



Reach for  
the Stars



ASHOKA  
UNIVERSITY

Young India  
Fellowship

APPLICANT BROCHURE  
CLASS OF 2024

# A Year-long Fellowship. A Fellow for Life.

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. It exposes Fellows to a multidisciplinary and multidimensional curriculum, through which they get access to diverse areas of study, research and practice within a year. This often helps Fellows reimagine themselves and discover or strengthen their areas of interest. It also prepares them to solve complex problems using a multidisciplinary approach, no matter what they do in their lives.

Fellows study a curated selection of about 20 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 also engage with and are mentored by inspiring individuals from the Ashoka community and beyond, and live with a diverse community of around 100 exceptional individuals from many walks of life.

Over 2100 individuals from India and abroad have commenced their lifelong journeys as Young India Fellows. They are spread across the world, pursuing impactful careers across development and corporate sectors, government, academia and as entrepreneurs. Many work at some of the world's most aspirational organizations and continue to study on prestigious scholarships at leading academic institutions globally. 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.



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## From the Dean's desk

“

We have consistently adapted the YIF programme for 12 years to stay current, topical and relevant. The 100 Fellows in the YIF Class of 2023-24 will be hand-picked with great care. They can look forward to a year full of diversity - in their peers, courses, faculty and activities. They will also have the chance to participate in new additions to the YIF curriculum: the Crossover Series and an Alumni-in-Residence programme. It is my hope that they will engage deeply with the multidimensional YIF, while also experiencing all that Ashoka University has to offer. Fellows will be supported through the year to take on meaningful roles across academic, entrepreneurial and professional domains.

In our ongoing efforts to raise the bar and also support deserving applicants, we have also introduced the Chancellor's Merit Scholarship to recognise exceptional candidates. This is in addition to the existing Need-based Financial Aid programme. The Chancellor's Merit Scholars will receive a complete waiver on the programme fee to study at the YIF.

I invite your application to the Class of 2023-24 for what aims to be a transformational experience and a year like no other.”

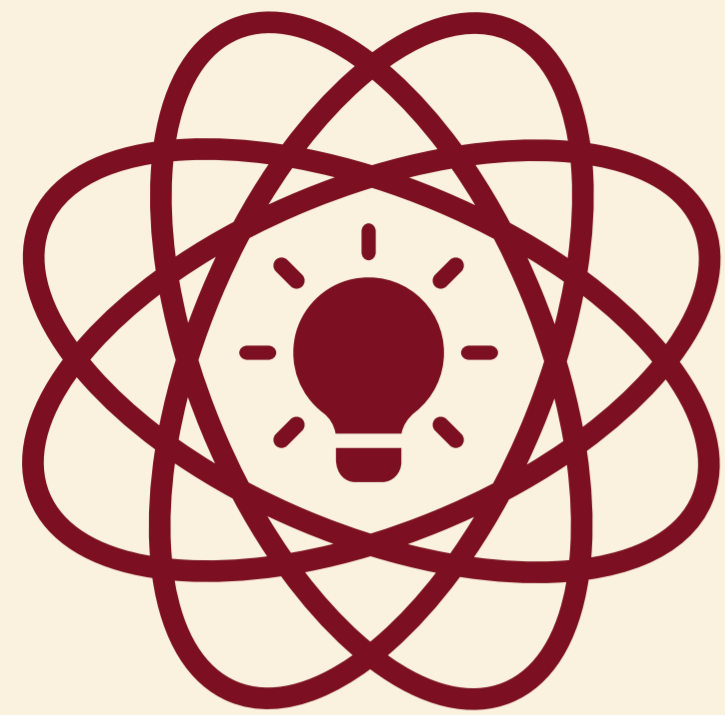
### **Aniha Brar**

Dean, Young India Fellowship and Vice Chancellor's Office  
Ashoka University



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Fellowship



# 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.”*

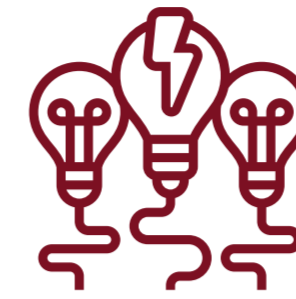


**Prineeta Kulkarni, YIF 2014-15**

*Director, Strategy and Corporate Development, Vedanta Biosciences, Inc.*

*MBA, Harvard Business School*

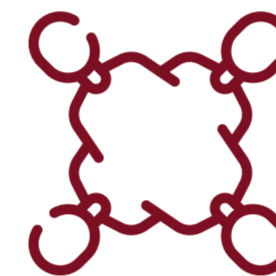
*Integrated MSc, Savitribai Phule Pune University*



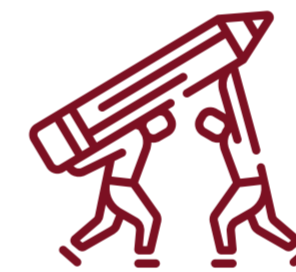
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# A Fellow for Life

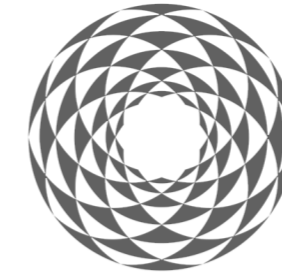
“

*In a world divided by wars, humanitarian crises, and growing mental health and basic needs, it will take an interdisciplinary approach, synergy and collaboration among visionaries, gregarious and brave to lead — those who will lift others with them. YIF is the hub that generates such thought leaders who are changing the landscape of human suffering and well-being. It is an honour to be a founding Fellow, and a continuous part of the Fellowship and its glocal impact.”*



**Srishti Sardana**, YIF 2011-12

*Global Mental Health Research Fellow, Johns Hopkins University  
MSc and PhD, Clinical Psychology, Columbia University  
BSc Psychology, Presidency College*



