



ashoka  
UNIVERSITY

Young India  
Fellowship

# Young India Fellowship

APPLICANT BROCHURE  
CLASS OF 2024-2025

# Over 12 Years of Pioneering Multidisciplinary Education

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 diverse 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 2200 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, the corporate sector, government, academia and as entrepreneurs. Many work at some of the world's most aspirational organisations and continue their studies 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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Photo Credit: Arish Azmat



# From the Dean's Desk

“

We have consistently adapted the YIF programme to stay current, topical and relevant. The 100 Fellows in the YIF Class of 2024-25 will be hand-picked with great care. They can look forward to a year full of diversity—in their peers, courses, faculty and activities. Based on the success of the new initiatives, the 'YIF Crossover Series' and 'Alumni-in-Residence', we have redesigned some aspects to ensure an even greater experience for upcoming batches. I hope they will engage deeply with the multidimensional YIF while experiencing all that Ashoka University offers. The YIF class of 2025 will be able to take cross-listed courses taught at Ashoka Centres and choose from a more comprehensive selection of elective courses. Fellows will be supported throughout the year to take on meaningful roles across academic, professional and entrepreneurial domains.

In our ongoing efforts to raise the bar and support deserving applicants, we started the Chancellor's Merit Scholarship last year. This covers the tuition and residence fees and is awarded to exceptional candidates. This scholarship is in addition to the need-based financial aid programme. We welcomed 12 Chancellor's Merit Scholars as part of the YIF Class of 2024.

I invite your application to the Class of 2025 for what aims to be a transformational experience and a year like no other.”

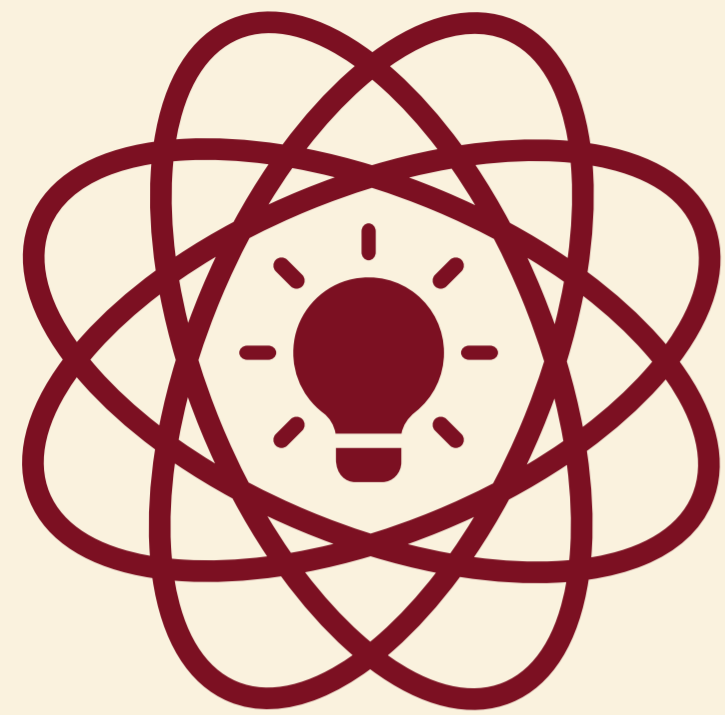
## Aniha Brar

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



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# A Fellowship Like No Other

“

*YIF was one of the most transformative years of my life. It taught me to see, analyse, and empathise 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 recognise 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 '15**

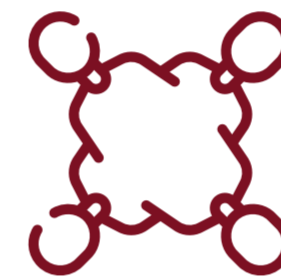
*Director, Strategy and Corporate Development, Vedanta Biosciences  
MBA, Harvard Business School  
Integrated MSc, Savitribai Phule Pune University*



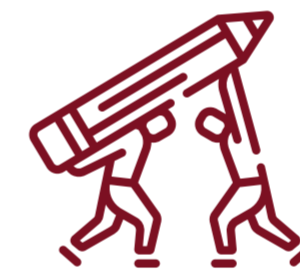
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# Open Pathways to Diverse Domains

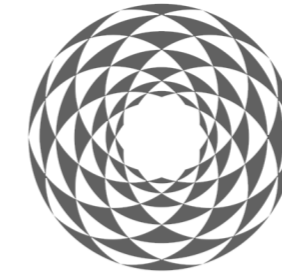
“

*It has been quite a while since I attended a gathering where I was asked difficult questions. Difficult questions are interesting because answering them takes some serious thinking and conscious reflection that challenge one's belief systems. When students from various disciplines come together to study a plethora of subjects, they have the opportunity to embrace the plurality in terms of knowledge. Plus, they get to share their own life stories, opening up to the rich tapestry of human experiences. Imagine someone from Nagaland chatting with someone from a village in Kerala – the exchange is priceless. And, what happens next in these student's lives is inevitably shaped and informed by this blend of knowledge and experience, sparking their multidisciplinary mindset. The YIF is a celebration of this plurality.”*



**Saurabh Dwivedi**

*Journalist and Founding Editor of The Lallantop  
Invitee, The YIF Crossover Series*



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# ASHOKA UNIVERSITY



# Multidisciplinary Curriculum

“

The YIF programme helped me develop the adaptability, vision and drive required to succeed in a high-functioning team. The multidisciplinary education provided me the ability to look at complex technical problems from different perspectives. Most importantly, YIF taught me that despite coming from a humble social and financial background, I can dream as big as I want and strive to achieve those dreams.”



