical Writing Programme

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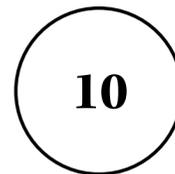
Though Critical Writing might sound like one of those classes where you're judged for how aesthetic your cursive is, it turned out to be a fun exploration of behavioural economics for me! The idea that all academic writing is one symbolic with impenetrable jargon is one that needs to be challenged and Critical Writing equipped me with the narrative and structural tools to do so. The appeal of every unique idea lies in its mass appeal, and this course taught me how best to distill those for common purpose.



**Varun Pandey, YIF 2017-18**

Research Associate, Centre for Policy Research  
BSc Economics, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies

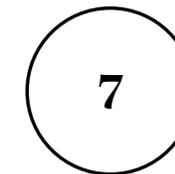
The ability to think critically and express effectively is valuable. **No matter what you do.**



Months



Fellow to Faculty Ratio



Course Themes

The Critical Writing Programme helps Fellows engage with a world of ideas and enables them to develop and express their own thoughts and experiences in a well-reasoned, lucid, and engaging manner.

## Course Themes: YIF 2020-21



Internet Culture and Memes



Politics of Language and Multilingualism



Writing the City



Narrating Desire Framing the Political



Education, Literacy and Justice



Anthropological Unsettlements

## Final Draft: The Journal of YIF Critical Writing

The goal of Final Draft, the annual journal of YIF Critical Writing, is to showcase both the range—in topic and genre—and strength of writing in a student body that is itself highly diverse in terms of its educational, disciplinary, professional, geographic, linguistic, and socio-economic backgrounds. Through the process of writing multiple drafts, student-authors discover their own unique voice, and recognise writing as an ongoing, open-ended activity as signalled by the title of the journal itself. As the Fellows learn to bring critical thinking tools to the drawing board, readers of Final Draft can witness a clear attempt by them to negotiate with texts and social phenomena as they make sense of the world around them.



# Experiential Learning Module (ELM)

“

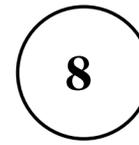
The ELM initiated a transition for me: from being an engineer to being a passionate advocate for the environment. It helped me give structure to my interests, and I learnt what it takes to design a project from scratch. The support of my peers and professors, coupled with the learnings from courses, are key reasons for why I could ground myself in the environment sector.



**Radhika Sundaresan, YIF 2015-16**

*Fulbright Scholar (Environmental Sciences), Yale University, 2019-21  
BTech, Amrita University*

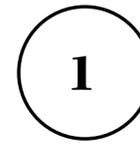
**Work on a project which has real-world impact.  
Explore interdisciplinary collaboration.**



Months



Fellows per Team



Real-world Project

The ELM helps you learn how to work collaboratively, solve complex problems with an interdisciplinary approach, and build domain knowledge. Sectors include:



Education and Training



Heritage and Culture



Finance and Consulting



Healthcare and Wellness



Gender and Sexuality



Community Development



Environment and Sustainability



Food and Agriculture

**You can also create your own ELM.** In fact, several ELMs have evolved into successful startups and centres at Ashoka. A few examples include:



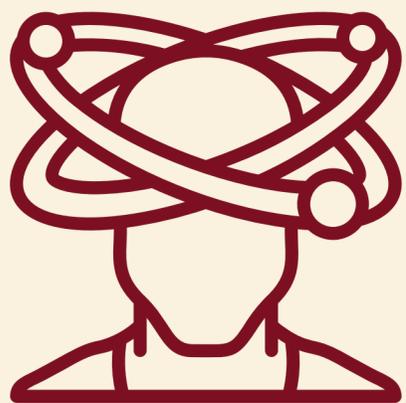
Barefoot Edu started in the YIF 2016-17 to explore teaching and learning in schools. It now works on building educational leadership and improving school systems across Mumbai, Jaipur and Karnal.

centre for studies in gender and sexuality

CSGS was established as an outcome of an ELM project in the YIF 2014-15. The project was on establishing a space for conversations around gender and sexuality at Ashoka University.



Quidich evolved from an ELM involving a drone that covered the 2014 Indian elections, to a full-fledged aerial solutions company. Their most recent work includes aerial coverage of the IPL 2020.