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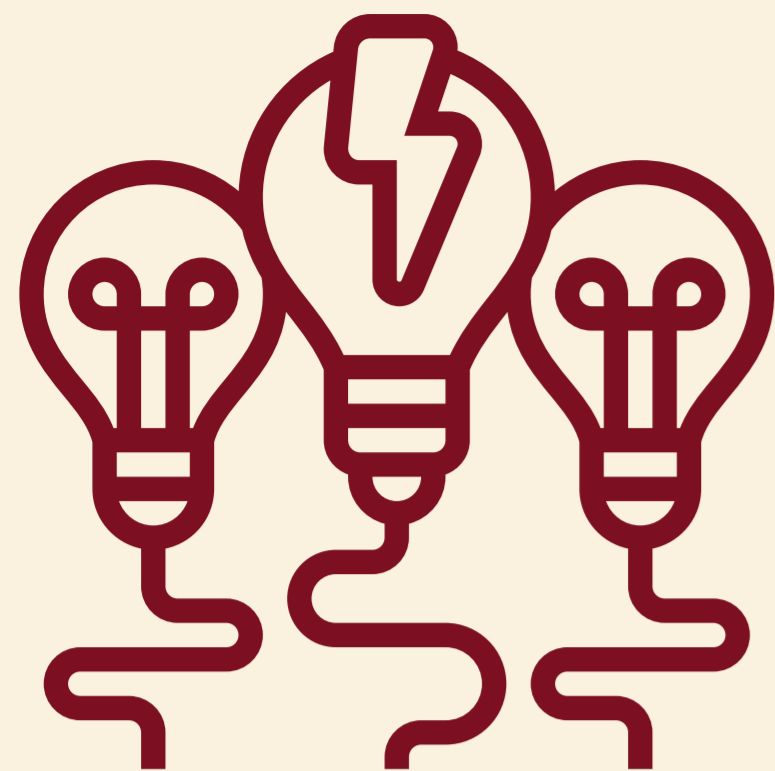
**NEW**

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Photo Credit: Rakesh Meitei



# Multidisciplinary Curriculum

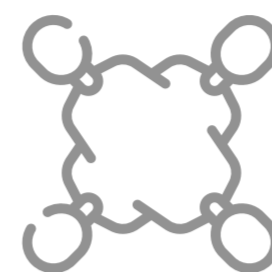
“

I came into YIF confident of what I wanted my career trajectory to look like and who I wanted to be. Curiosity and willingness to embrace the unexpected have been my biggest takeaway from the Fellowship. I shifted gears to a new field, navigated a vast array of industries, and tackled critical and unpredictable challenges for some of the largest tech companies in the world. As a literature student dead set on a career in writing and now leading a full-time Public Policy mandate, YIF is a testament to what one year at the fellowship can do.”



**Asmita Joshi**, YIF 2016-17  
Head of Public Policy (India), Airbnb  
BA (Honors) English, Banaras Hindu University

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



~100 Fellows



1 Year  
8 Terms



Possibilities

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 depth that you gained in your previous educational and professional experiences, with intellectual breadth.

### Core Curriculum Components



20 Multi-Disciplinary Courses



Experiential Learning Module



Critical Writing



Mentorship



Alumni-in-Residence



The Crossover Series

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 and Courses

“

Fellows are a constant surprise. They are intellectually adventurous, cheeky and a lot of fun. They are the reason I decided to join Ashoka: the number and quality of questions they asked me after a talk I gave was both astonishing and energising. What's best about the YIF are its students, and the vision that it's never too late to get a liberal arts education.”



**Professor Madhavi Menon**

YIF Faculty and Professor of English, Ashoka University  
Director, Centre for Studies in Gender and Sexuality  
PhD, Tufts University



Learn more on **The YIF Podcast:**  
**S2 The Professor Will See You Now**

## 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. Course domains include, but are not limited to, the following:



Natural & Applied Sciences



Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences



Leadership & Communication



Economics, Policy & IR

Course offerings include public policy, art appreciation, statistics, data, psychology, philosophy, gender studies, group dynamics, design thinking, communication, international relations and more. Fellows study most courses together as a cohort, while choice-based **Special Seminars** and **Critical Writing** courses are taught in smaller groups of 20 to 25.

### 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



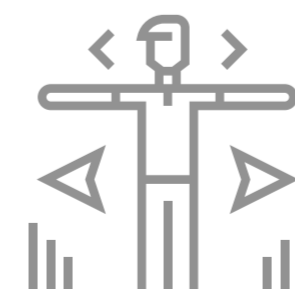
Group Work



Lectures



Field Visits



Simulations



Creative Projects



Academic Writing



Case Studies



You will study 20 courses across diverse disciplines, taught by inspiring Ashoka University faculty and visiting YIF faculty from around the world. Here is an indicative, non-exhaustive list of some courses at the YIF.

## Courses by Ashoka University Faculty

### JM Financial Lectures on Reason and the Making of Modern India

**Rudrangshu Mukherjee**

Chancellor and Professor of History  
DPhil, University of Oxford

### John Keats, Poetry and Intensity

**Malabika Sarkar**

Vice Chancellor and Professor of English  
MA, University of Cambridge  
Fellow of the English Association, UK

### The Universe and Us

**Dipankar Bhattacharya**

Head of the Department, Physics  
Sunanda and Santimay Basu Professor of Astrophysics  
PhD, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

### Khayal, North Indian Classical Music, and the Modern Song: A Story of the Trajectory of Modernity

**Amit Chaudhuri**

Professor of Creative Writing  
DPhil, University of Oxford

### Anthropology Today

**Mekhala Krishnamurthy**

Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology  
PhD, University College, London

### The New Geography of the Information Age

**Debayan Gupta**

Assistant Professor of Computer Science  
PhD, Yale University

### Language and Power in South Asia

**Kathryn Hardy**

Assistant Professor and Head of the Department,  
Sociology and Anthropology  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

### Understanding Pandemics

**Shahid Jameel**

Virologist and Visiting Professor, Trivedi School of  
Biosciences; PhD, Washington State University

### Shakespeare and the World

**Jonathan Gil Harris**

Professor and Head of the Department, English  
PhD, University of Sussex

**Madhavi Menon**

Professor of English  
Director, Centre for Studies in Gender and Sexuality  
PhD, Tufts University

### Science of Emotion and Empathy: A Toolkit of Concepts and Techniques

**Bhismadev Chakrabarti**

Visiting Professor of Psychology  
PhD, Trinity College, University of Cambridge

## Courses by Visiting Faculty at the YIF

### Behavioral Science in Development

**Neela Saldanha**

Director, Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

### Problem Solving and Statistical Thinking in Modern Life

**Santosh Venkatesh**

Professor, University of Pennsylvania  
PhD, California Institute of Technology

### Women, Society and Changing India

**Urvashi Butalia, Padma Shree**

Feminist Writer, Publisher and Activist  
Founder, Zubaan Books

### Leadership and Group Dynamics

**Kenwyn Smith**

Professor, University of Pennsylvania  
PhD, Yale University

### Building Careers, Habits and Institutions

**Pramath Raj Sinha**

Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Ashoka University  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