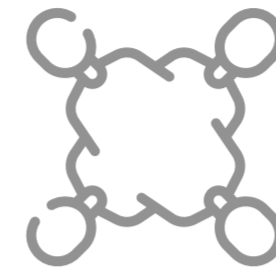
**Aafaque Raza Khan, YIF '14**

Doctoral Student (Astrophysics), University of Arizona  
 Future Investigator on NASA FINESST Program  
 Former Lead Engineer, SUIT onboard Aditya L1 at IUCAA



Young India Fellowship

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



~100 Fellows



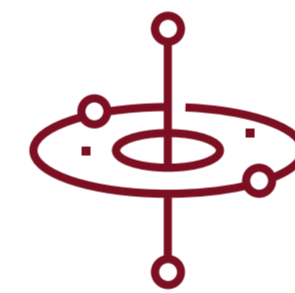
1 Year  
 8 Terms



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



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**



Young India Fellowship

## 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:



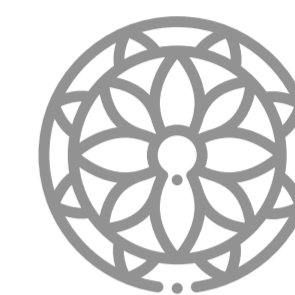
Natural and Applied Sciences



Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences



Leadership and Communication



Economics, Policy and 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 **Core Courses** together as a cohort, **Electives** in sections of around 50, while **Special Seminars** and **Critical Writing** courses are taught in smaller groups of around 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



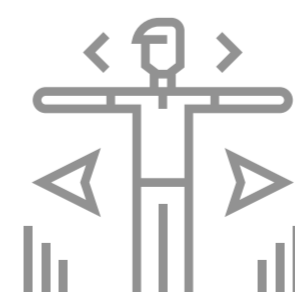
Group Work



Lectures



Field Visits



Simulations



Creative Projects



Academic Writing



Case Studies



Fellows study around diverse 20 courses and also have the opportunity to take cross-listed courses outside of the YIF Curriculum. *Below is an indicative list of courses from the current and recent years.*

## 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

### Shakespeare and the World

**Jonathan Gil Harris**

Professor and HoD of English  
PhD, University of Sussex

**Madhavi Menon**

Professor of English  
PhD, Tufts University

### The New Geography of the Information Age

**Debayan Gupta**

Assistant Professor of Computer Science  
PhD, Yale University

### John Keats, Poetry and Intensity

**Malabika Sarkar**

Former Vice Chancellor  
MA, University of Cambridge

### Language, Politics and Society in India

**Kathryn Collins Hardy**

Assistant Professor and HoD of Sociology and Anthropology  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

### Anthropology Today

**Mekhala Krishnamurthy**

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

### Khayal, North Indian Classical Music and the Modern Song

**Amit Chaudhuri**

Professor of Creative Writing  
DPhil, University of Oxford

### The Universe and Us

**Dipankar Bhattacharya**

Sunanda and Santimay Basu Professor of Astrophysics and HoD of Physics  
PhD, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore

### Science of Emotions 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

### Building Habits, Careers and Institutions

**Pramath Raj Sinha**

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

### Women, Society and Changing India

**Urvashi Butalia**

Padma Shri; Writer and Founder, Zubaan Books

### Deconstructing Select Indian Foreign Policy Challenges and Responses

**Arun Kumar Singh**

Former Indian Ambassador to the United States, Israel, and France

### Indian Society: Imaginations, Structures and Identities

**Surinder S Jodhka**

Professor of Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University

### Problem Solving and Statistical Thinking in Modern Life

**Santosh S Venkatesh**

Professor, University of Pennsylvania  
PhD, California Institute of Technology

### Climate Change and the Future of Health, Food, and Agriculture

**K VijayRaghavan**

Former Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India  
PhD, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