# Holistic Development and Mentorship

“

*The mentorship program at YIF allowed me to develop meaningful professional and personal relationships with people I deeply admired. One of my most fulfilling mentorship experiences has been Prof. Madhavi Menon. I was instantly enamored by her intellect, wit, and strong personality. To have her comment on the early drafts of my shoddily written poems and stories was more than I could ask for as an engineer who wished to become a writer. Thanks to Madhavi's faith in me, I applied for a master's in creative writing after the YIF and am currently working on my first novel.*



**Kritika Pandey**, YIF 2013-14

*Global Winner 2020, Commonwealth Short Story Prize  
MFA, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
BE, Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra*

**Engage with eminent leaders and scholars of our time. Experience holistic learning.**



## **Guest Lectures**

Public intellectuals, activists, philosophers, journalists, diplomats, politicians, sports professionals, authors and several others regularly visit Ashoka University to deliver sessions. A year on campus allows you to engage and learn from diverse lenses.



## **Mentorship**

You may choose to be mentored by not only a stalwart in academia or industry, but also by an alum who shares a similar background or interest. Access to such inspiration allows you to carve out a meaningful career path over time.



## **Professional Development Workshops**

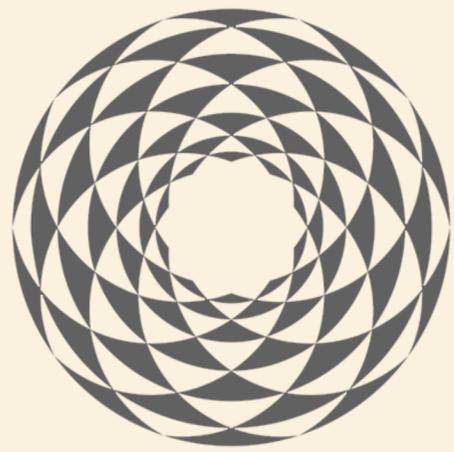
Organized year-round on topics ranging from resume writing, software and case study analysis, to gender sensitization, negotiation and art expression, these workshops allow you to appropriately mould yourself towards achieving your goals.



## **Harvard Business School Online - CORe**

Offered first in an Indian academic institution through Ashoka University, Harvard Business School's flagship online coursework is offered to Fellows with a significant tuition subsidy. The course equips you with essential management competencies.





# Ashoka University Ecosystem

“

*I was always curious to explore the world outside of my disciplinary training in engineering. However, it was the courses, faculty, my peers and the entire ecosystem at the YIF that equipped me with the tools required to pursue that exploration in a focused manner. The genuine spirit of the people around me to ask questions, to allow their perceptions to be changed and their willingness to undertake the intellectual-emotional adventure that is YIF as a transformative journey was something that really made my time at the fellowship all the more special for me.*



**Shiv D Sharma**, YIF 2014-15

*Writing Faculty, YIF Critical Writing Programme  
Fulbright and Inlaks Scholar, The New School, 2018-20  
BTech, NIT Kurukshetra*

## Immerse yourself in an multifaceted environment. Belong to a vibrant community.

The residential experience gives you access to the larger Ashoka University ecosystem, and an opportunity to engage with people and spaces beyond the YIF.



### Infrastructure and Facilities

Spread over 25 acres (expanding soon to 50 acres) in Rajiv Gandhi Education City, the green campus includes a 24x7 library, hi-tech classrooms, world-class sports infrastructure, comfortable student housing, common spaces and multiple dining options. Students have round-the-clock access to most campus facilities.



### Centres of Excellence

Ashoka, through its Centres, offers students an opportunity to engage with areas of research and practice such as behavior change, social impact, gender studies, entrepreneurship, communication, economic policy and political data.



### Student Support Systems

Several platforms, like the Ashoka Centre for Well-Being (ACWB) and the Office for Learning Support (OLS), serve as avenues for students to get support on several important matters, such as mental health and accessibility.



### Cultural and Co-Curricular Engagement

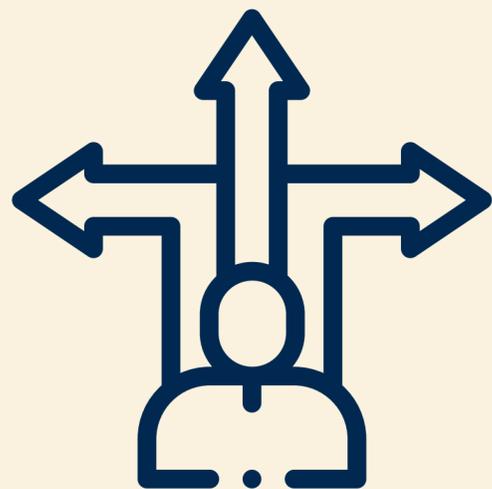
As a Fellow, you might find yourself immersed in organizing and participating in a range of activities, from festive celebrations and sports events, to zero waste initiatives, concerts and student activism. You can be part of official clubs and societies, with a range of focus areas, such as quizzing, reading, photography, poetry, and the environment; or you can start a new one.