### Foundations of Leadership

**Dwight Jaggard**

Professor Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania  
PhD, California Institute of Technology

### Kabir: The Poet of Vernacular Modernity

**Purushottam Agrawal**

Renowned Kabir and Bhakti Scholar

### Design Thinking and Innovation

**Ranjan Banerjee**

Dean and Professor, BITS School of Management

### Visual Storytelling and Cinematic Techniques

**Meenu Gaur**

Filmmaker and Screenwriter  
PhD, SOAS London

### Trade, Trust and Peace in South Asia

**Sanjay Kathuria**

Former Lead Economist, World Bank  
DPhil, University of Oxford

### Art Appreciation

**Anunaya Chaubey**

Provost, Anant National University  
PhD, Patna University

### Economics and Public Policy

**AK Shiva Kumar**

Development Economist  
PhD, Harvard University

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

**Rudra Chaudhuri**

Director, Carnegie India  
PhD, King's College London

### Indian Financial Regulation and Policy

**KP Krishnan**

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

### Philosophy and Cognitive Science

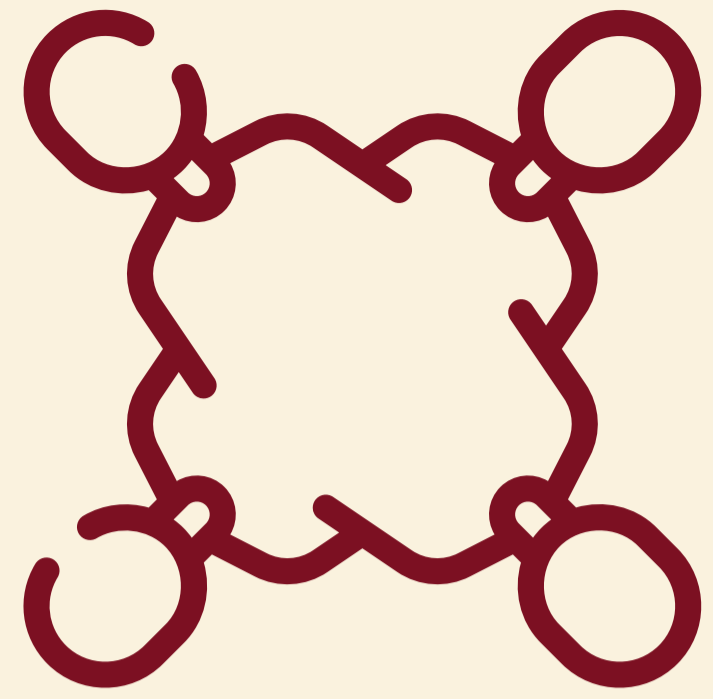
**Ritwik Agrawal**

Doctoral Researcher, University of Missouri

### Deconstructing Select Indian Foreign Policy Challenges and Responses

**Arun Kumar Singh**

Former Ambassador of India to the United States



# 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**

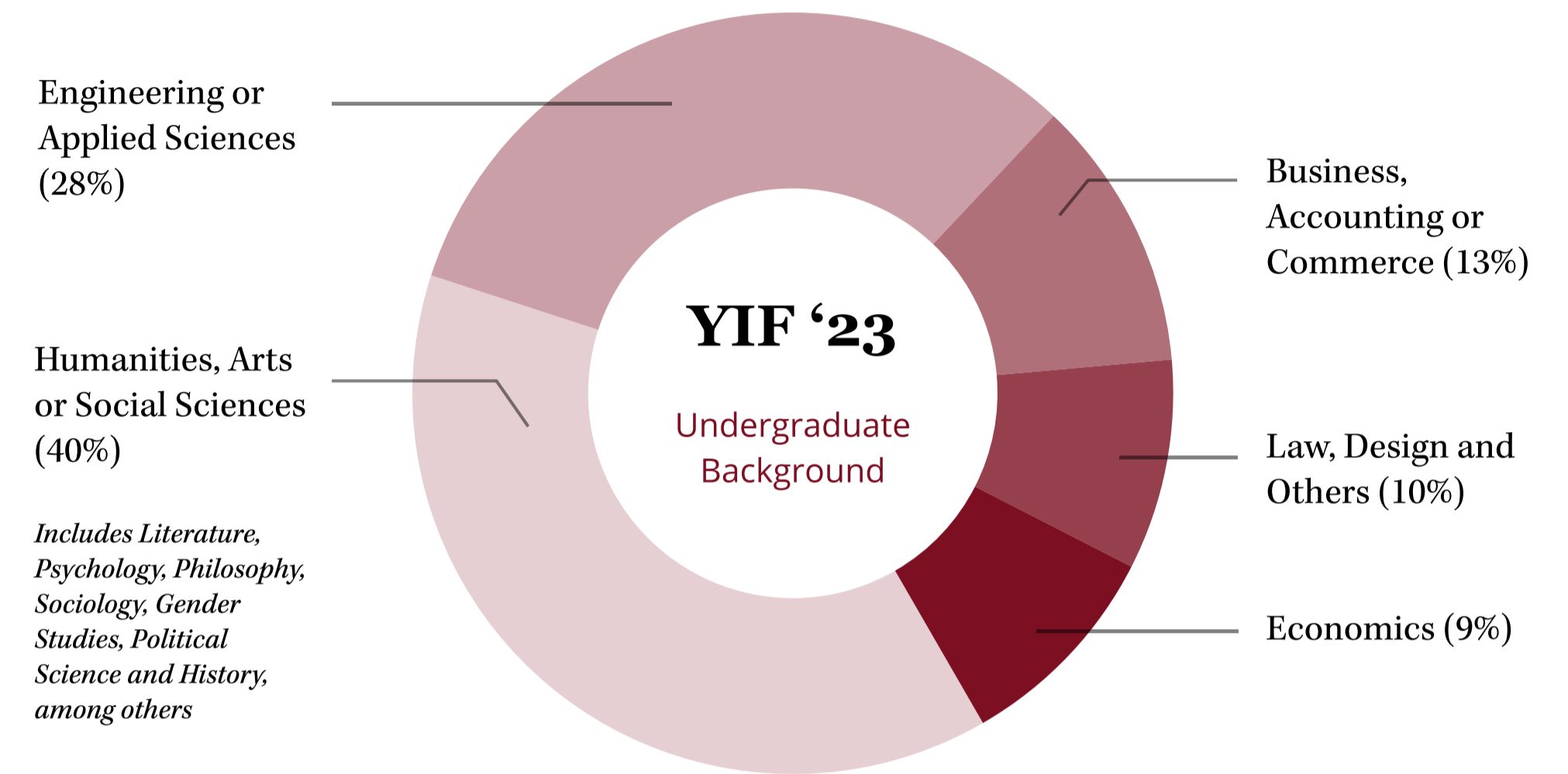
*Indian Administrative Service Officer, Government of India  
BE, Pune Institute of Computer Technology*

Hear more on **The YIF Podcast: S1E1 Collaborating to transform communities at the grassroots**



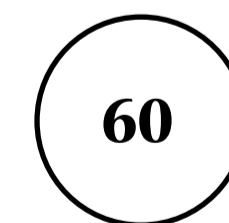
## Challenge and enhance your understanding of the world around you. Try the YIF classroom.