### Foundations of Leadership

**Dwight L Jaggard**

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

### Design Thinking and Innovation

**Ranjan Banerjee**

Dean and Professor, BITS School of Management  
PhD, University of Minnesota

### Heart of Leadership and Group Dynamics

**Kenwyn K Smith**

Former Professor, University of Pennsylvania  
PhD, Yale University

### Economic Reasoning and Public Policy

**AK Shiva Kumar**

Development Economist  
PhD, Harvard University

### Public Policy and Regulation in India

**KP Krishnan**

Former Secretary, MSDE, Government of India

### Visual Storytelling and Cinematic Techniques

**Meenu Gaur**

Filmmaker and Screenwriter  
PhD, SOAS, University of London

### Trade, Trust and Peace in South Asia

**Sanjay Kathuria**

Former Lead Economist, The World Bank  
DPhil, University of Oxford

### Kabir: The Poet of Vernacular Modernity

**Purushottam Agrawal**

Renowned Kabir and Bhakti Scholar  
PhD, Jawaharlal Nehru University

### Philosophy and Cognitive Science

**Ritwik Agrawal**

Doctoral Researcher, University of Arizona

### Art Appreciation

**Anunaya Chaubey**

Provost, Anant National University  
PhD, Patna University

### Using Behavioural Economics to Address Global Policy Challenges

**Saugato Datta**

Managing Director, Ideas42  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Cross-listed Courses

### CENTRE FOR WELL-BEING

#### Living with Purpose: Tools for Life from Psychology, Neuroscience and Cognitive Well-Being

**Arvinder J Singh**

Director, Ashoka Centre for Well-Being  
PsyD, University of Essex-CTAR

### CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#### Social Entrepreneurship and Impact

**Ankur Sarin**

Associate Professor, IIM Ahmedabad  
PhD, University of Chicago

#### Governance Entrepreneurship

**Piyush Tewari**

Founder and CEO, SaveLIFE Foundation  
MPA, Harvard Kennedy School

#### In Pursuit of Service Excellence

**Aditya Ghosh**

Co-Founder, Akasa Air; Former President, Indigo

#### Entrepreneurial Strategies for Climate Action

**DVS Seshadri**

Professor of Marketing, ISB Hyderabad

#### Decoding Generative AI

**Jaspreet Bindra**

Founder, Tech Whisperer

#### Business Analysis and Strategy

**Akhil Dhawan**

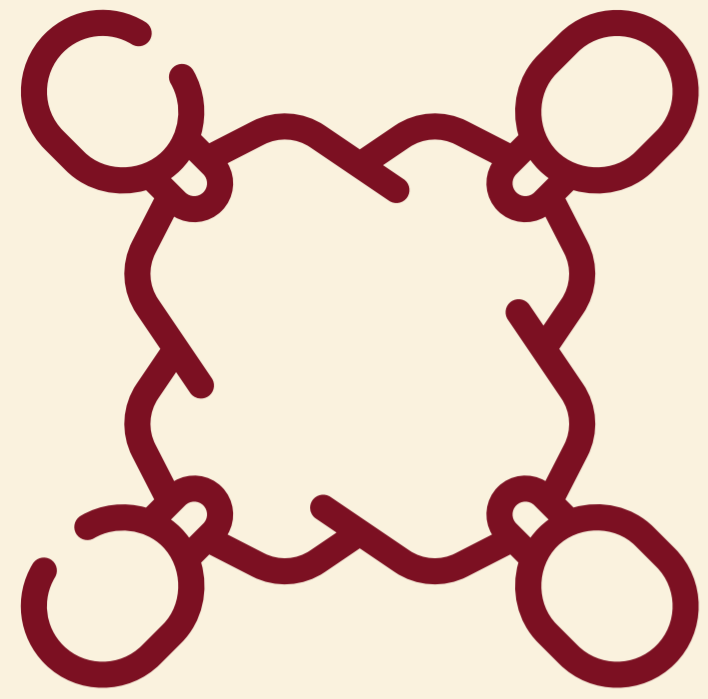
MD, Locus Investment Group  
MBA, The Wharton School

