

**Position: Undergraduate Writing Program Instructor**  
**Course: Introduction to Critical Thinking (ICT)**  
**Duration: August 2021 – August 2022**  
**Salary: Rs. 60,000/- per month**

**Job Description:**

Ashoka University, a 7-year-old liberal arts teaching and research institution in Delhi NCR, India, is hiring fellows for its Academic Writing and Critical Thinking program.

In their first semester, Ashoka students take a mandatory course called ‘Introduction to Critical Thinking’ (ICT). This class is distinguished by small class size, close faculty attention to students’ writing, communication and thinking processes, and individualized tutoring at Ashoka’s Centre for Writing and Communication (CWC).

As we nurture student writing and thinking at Ashoka through ICT and follow-up writing courses, we are simultaneously developing one of the very first writing and critical thinking programs in India. Indian high-school education can broadly be said to be lacking in the immersive reading and structured, analytical writing that fosters critical thinking. Nor does it pay attention to communication, both written and oral, at the sentence level. We are thus constructing a program, developed bottom-up in an Indian context, that makes up for a considerable lack. Our candidates will work with us to develop writing and critical thinking education in India to create an equalizer for students from various backgrounds. Ultimately, we aim to disseminate the knowledge and pedagogy that we produce together to other institutions and fields of study.

We are keen to recruit dynamic scholars from a range of subjects who have outstanding academic writing skills, as well as those who may have developed their writing skills outside academia entirely. Candidates must also be passionate about teaching. Experience and familiarity with writing pedagogy is a great added benefit, specifically, how to break down a piece of writing for a student to understand its internal logic.

Candidates should have a real enthusiasm for working closely with students and an open-minded approach to working with colleagues from a range of disciplines.

## **Qualifications:**

Successful applicants must demonstrate passion in three arenas: teaching; pedagogy; and program-building.

### Teaching

1. Teach 2 sections of Introduction to Critical Thinking in each semester (Monsoon and Spring), with about 20 students in each section
2. Be responsible for teaching their cohort the basics of formal writing and academic writing, through classroom instruction, meetings in smaller groups and one-on-one meetings with students
3. Be responsible for grading short weekly writing assignments and providing feedback to students weekly
4. Spend at least 21 hours per week on campus, and maintain a minimum presence on campus of three full working days. Be largely available to meet students during these days except during classroom teaching hours or lunch hour.
5. Meet individually with every student in their class for 15-minute feedback meetings at *least 3 times* per semester

### Pedagogy

1. Attend regular meetings with a mentor, to create and update a syllabus, discuss challenges in the classroom, learn different classroom methodologies and pedagogies, among other teaching responsibilities.
2. Read and engage with assigned readings and teaching materials on writing pedagogy

### Program-Building

1. Strengthen ICT to improve its efficacy; prolong its benefits to support students in their subsequent years at Ashoka
2. Contribute to the growth of the program by taking the lead on different outreach, research, and innovation projects (more details on our website, <https://ashoka.edu.in/UWP>)

## **Application Materials:**

To apply, please submit the following material:

1. Resume or CV
2. Select an academic article or a long-form magazine article (e.g. Anne-Marie Slaughter’s 2012 essay in *The Atlantic*, “Why Women Still Can’t Have it All”). Use them to record a 10-15 minute presentation that covers one of the 3 topics below:
  - a. Discuss introductions and conclusions – what is their purpose? How can a student craft effective introductions and conclusions? What might students have to learn and unlearn in order to do so?
  - b. Explain how academic writing is different from other kinds of writing. What distinguishes it from other forms of prose? Address assumptions that students might have about academic writing – dispel the myth that academic writing must be stodgy and impersonal.
  - c. Teach the students about citations – emphasize the importance of citations and academic integrity, and take them through the basics of **one** of the following formats: APA, MLA, and Chicago.

Conclude your session by stating **3 clear takeaways**. You are free to use whatever resources you like in your video. You do not have to simulate an actual class with student participation; we are interested in what material you choose to teach, and how you teach it.

Specify the article’s title, author and location for our reference.

The students you're addressing are in their first year of an undergraduate liberal arts program. Most of them will have entered Ashoka from a fairly traditional school system and are not well-acquainted with paper-writing and research – or the liberal arts, for that matter. As an Introduction to Critical Thinking Instructor, your job is to bridge the gap between their high school skillset and the skills they will need to take rigorous, research- and writing-intensive classes in a variety of fields.

3. Accompanying your video presentation, submit a one-page lesson plan that specifies:
  - a. Any preparation that you would have assigned your students before this particular video presentation: any reading or homework relevant to what you will be presenting. Please also include links or excerpts of any material that you'll be covering in your video.
  - b. Any follow up work that the students do after your video presentation, such as a homework assignment, or subsequent in-class exercise or project.

4. A 300-word response to one of the following prompts:
  - d. What is the role of private, liberal arts universities in India today?
  - e. How has the pandemic shifted your teaching, learning and/or working methodologies?
5. Names of 3 referees and their contact details.

**Submission Details:**

- Deadline: Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 5 p.m.
- Submit your materials to [uwp@ashoka.edu.in](mailto:uwp@ashoka.edu.in).
- Submit your videos via GoogleDrive or Dropbox to [aditi.sriram@ashoka.edu.in](mailto:aditi.sriram@ashoka.edu.in)
- Email any questions to: [aditi.sriram@ashoka.edu.in](mailto:aditi.sriram@ashoka.edu.in).