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.

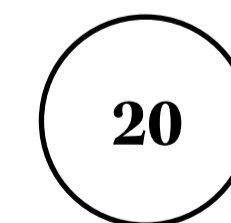


Every aspect of the YIF, whether academic, experiential, cultural or informal, allows you to engage with your diverse set of peers in multiple ways and build a close-knit community. Every year, fellows come together to organise the *Friends of YIF Day* - an opportunity for you and your peers to showcase 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.

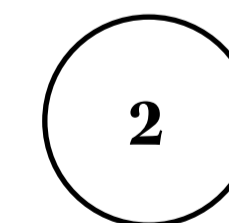
### Class of 2023: The Twelfth Cohort of 100 Young India Fellows



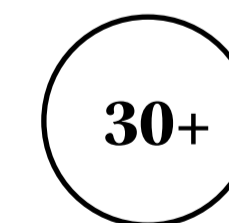
Cities and Towns



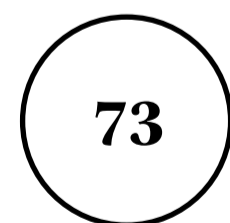
States and Territories



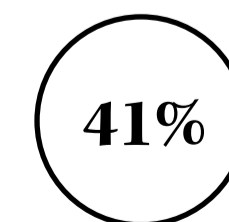
Countries



Undergraduate Majors



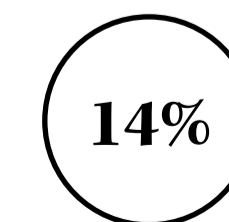
Undergraduate Institutions



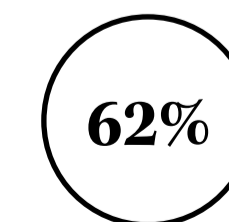
Undergraduate Freshers



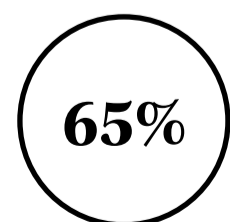
Postgraduates



First-Generation College Goers

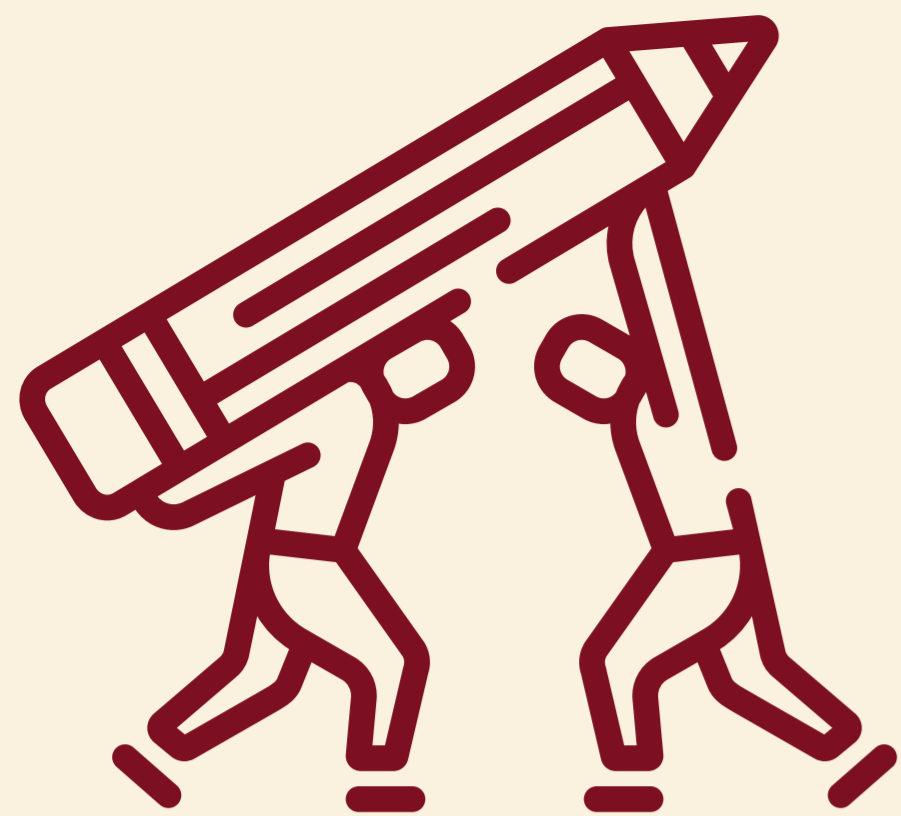


Identify as Female



On Financial Aid





# Critical Writing Programme

“

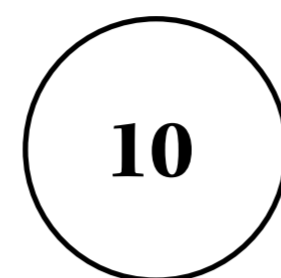
Though Critical Writing might sound like one of those classes where you're judged for how aesthetic your cursive is, it turned out to be a fun exploration of behavioural economics for me! The idea that all academic writing is one symbolic with impenetrable jargon needs to be challenged and Critical Writing equipped me with the narrative and structural tools to do so. The base it gave me continues to hold me in good stead in my Masters program. The longevity of ideas lies in their mass appeal, and this course taught me how best to distill those.”