**Sanjay Kukreja**

Partner and CIO, ChrysCapital  
MBA, IIM Bangalore

**Pavan Ahluwalia**

Founder and MD, Laburnum Capital  
MBA, Stanford University



# 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 '14**

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

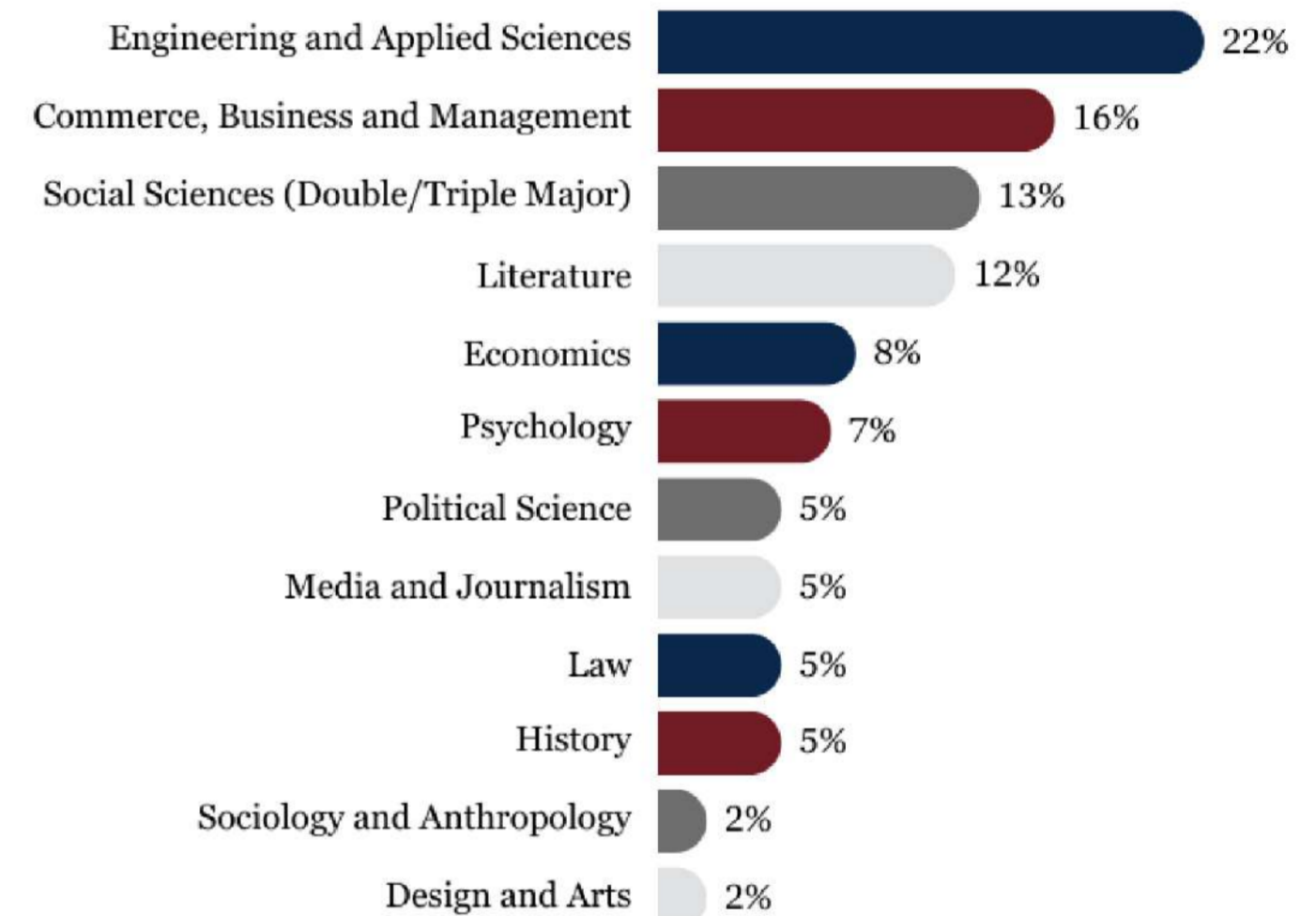
Hear more on **The YIF Podcast: S1E1 Collaborating to transform communities at the grassroots**



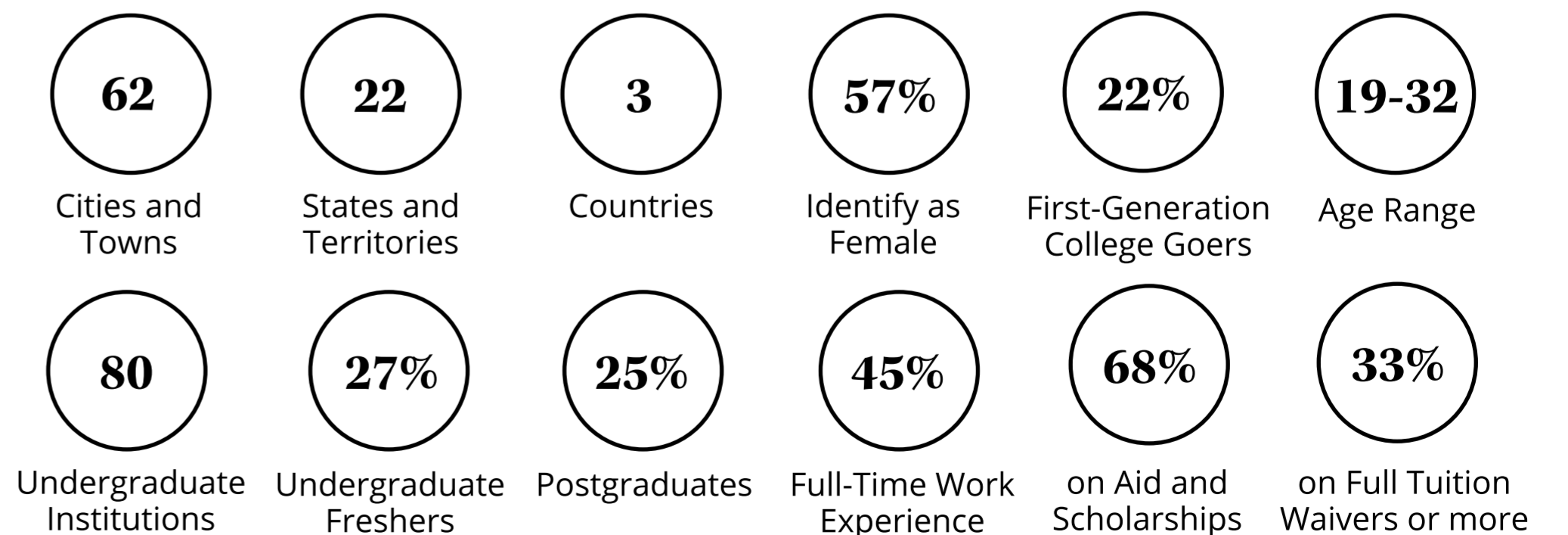
## Challenge and enhance your understanding of the world around you. Try the YIF classroom.