Photo Credit: Rakesh Meitei



Photo Credit: Geo Ciril Podipara



# Post-Fellowship Pathways

“

*YIF gave me the freedom to explore a diverse set of subjects and benefit from varied viewpoints presented by my peers and professors. The Critical Writing course ended up being one of my most formative academic experiences. It was while working on my final paper for this course that I discovered where my research interests lay. I've since explored these interests in my MLS thesis and am hoping to carry them with me in my PhD.*



**Huzaafa**, YIF 2016-17, MLS 2017-18

*PhD Candidate (Anthropology) and Knight-Hennessy Scholar, Stanford University  
BA Sociology, Literature and Education, University of Kashmir*

## Reach for the stars.

## The possibilities are infinite.

You may continue to stay on campus after graduating. Or you may come back later. Various programmes offered by different institutions at Ashoka provide an enabling environment to shape your future.



### Start an Organisation

Apply to the 5-month long holistic *Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EiR)* programme at Ashoka University's *Infoedge Centre for Entrepreneurship* to incubate, develop and test your idea through a support structure that brings together a network of founders, entrepreneurs, mentors and investors. Many alumni have carried forward their ELM projects as *EiRs*. Alumni have developed models to improve cashflow for small businesses, found a way to democratise earning through writing, promoted menstrual hygiene, and more, through the support of the *EiR* programme. Most recently, YourQuote was selected for the prestigious Y-Combinator.



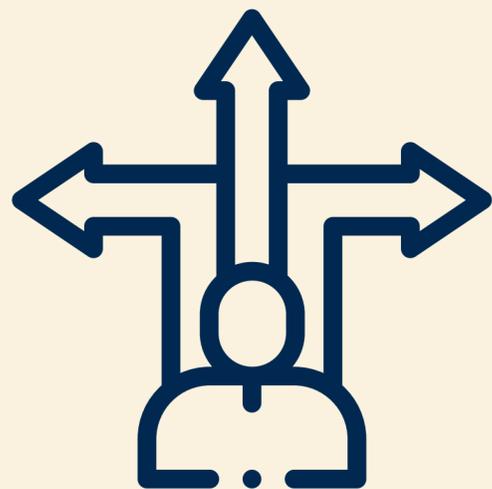
### Create Social Impact

Apply to the values-driven 18-month *Mother Teresa Fellowship* programme at Ashoka University's *Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy*. It allows you to pursue your goals in development by providing you mentorship, professional and personal support, along with a monthly stipend. YIF alumni have started national movements, built gender sensitization programs, shaped institutions that educate underprivileged communities, and empowered communities of farmers, among other pursuits focused on creating meaningful change in society.



### Turn your Fellowship into a Master's Degree (MLS)

Extend your stay at Ashoka by a year and graduate with a Master in Liberal Studies (MLS) degree. The interdisciplinary research program is open to Fellows and alumni. Students design their own curriculum, in consultation with their supervisor, and often choose to work on projects across two or more disciplines. They also pursue graduate assistantships. The focus is on nurturing curiosity for intellectual challenges and building skills for research.



# Post-Fellowship Pathways

“

*When you study anything at YIF, what you're fundamentally doing from a meta-skill perspective, is just trying to understand multiple perspectives. I see that in action everyday on my job. In business to business sales, you're not selling to an individual but an entire organization is selling to another organization. And in big organizations for anything to move, it always takes a village. What really helps in those scenarios is looking at very contentious views and seeing if there can be a way to build consensus. The subjects that I studied at the YIF helped me learn this skill of understanding group dynamics and building consensus in a structured way.*



**Avni Ahuja, YIF 2012-13**  
*Assistant Vice President, Genpact  
 Fortune Connect Fellow and ET Young Leader  
 BSc Biotechnology, Fergusson College*



## Get Recruited

If you are looking for employment, the Career Development Office (CDO) understands your aspirations and scouts its vast network of prestigious corporates, NGOs, think tanks and startups for opportunities that match your interests and career goals. The CDO often shares relevant work opportunities with the YIF alumni community as well.