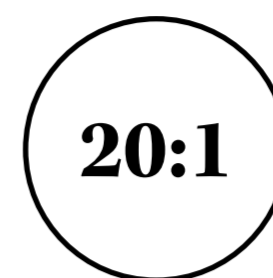
**Varun Pandey, YIF 2017-18**

*MPP Candidate, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin  
Former Research Associate, Centre for Policy Research  
BSc Economics, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies*

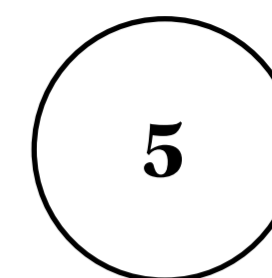
**The ability to think critically and express effectively is valuable. No matter what you do.**



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. Fellows study Critical Writing through one theme.

## Course Themes: YIF 2022-23



How to be a Hero: Reading the Hero Figure Through Adaptations



History and Politics of Representation of Madness in Literature and Art



Education, Literacy and Justice



Philosophy, History and Anthropology of the Life Sciences



Anthropological Unsettlements

## Final Draft: The Journal of YIF Critical Writing

The goal of Final Draft 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.



Editions 1, 2 and 3 available for download on [yif.ashoka.edu.in](http://yif.ashoka.edu.in)



# Experiential Learning Module (ELM)

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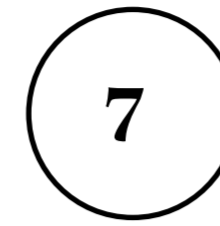
The ELM initiated a transition for me: from being an engineer to being a passionate advocate for the environment. It helped me give structure to my interests, and I learnt what it takes to design a project from scratch. The support of my peers and professors, coupled with the learnings from courses,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



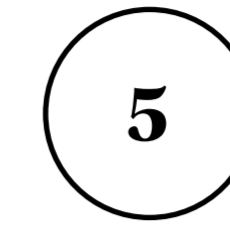
**Radhika Sundaresan**, YIF 2015-16

Program Analyst, Water Global Practice, The World Bank  
Fulbright Scholar (Environmental Sciences), Yale University  
BTech (Electronics and Communication), Amrita University

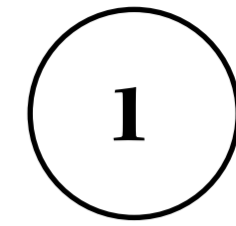
**Work on a project which has real-world impact.  
Explore interdisciplinary collaboration.**



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



Social Impact



Finance and Consulting



Healthcare and Wellness



Gender and Sexuality



Community Development



Digital and Technology



Governance and Public Policy

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



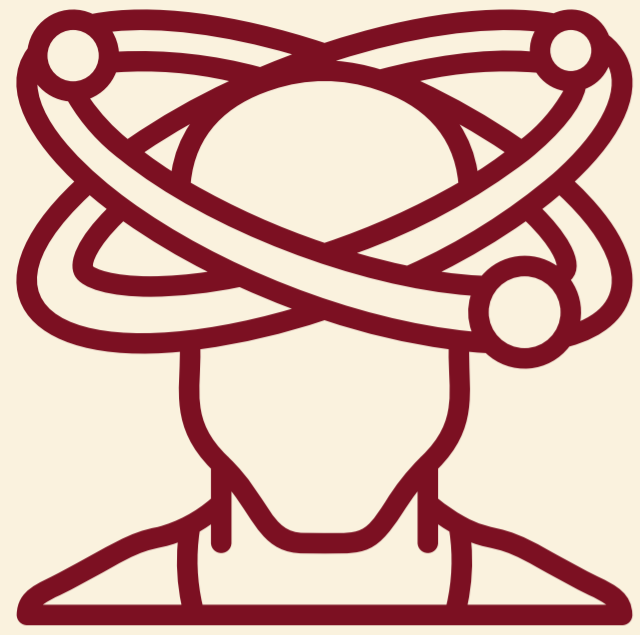
Barefoot Edu started in the YIF 2016-17 to explore teaching and learning in schools. Now incubated at Harvard Innovation Labs in Boston, it is focused on improving school systems and educational leadership.

centre for studies in  
gender and sexuality

CSGS was established at Ashoka University 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 tech company, providing cutting-edge solutions for sport broadcast. Their most recent work includes the IPL 2021 and the ICC World Test Championship.



# Holistic Learning and Engagement

“

*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*

Hear more on **The YIF Podcast:**  
**S1E6** Reimagining the world:  
*Becoming a creative artist*

## Engage with eminent thinkers and high achieving individuals. **Build perspective.**



### 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.



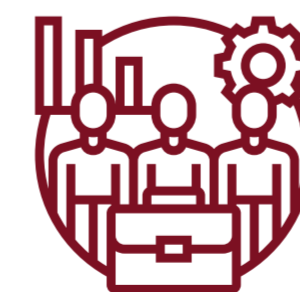
### The Crossover Series **NEW**

Through the Crossover Series, public intellectuals, activists, philosophers, journalists, diplomats, politicians, sports professionals, authors and several others regularly visit Ashoka University to engage with Fellows through a half-day immersion. This typically includes three components: a masterclass or performance, a fireside chat or AMA, and a meal with a small group of Fellows.



### Alumni in Residence **NEW**

Select high impact alumni visit campus over the year to engage with and enrich Fellows in multiple ways - through reflections on their journey, guest lectures, workshops, informal sessions, meals, office hours and more. Through this, Fellows connect with the larger YIF community, while alums reconnect with their alma mater.



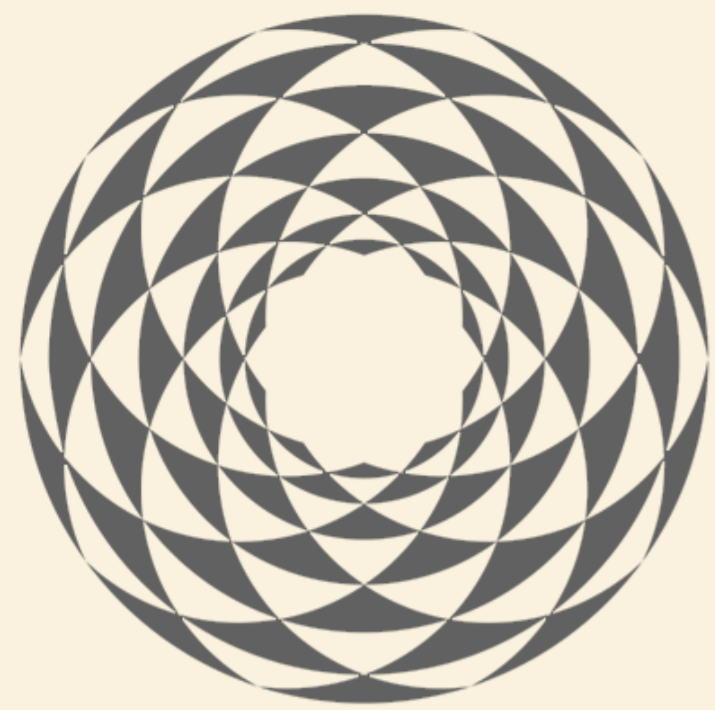
### Other Learning Opportunities

Several workshops are organized year-round on topics ranging from resume writing, software and case study analysis, to gender sensitization, negotiation and art expression. Several Fellows also audit undergraduate courses that pique their curiosity.