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*—an opportunity for you and your peers to showcase your talent to members of the Ashoka community. Fellows also self-organise to learn from each other—from Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and becoming a pro at Excel, to learning arts like sculpting and body flow movement.

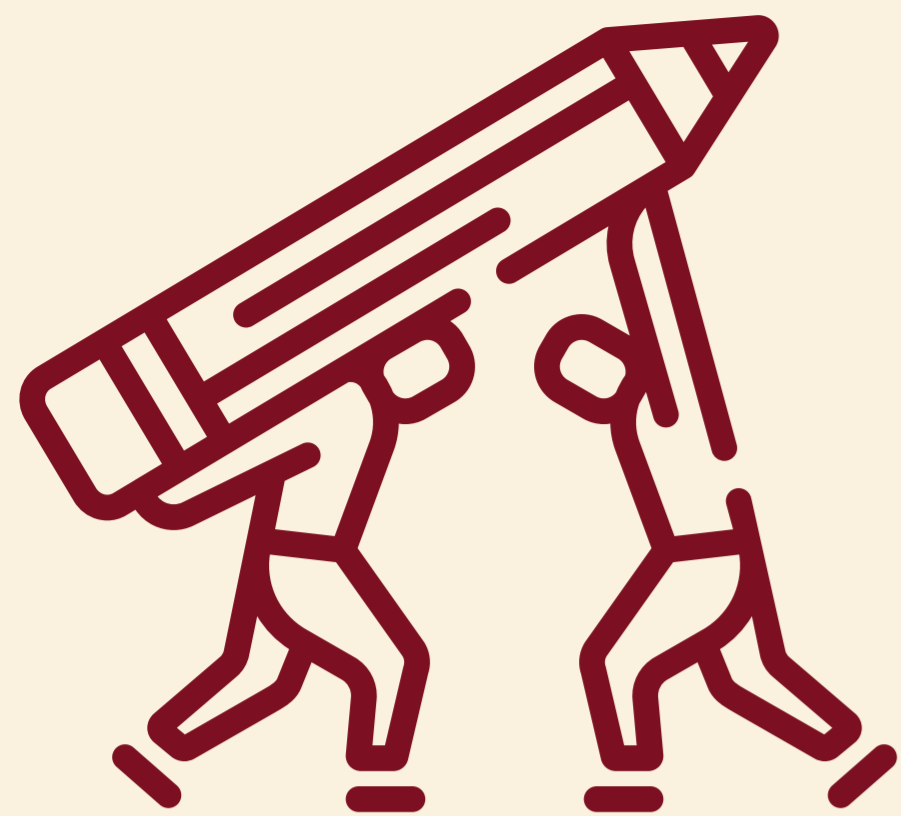
### Undergraduate Major | Class of 2023-24



### YIF Class of 2024: The Thirteenth Cohort of 102 Fellows







# Critical Writing Programme

“

*The Critical Writing course made me engage with themes I would have never picked up on my own. The course made me look at my writing and the underlying biases objectively, while also allowing me to hone what was working well and improve on what wasn't. Writing, while deeply personal, is also extremely public, and the way CW equipped me to articulate my thoughts in ways that make sense to the reader is something I will always be grateful for.”*



**Mahima Pahuja, YIF '23**

*Certified Anti Money-Laundering Specialist*

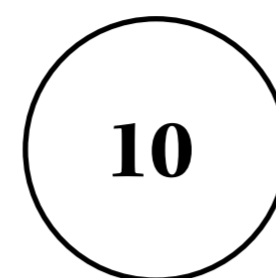
*MSc International Political Economy, Nanyang Technological University*

*BSc Economics, Mathematics and Statistics, Christ University*



Young India Fellowship

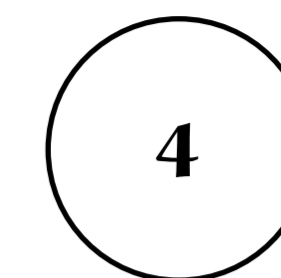
**The ability to think critically and express effectively is valuable. No matter what you do.**



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 2023-24



How to be a Hero: Reading Popular Culture Through Hero Figures



Doing Histories of Sexuality



Education, Literacy and Justice



Is Water H2O? An Introduction to the Epistemology of Science

## 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.



Previous editions available for download on [yif.ashoka.edu.in](http://yif.ashoka.edu.in)



# Experiential Learning Module (ELM)

“

*The Sex, Sexuality and the Law Project has been one of the first initiatives in India to highlight significant judgments over the past five decades which have contributed to the development of the discourse around sex, sexuality and sexual justice. This project has been a valuable addition to the Centre's efforts in archiving, developing and disseminating intellectual resources, and encouraging critical thought.”*