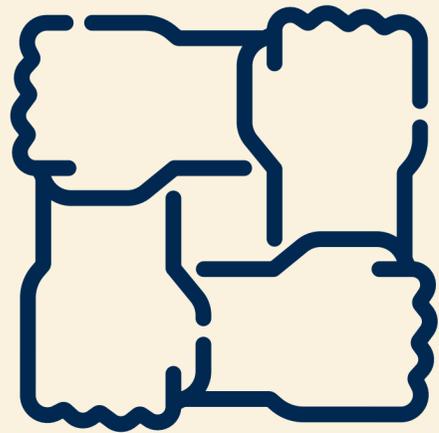
For the 2018-19 and 2019-20 placements season, the highest salary was 25 LPA, while the median corporate salary was 11 LPA. Recruiting organizations at Ashoka include:



## Study Further

Ashoka's academic collaborations give Fellows an opportunity to apply for a graduate degree at University of Pennsylvania, exchange programmes at Sciences Po, Paris, and more. The Office for Global Education and Strategic Programmes also organizes graduate information sessions. Additionally, members of the Ashoka community, many of whom have studied at the world's leading institutions themselves, continue to provide formal and informal support in applying to institutions of further study. Several Fellows, either during their year or after graduating from Ashoka, have gone on to pursue graduate and doctoral programmes at aspirational institutions and have also secured coveted scholarships. These include:





# Alumni Community

“

*YIF made me realize the power of networks and how they can enable one to build institutions and materialize projects. I felt immensely supported when 128 members of the community, including faculty and founders, came together to contribute to the fundraiser for my documentary project, "Borderlands". Courtesy the fellowship, I can receive mentorship and advice from some of the most driven and experienced people across domains.*

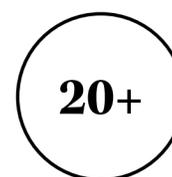


**Samarth Mahajan**, YIF 2016-17  
*Award-winning Filmmaker  
BTech and MTech, IIT Kharagpur*

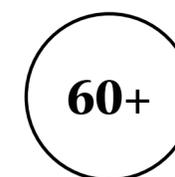
## 10 Years. Over 1700 Experiences. The Fellowship Never Ends.

### The YIF Community

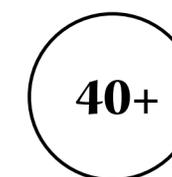
Young India Fellows together form a community of diverse leaders and changemakers from all walks of life, driven to generate transformational impact on society. Fellows continue to make an impact across diverse spheres, whether as entrepreneurs, in the corporate world, development sector, research, journalists, policy, sports, academia or as professional artists. Members of the community continue to demonstrate a spirit of service towards the Fellowship and Ashoka.



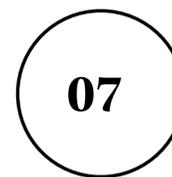
Countries



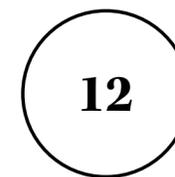
Entrepreneurial  
Ventures



Top 50 Universities  
QS Rankings 2020



Civil Servants



Fulbright Scholars



Pathways of Possibility

### Career Paths

Alumni have pursued and excelled in a diverse set of career paths. From completing further education across diverse disciplines and securing prestigious scholarships, to starting organizations and working with leading private and public sector institutions across the world, it is very likely that you will find a YIF alumnus or alumna who is pursuing a trajectory that you'd like to.

### Ashoka Alumni Association (AAA)

The AAA was established in 2015 to strengthen alumni connect within and across programmes, and with Ashoka University. Hundreds of alumni continue to volunteer their time to engage community members across geographies, interests and passions. From meals and meetups, to career guidance and job opportunities, belonging to the Ashoka alumni community gives you a personal and professional support system across the world.



Photo Credit: Rakesh Meitei



# Admission Process

## Class of 2021-22

“

*My expectation from the YIF is that my thinking capability must be enhanced, to look at anything in the world from multiple perspectives. I had already given over 10 B-School interviews but my YIF admission experience is the one which I will cherish for a lifetime. I loved the application journey as it was very revelatory about me as a person! I chose the YIF because of the exposure I would get and the lifelong community I would be part of.*



**Bala Meenakshi**, YIF 2020-21  
*Balsu's Success Academy, Madurai*  
*BTech, MEPCO Schlenk Engineering College*

## [apply.ashoka.edu.in](https://apply.ashoka.edu.in)

The YIF follows a holistic admissions process, which involves a thorough understanding of a candidate's journey, context, academic and non academic record, and interests.