Photo Credit: Rakesh Meitei





# Ashoka University Ecosystem

“

*Being part of the Fellowship means being in an environment where ambition, determination, and creativity are rewarded and supported. For a person who was trying to transition into a new field of study, my year here was invaluable. By encouraging me to write and think in new ways, my peers and professors helped me grow — as an individual, a student, and a researcher. I carry these learnings forward, along with a commitment to education not just as a personal experience, but as a collective engagement.”*



**Apala Mandal**, YIF 2021-22

*MA Candidate and Felix Scholar, SOAS University of London  
BA (Honors) Political Science, Lady Shri Ram College for Women*

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

The YIF 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 state-of-the-art library building, hi-tech classrooms, world-class sports infrastructure, common spaces and multiple dining options. Fellows have round-the-clock access to 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.

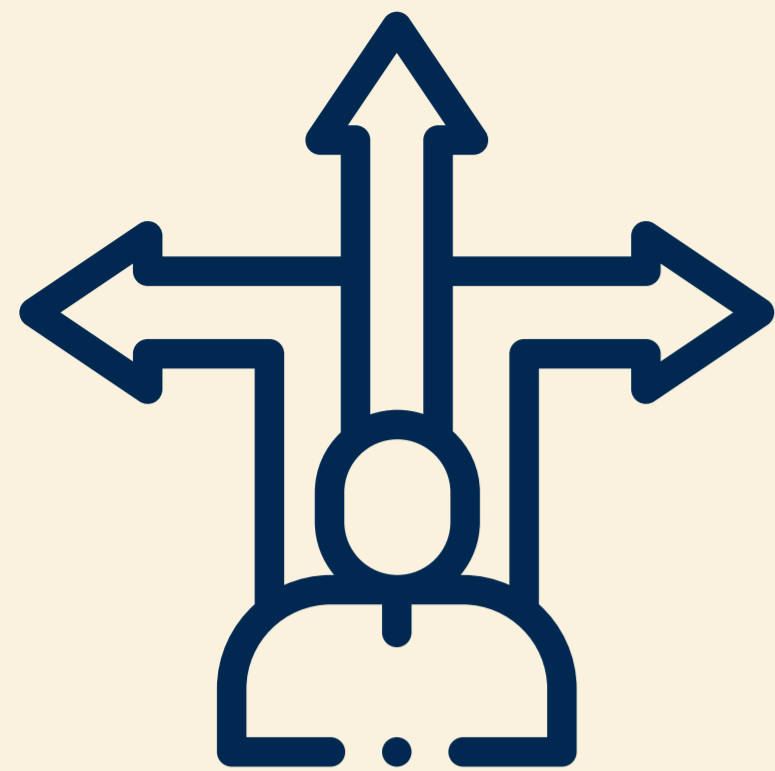


### Cultural and Co-Curricular Engagement

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.



Photo Credit: Arish Azmat



# Post-Fellowship Pathways

“

*YIF might or might not help you understand what to do next in your life, but it definitely helps you know what not to do. It enables you to apply a critical lens to complex problems, exposes you to multiple perspectives, and, more importantly, helps you understand why these perspectives must co-exist for the world to move forward. Being in recruitment and being a team leader, my job is to deal with people day in and day out. It's to sell, negotiate, review performances, give (and receive!) feedback, reach an agreement, and so on. Post YIF, I feel more comfortable in undertaking these tasks; it has empowered me to be neutral, to listen and most especially, to accept!”*



**Nikunj Maheshwari, YIF 2018-19**  
Principal, Page Group; Ex-Google Australia  
BA (Honors) Economics, Hansraj College



## Get Recruited

The Career Development Office (CDO) facilitates campus placements for Ashokans and also organizes a career preparatory program. The CDO also looks for custom opportunities that match specific career interests, and often shares relevant work opportunities with the YIF alumni community as well. **The YIF Class of 2022 witnessed a 100% placement season at a median corporate CTC of 10.8LPA, with the highest CTC being 30LPA.**

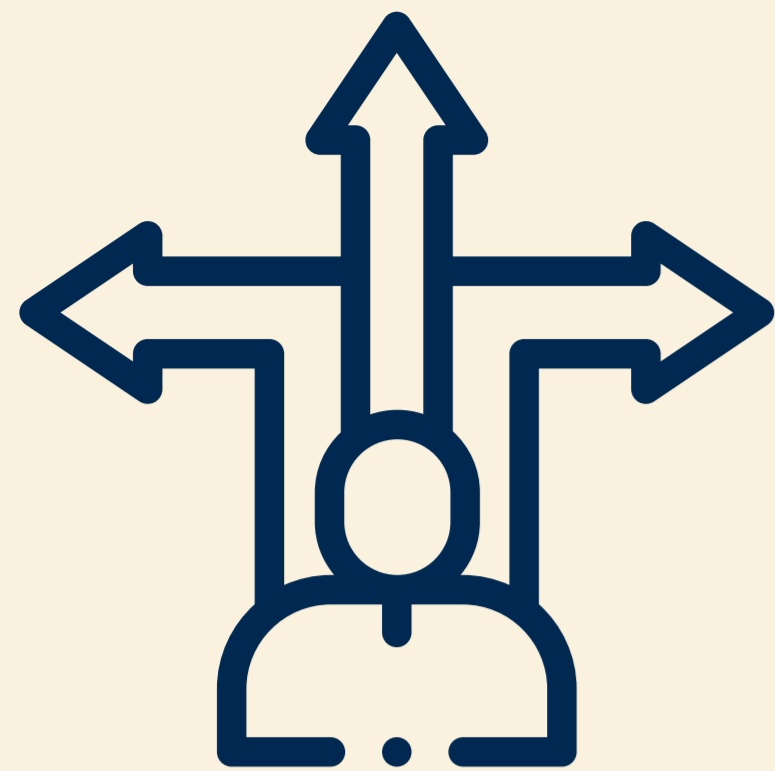
Recruiting organizations at Ashoka from the 2021-22 cycle include:



## Study Further

The Office for Global Education and Strategic Programmes organizes information sessions and relevant workshops for students through the year. 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 immediately after graduating from Ashoka or later, have gone on to pursue graduate and doctoral programmes at aspirational institutions and have also secured coveted scholarships. These include:





# 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 carrying 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*



## ***Start an Organization***

Apply to the 5-month long **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.