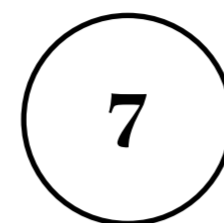
**Partner Organisation: Centre for Studies in Gender and Sexuality, Ashoka University**

*Project Head: Samreen Mushtaq*

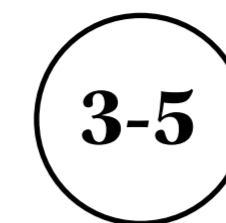
*Project Lead: Shreyashi Sharma*



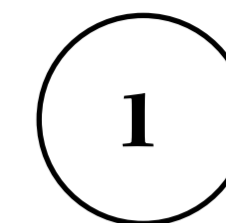
**Work on a project which has real-world impact. Explore interdisciplinary collaboration.**



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:



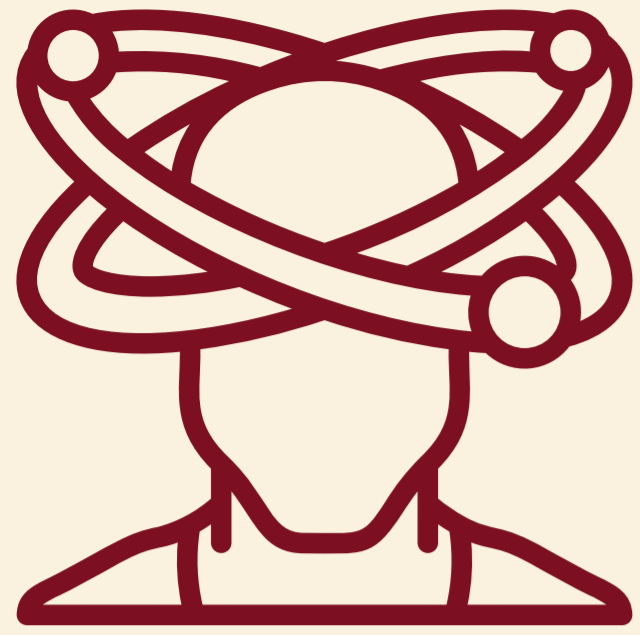
Barefoot Edu started in the YIF 2016-17 to explore teaching and learning in schools. Now incubated at Harvard Innovation Labs in Boston, it is focused on improving school systems and educational leadership.

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 and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.



# Holistic Learning and Engagement

“

*At a time in my life when I was caught amid multiple transformations, I came across the YIF programme. More than the diversity of disciplines and the streams of opportunities at YIF, what attracted me most was the pool of applicants coming from different walks of life. The application process was a testament to the programme's intrinsic ability to foster growth for all 102 Fellows. No matter what background, discipline, or interests you come from, there is a unique spot curated for you right at the heart of the fellowship. A few months as a Fellow, I can vouch for that.”*



**Pubarun Basu, YIF '24**

*Forbes Asia 30 Under 30 (Arts, 2022)  
Sony Youth Photographer of the Year (2021)  
BA (Hons) English Literature, University of Calcutta*

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

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

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 alumni reconnect with their alma mater.



### Other Learning Opportunities

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



Photo Credit: Rakesh Meitei





# Ashoka University Ecosystem

“

*In the way that the YIF is designed, it gave me the best of multidisciplinary education, while being in India, and at a fraction of the cost it would take abroad. Where I am at right now in my professional career, with the kind of focus on education, is a by-product of that one year at the YIF.”*



**Bhaswar Faisal Khan, YIF '19**

*Master's Candidate (Human Development and Education), Harvard University  
Former Senior Program Lead, International Innovation Corps, UChicago Trust  
BA and MA (Gold Medalist) English Literature, University of Delhi*

## 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, high-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 public policy, behaviour change, social impact, gender studies, entrepreneurship, communication, economic policy, digital health, people-centric energy transition, bioinformatics.



