

Position: Writing Fellow, Undergraduate Writing Programme (UWP)
Course: Introduction to Critical Thinking (ICT)
Duration: August 2022 – August 2023
Salary: Rs. 60,000/- per month

Job Description

Ashoka University, an 8-year-old liberal arts teaching and research institution in Delhi NCR, India, is hiring fellows for its Undergraduate Writing Programme.

The Undergraduate Writing Programme teaches a mandatory course called ‘Introduction to Critical Thinking’ (ICT). This is a Foundation Course that trains students in academic writing and dialogue: how to conduct primary and secondary research; how to draft and revise a written piece; how to read and interpret sophisticated texts; how to communicate ideas with clarity and confidence. Modeled on the American university first year writing seminar, Ashoka’s ICT is similarly distinguished by its small class size and close attention to students’ writing.

All students must register for ICT in their first or second semester at Ashoka. Most of them come from a fairly traditional school system and are not well-acquainted with paper-writing and research – or the liberal arts, for that matter. ICT is designed 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.

In nurturing student writing and thinking at Ashoka, the UWP is simultaneously developing one of the very first writing and critical thinking programmes in India. Our programme, developed bottom-up in an Indian context, aims to be an equalizer for students from various backgrounds. Ultimately, we hope to disseminate the knowledge and pedagogy that we produce together to other institutions and fields of study.

We seek dynamic scholars, from the humanities as well as the sciences, who have outstanding academic writing skills and interdisciplinary interests. We are also looking for candidates who have developed their writing skills outside academia entirely. Applicants must be passionate about teaching; this is one of Ashoka’s most hands-on courses.

Qualifications

1. Master's degree (in any discipline) and/or significant professional writing experience
2. Competency in three arenas: teaching; pedagogy; and programme-building

Expectations

Teaching

1. Lead 2 sections of Introduction to Critical Thinking in each semester (Monsoon and Spring), with about 20 students in each section
2. Teach the basics of formal writing and academic writing through classroom instruction, meetings in smaller groups and one-on-one meetings with students
3. Provide regular feedback to students, through written and oral feedback, graded assignments, and peer review exercises
4. Be present on campus on three full working days
5. Meet individually with every student 2-3 times per semester

Pedagogy

1. Attend regular UWP meetings to create and update syllabi, discuss challenges in the classroom, and learn different classroom methodologies
2. Read and engage with different writing pedagogies to create a UWP that is standardized up to a point, and autonomous beyond that

Programme-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 UWP by taking the lead on different outreach, research, and innovation projects (more details on our website, <https://ashoka.edu.in/UWP>)

Application Materials

If you are a **new applicant** to the UWP, please submit the materials numbered **1, 2, 3, 4** below. Your application is due by **June 30, 2022 at 5 p.m. IST.**

If you are **re-applying** to the UWP, please submit the materials numbered **5, 6, 7** below. Your re-application is due by **June 24, 2022 at 5 p.m. IST.**

1. Resume or CV, including the names of three referees with their contact details
2. A 10-15 minute presentation, based on an academic article or a long-form magazine article, 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 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.

3. A one-page lesson plan accompanying your video presentation 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 response to one of the following prompts (*300 words*):
 - a. What is the role of private, liberal arts universities in India today?
 - b. How has the pandemic shifted your teaching, learning and/or working methodologies?

5. A note on your teaching reflections from the past academic year. What does it actually mean to teach writing, to teach thinking? What modifications would you make to your approach or syllabus? What has been your most successful pedagogical tool this year? *(700-800 words)*
6. An idea, activity, or research question that the UWP can embark on in the following academic year. These can be add-ons to existing UWP work, or be brand new. Explain how this will help grow academic writing and critical thinking at Ashoka. *(300-400 words)*
7. Your student evaluations from the past academic year. There should be one Excel spreadsheet per ICT course that you have taught.

Submission Details

- New applications are due by June 30, 2022 at 5 p.m. IST
- Re-applications are due by June 24, 2022 at 5 p.m. IST
- Submit all your materials directly to uwp.ashoka.applications@gmail.com. This includes your videos, which you can submit via GoogleDrive or Dropbox
- Email any questions to uwp.ashoka.applications@gmail.com