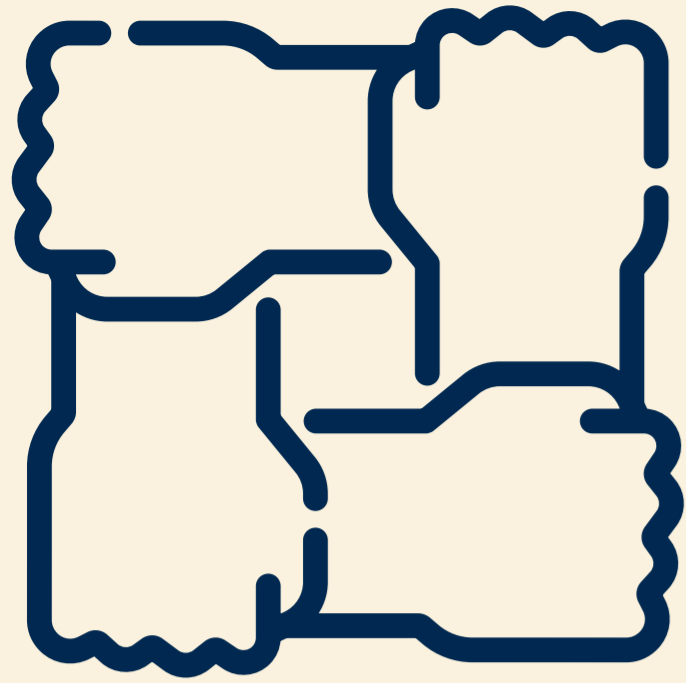
## ***Turn your Fellowship into a Master's Degree***

Extend your stay at Ashoka by a year and graduate with a **Master of Arts in Liberal Studies** (MLS) degree. This interdisciplinary research program is open to Fellows and alumni, wherein students work with Ashoka University faculty as their thesis advisors. Several Fellows have used the MLS degree to pivot into completely new fields of study, and have thereafter gone on to successfully pursue varied professions or doctoral programs at leading institutions globally.



## ***Pursue a Semester or Summer Abroad***

Ashoka's academic collaborations give Fellows an opportunity to apply for an exchange programme at Sciences Po, Paris and a summer school at the Salzburg Global Media Academy. Fellows have also benefitted from application fee waivers for graduate degrees at University of Pennsylvania and HEC Paris. Partnerships evolve year on year, kindly refer to the website for any updated information.



# 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  
*National award-winning Filmmaker  
BTech and MTech, IIT Kharagpur*

## 12 Years. 2100+ 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.

22+

Countries where the Young India Fellowship community is located

60+

Entrepreneurial ventures, both for-profit and not-for-profit, started by Fellows

250+

Fellows have pursued higher studies across the world's most prestigious institutions

14+

Fellows are Civil Servants or have received recognition through National Awards

75+

Fellows have secured coveted Scholarships and Fellowships (including Rhodes, Fulbright, Knight Hennessey, Gates, Schwarzman, Acumen and Chevening, among others)

∞

Pathways of Possibility after completing the year-long programme at Ashoka

### 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



# Admissions

## Class of 2023-24

“

*I approached the YIF application process with critical reflection and authenticity. Logistically, the process was smooth, but through the journey of writing essays and engaging interview conversations, I was more convinced that YIF was the right fit for me. I am yet to see an application form that gauges one's life journey with the wholeness that YIF does, which is why I say that irrespective of one's background, anyone can be a fit here. The YIF looks for personality traits rather than skills which makes my cohort in this case, cherry picked, where each person adds a unique value to a stimulating peer-learning environment. Every term I spend here makes me more sure that I belong here.”*



**Sonakshi Grover**, YIF 2022-23  
Former Associate Consultant, Bain and Company  
BA (Honors) Economics, St. Stephen's College

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

**31 Oct '22**

Applications  
**Open**

**19 Dec '22**

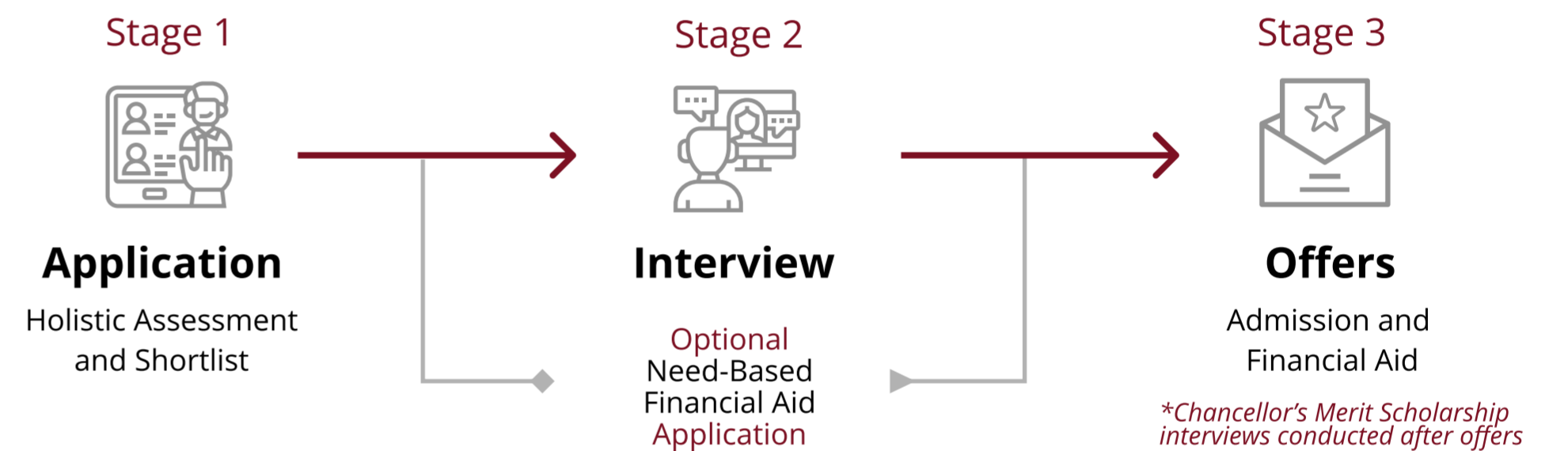
**Round 1**  
Early Deadline

**20 Mar '23**

**Round 2**  
Final Deadline

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. **The application assessment and interviews follow a rolling process. Apply as early as possible within a round, to know your shortlist status sooner.** You can apply only once in the admissions cycle and only in one round. In case you miss deadline for the early round, you can finish your application in the final round.