### 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.

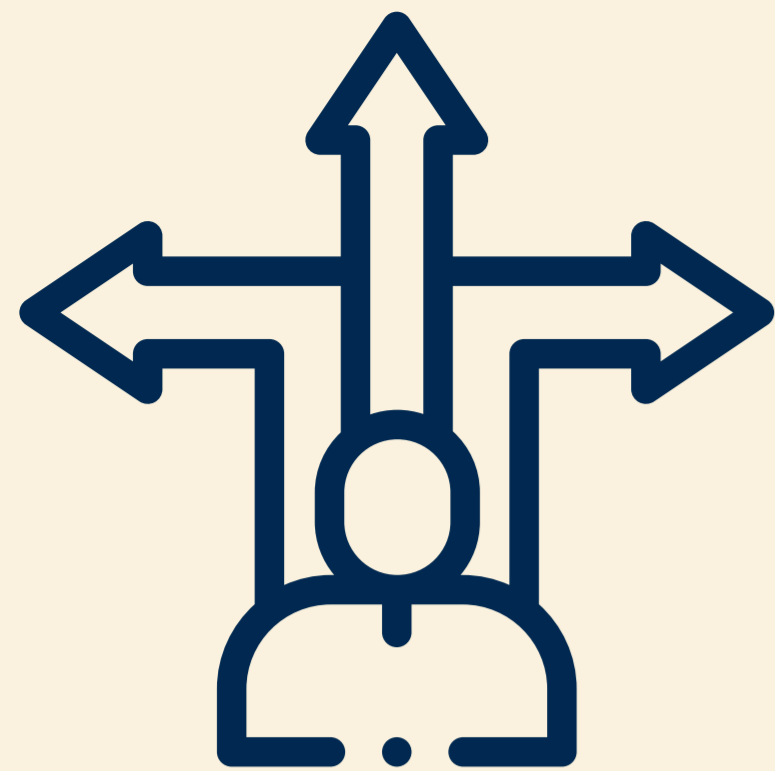


### Cultural and Co-Curricular Engagement

As a Fellow, you might find yourself immersed in organising 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: Pubarun Basu



# 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'19**  
Associate Partner, Page Executive  
BA (Hons) Economics, Hansraj College



## Get Recruited

The Career Development Office (CDO) facilitates campus placements for Ashokans and also organises 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 2023 has been placed at an average corporate CTC of 10.9 LPA with the highest CTC being 35 LPA.**

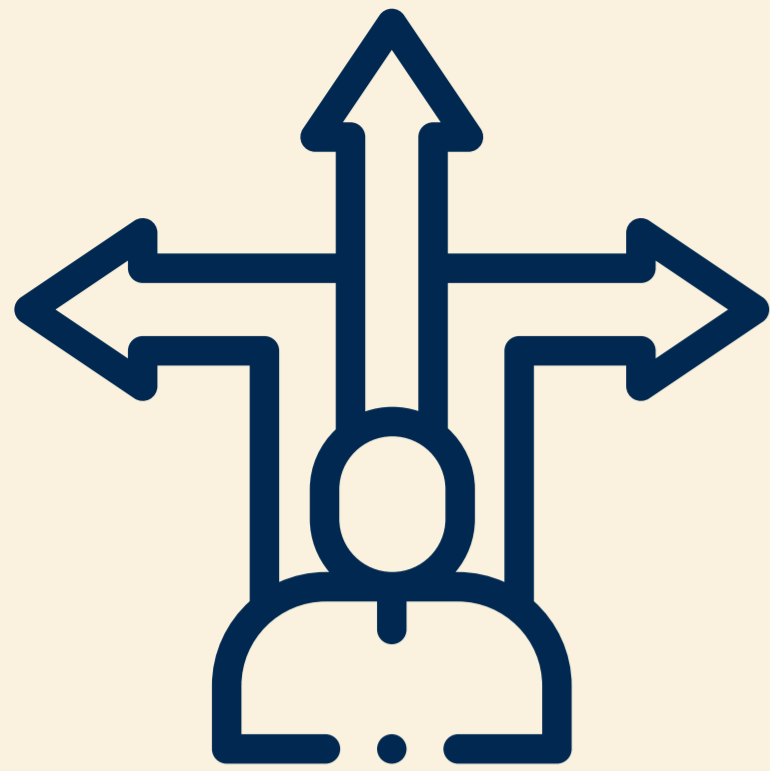
Recruiting organisations at Ashoka from the 2022-23 cycle include:



## Study Further

The Office for Global Education and Strategic Programmes organises 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 Master's thesis and am carrying them with me in my PhD.”*



**Huzaafa, YIF '17**

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



## Start an Organisation

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.

Organisations started by Fellows include:



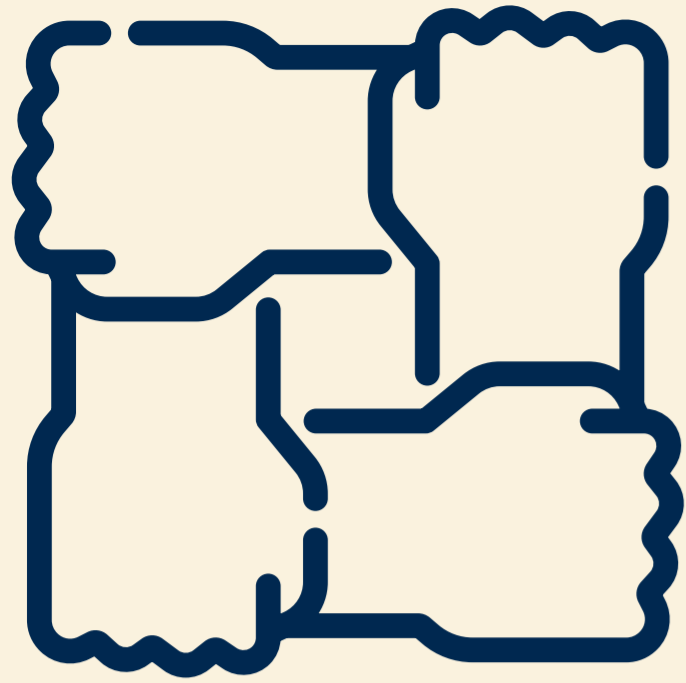
## Create Social Impact

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.