### Application Timeline

You can apply only once in the admissions cycle and only in one round. In case you miss deadline for the early decision round, you can finish your application in the final round.



### Selection Process (Online)



### Eligibility Criteria

The two criteria for eligibility are (1) a recognized undergraduate degree or equivalent (you can be in your final year at the time of application), and, (2) being no more than 28 years of age on 1st August, 2021. You may have work experience and/or a postgraduate credential as well. We welcome applications from all academic, professional, geographic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

### What We Look For



Intellectual  
Curiosity



Passion and  
Self-awareness



Potential for  
Impactful Leadership



# Fees and Financial Aid

“

*Ashoka's financial aid allowed me to continue with my ambitions of higher education. I would have otherwise been forced to find a job right after my undergraduate degree, settling for something I might not have particularly thrived in. At YIF, I could focus on attaining academic excellence and personal growth without financial worries. And more importantly, Ashoka's financial assistance process acknowledged that I was deserving of financial aid and respected my dignity.*



**Shweta Kumari**, YIF 2015-16

*Writing Instructor, Arts and Humanities, New York University, Abu Dhabi  
BA Economics, Politics and Philosophy, Asian University for Women*

Ashoka University is committed to offering a world-class education in India which is accessible and affordable for students from all walks of life.

## Programme Fees (INR): Class of 2021-22

In light of financial complexities offered by the pandemic, the fee for the 11th cohort will not be increased from the previous academic year. Below is the fee structure:

7.5 Lakhs	+	1.95 Lakhs	=	9.45 Lakhs
<i>Tuition</i>		<i>Residence</i>		<i>Total Fees</i>

Please note that meal costs are on actuals/ part-refundable deposit basis.

## Financial Aid

Ashoka University's need-based Financial Aid programme aims to provide necessary financial support which can help you bridge the gap between the cost of the programme and your ability to pay. Several benefactors, including YIF alumni, have made financial aid possible.

**51%** of Fellows 2020-21 are on some form of need-based financial aid

**34%** of Fellows 2020-21 are on more than 50% tuition waivers

**68%** of all Fellows to date have been supported through financial aid

Before awarding need-based financial aid to Fellows, we expect that the Fellow and/or their family/guardian(s) will consider various resources available to them towards financing the cost of the YIF programme.

To complement the need-based aid offered to selected candidates, Ashoka University has collaborated with institutions who enable education loans to help cover any gap between the aid offered and the programme fee.



## Ashoka University

Ashoka University is a private, non-profit university that commenced operations in 2014. It is a pioneer in its focus on multidisciplinary liberal education, which is usually defined as one that transcends the boundaries between the arts and sciences, and carries a strong emphasis on learning across subjects.

### Founders and Historical Context

Ashoka University has over 100 founders, both individuals and organizations, who represent some of India's leading institution builders entrepreneurs, academicians and industry stalwarts. The core founder group comprises Ashish Dhawan (MBA, Harvard Business School), Pramath Raj Sinha (PhD, University of Pennsylvania), Sanjeev Bikhchandani (MBA, IIM Ahmedabad) and Vineet Gupta (BTech, IIT Delhi), who came together in 2008 to conceptualize Ashoka University. They started by launching the Young India Fellowship in 2011, which to this day remains one of India's most sought after postgraduate-level programmes.

### Governance Model

Ashoka University is distinguished by its collective philanthropy and shared governance model, an unprecedented initiative in Indian higher education. The university's governance model ensures that decision making is undertaken as a collaborative effort between the different governing and management bodies of the university. Founders of Ashoka envision that over time, alumni will take up governance and leadership roles of the university.

### Collaborations

Ashoka has collaborated with leading research and teaching institutions worldwide, for curriculum, faculty and student exchange. These include:





Reach for  
the Stars

**APPLICATIONS OPEN**

[apply.ashoka.edu.in](http://apply.ashoka.edu.in)

**WEBSITE**

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**EMAIL**

[yif@ashoka.edu.in](mailto:yif@ashoka.edu.in)

**CAMPUS**

Ashoka University  
Rajiv Gandhi Education City  
Sonapat, Haryana - 131029