### Selection Process (Online)



### Minimum Eligibility Criteria

To apply to the YIF Class of 2024, you are required to have completed a recognized undergraduate degree or equivalent in any discipline, by July 2023 or earlier.

**Note:** Final year students, working professionals, entrepreneurs, freelancers, postgraduates and those preparing for competitive exams or taking a gap year, are all eligible to apply.

**We welcome applications from all age groups across diverse academic, professional, geographic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.**

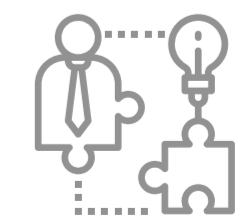
**What We Look For**



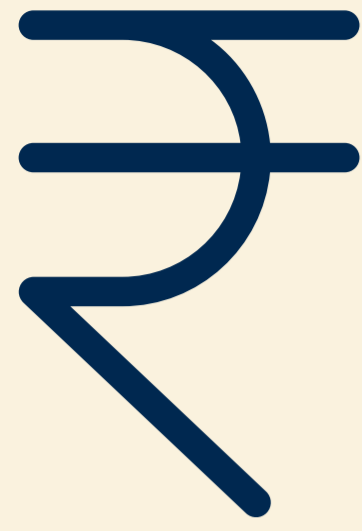
Intellectual Curiosity



Drive and Self Awareness



Demonstrated Leadership Potential



# Fee, Financial Aid and Scholarships

“

*My one year of YIF at Ashoka was nothing less than a miracle. It opened myriad doors of opportunities for me that I would have only dreamt of otherwise. I was surrounded by the kindest, smartest and wisest fellows, faculty and mentors who encouraged, guided and also helped me pursue my dreams. Thanks to them, I have recently started my Masters in Geneva. I feel so fortunate that Ashoka granted me financial aid that made it possible for me to be a part of the YIF world in the first place, from where I got and continue to get wings to my dreams.”*



**Wangchok Namgail, YIF 2021-22**

*Master's Candidate, International Development, The Graduate Institute, Geneva  
Bachelor of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Open University*

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 Fee (INR): Class of 2023-24

7.98 Lakhs	+	1.95 Lakhs	=	9.93 Lakhs
<b>Tuition Fee</b>		<b>Residence Fee</b>		<b>Programme Fee</b>

Please refer to the website for updated information on Ashoka dining charges which are in addition to the Programme Fee.



### Need-based Financial Aid

*Upto 100% Waiver on Tuition, Residence and Meals Fee*

The Financial Aid Committee, through the 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.

**65%**

Fellows '23 are on some form of need-based Financial Aid

**40%**

Fellows '23 are on more than 50% waivers on Tuition

**2.46 Lakhs**

(INR) Average Tuition Fee paid by Fellows '23 on need-based Financial Aid



### Chancellor's Merit Scholarship

*100% Waiver on Tuition and Residence Fee*

Around **ten** exceptional candidates will be awarded the Chancellor's Merit Scholarship, which will cover their Programme Fee for the Class of 2024. A few candidates in each round will be invited for an interview after receiving their offer of admission and financial aid (if applicable). The invitation will consider the candidates' academic, non-academic and/or professional achievements, combined with their performance in the holistic selection process and their demonstrated potential for impactful leadership.

More information is available on [yif.ashoka.edu.in](http://yif.ashoka.edu.in).





## Ashoka University

Ashoka University is named after Emperor Ashoka (c. 304 – 232 BC) who represents India's highest values and ideals. Emperor Ashoka's dhamma revolved around liberal thought and education. Having personally undergone a self-transformation, Emperor Ashoka took his spread his ideas far and wide across Asia.

Drawing from Emperor Ashoka's life of learning and transformation, Ashoka University provides a holistic education that is liberal, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary, offering a diverse and inclusive space for its students to think deeply and critically, learn across disciplinary boundaries, express themselves creatively, and communicate with meaning to cause impact and change. Students are encouraged to explore ideas, engage in research, and focus on values and ideals of the highest order to experience self-transformation within the duration of their education and henceforth.

The expanding universe of multidisciplinary education is depicted through an intersection of arcs that reflect the creation and synthesis of diverse knowledge as portrayed in the Ashoka University logo.

Ashoka University is a pioneer in its focus on providing a liberal education at par with the best in the world. The aim at Ashoka is to help students become well-rounded individuals who can think critically about issues from multiple perspectives, communicate effectively, and become leaders with a commitment to public service. An Ashoka education carries a strong emphasis on foundational knowledge, thorough academic research based on rigorous pedagogy, and hands-on experience with real-world challenges. The 2500 plus students on campus, drawn from 30 states and over 243 cities in India and 27 other countries, receive a world-class interdisciplinary education through undergraduate and post-graduate programmes led by internationally renowned faculty.

## Founders and Historical Context

Ashoka University has over 150 founders, both individuals and organizations, who represent some of India's leading institution builders entrepreneurs, academicians and industry stalwarts. The core group of founders started by launching the Young India Fellowship (YIF) in 2011, which to this day remains one of India's most sought after postgraduate-level programmes. Pramath Raj Sinha (PhD, University of Pennsylvania), one of the core founders behind the vision of Ashoka University and the Chairperson of its Board of Trustees, was the Founding Dean of the YIF.

## Collaborations

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





**APPLICATIONS OPEN**

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

**WEBSITE**

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

**EMAIL**

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

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

 [youngindiafellowship](#)

 [young\\_india\\_fellowship](#)

 [young-india-fellowship-programme](#)

**CAMPUS**

Ashoka University  
Rajiv Gandhi Education City  
Sonepat, Haryana - 131029