## 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

“

For most of my life, I struggled to find spaces where I could grow meaningfully. But at YIF, I found a space to approach education in a truly interdisciplinary manner. The academic discourse at Ashoka imbibed a rigour in me that I am grateful for even today. Since the fellowship, I have brought together my learnings in surprising ways. Post YIF, I worked at Memesys Studios with Zain Memon, co-authoring 'SHASN: AZADI', a board game about freedom struggles. Designing a curriculum for children during my ELM, fiery classes and hours spent reading and discussing seminal political texts in the library with my peers; all my experiences in the fellowship were quintessential in laying the foundations for my authorship. YIF gave me a platform to explore and express myself in a way I never had, and as clichéd as it sounds—"reach for the stars"



**Abhishek Lamba, YIF '18**

Co-creator of SHASN: AZADI  
Game Designer, Writer, Filmmaker and Teacher  
BA English Language and Literature, Jai Hind College

## 13 Years. 2200+ 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.

16+

Countries where the Young India Fellowship community is located

60+

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

300+

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

14+

Fellows are Civil Servants or have received recognition through National Awards

80+

Fellows have secured coveted Scholarships and Fellowships (including Rhodes, Fulbright, Knight Hennessy, 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 organisations 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.



जागरण

Check Your Emails!!

The world as we see it

TRANSFORMING

Orientation Week!!

The Word and the World

सोनीपत

Reach for The Stars

PERSPECTIVES

Group Session!!

DISIMN

BOOKS

WHY STATS Why?

Fellowship Never Ends!

All over India

Photo Credit: Rakesh Meitei



# Admissions

## Class of 2024-25

“

*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 '23**

*MPhil Candidate (Development Studies), University of Oxford  
Former Associate Consultant, Bain and Company  
BA (Hons) Economics, St Stephen's College*



Young India  
Fellowship

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

**22 Sep '23**

Applications  
**Open**

**27 Nov '23**

**Round 1**  
Early Deadline

**04 Mar '24**

**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 2025, you are required to have completed a recognised undergraduate degree or equivalent in any discipline, by July 2024 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.**

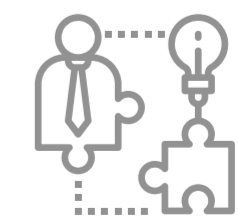
**What We Look For**



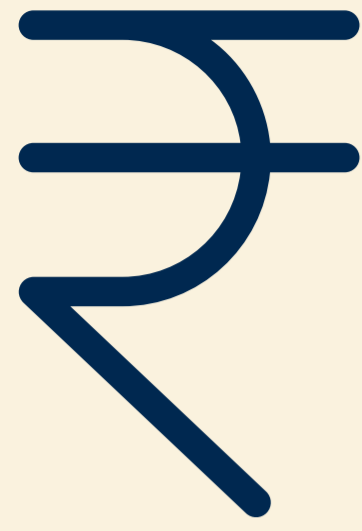
Intellectual  
Curiosity



Drive and  
Self Awareness



Demonstrated  
Leadership Potential



# Fee, Financial Aid and Scholarships

“

*My experience at the Young India Fellowship has been nothing short of life changing. The exposure to multiple disciplines has completely transformed the way I view the world and has given me the confidence to venture into new and unfamiliar territories with a sense of enthusiasm. The YIF team provides a pillar of support at every step to help you navigate the programme and beyond. Whether it is academic pursuits, co-curricular activities or career aspirations, YIF will give you a renewed sense of purpose and empower you to leverage your strengths anywhere you go. I am immensely grateful for the CMS as it has given me a unique opportunity to broaden my horizons and has instilled in me a drive for excellence that I hope to carry wherever I go.”*



**Kajal Bawa, YIF '24**

*Chancellor's Merit Scholar*

Former Training Associate, Ministry of Culture, Government of India  
BA (Hons) and MA History, University of Delhi



Young India Fellowship

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 2024-25

7.98 Lakhs + 2.05 Lakhs + 5.40 Thousand = 10.08 Lakhs  
**Tuition Fee      Residence Fee      Essential Services      Programme Fee**

A Meal Plan Advance of INR 60,000 is also applicable in addition to the Programme Fee.

The YIF  
Class of  
2023-24

**68%**  
on Aid and  
Scholarships

**33%**  
on 100% Tuition  
Waivers or more

**12**  
Chancellor's  
Merit Scholars



### Need-based Financial Aid

*Upto 100% Waiver on Programme and Meal Fee along with a Monthly Stipend*

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.



### 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 2025. 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 200 founders and donors, both individuals and organisations, 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](https://apply.ashoka.edu.in)

**WEBSITE**

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

**EMAIL**

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

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

 [youngindiafellowship](https://www.facebook.com/youngindiafellowship)

 [young\\_india\\_fellowship](https://www.instagram.com/young_india_fellowship)

 [young-india-fellowship-programme](https://www.linkedin.com/company/young-india-fellowship-programme)

**CAMPUS**

Ashoka University  
Rajiv Gandhi Education City  
Sonapat, Haryana - 131029