

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

Job Description

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

In their first year, Ashoka students take a mandatory course called ‘Introduction to Critical Thinking’ (ICT). This class is distinguished by small class size, close faculty attention to students’ writing, communication, and thinking processes. Students are registered for ICT either in their first or second semester at Ashoka.

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

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

UWP is a dynamic, entrepreneurial programme with frequent turnover. We require 8 Fellows to manage the year-round demand for ICT. **New applicants** to the UWP must submit the Materials numbered **1, 2, 3, 4, 8** on pp. 3-4. **Current Fellows** need to submit the Materials numbered **1, 5, 6, 7** on pp. 3-4.

Qualifications

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

Expectations

Teaching

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

Pedagogy

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

Program-Building

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

Application Materials:

To apply, please submit the following material:

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

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

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

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

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

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UNIVERSITY CAMPUS: Plot No. 2, Rajiv Gandhi Education City, P.O. Rai (Sonapat) Haryana-131029 Contact:

0130-2300000

ADMISSIONS OFFICE: No.2, Green Avenue Street, Pocket D-3, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 Contact: 011-

69405807

WEBSITE: www.ashoka.edu.in

4. A response to one of the following prompts (*300 words*):
 - d. What is the role of private, liberal arts universities in India today?
 - e. How has the pandemic shifted your teaching, learning and/or working methodologies?
5. A short report of your pedagogical reflections from the past academic year (2020-21). *1000 words*.
6. Two readings and related exercises (in class/homework/project work) from the past academic year (2020-21) that succeeded: what worked, and why? *500-1000 words*.
7. 1 or 2 ideas or research questions that the UWP can embark on in the following academic year. These can be add-ons to existing UWP work, or brand new. Explain why these particular questions matter to you, and how they will help grow academic writing and critical thinking at Ashoka. *300-500 words*.
8. Names of 3 referees and their contact details.

Submission Details

- Deadline: Saturday, June 26th, 2021, 5 p.m.
- Submit your materials directly to aditi.sriram@ashoka.edu.in
- Submit your videos via GoogleDrive or Dropbox to aditi.sriram@ashoka.edu.in
- Email any questions to: aditi.sriram@ashoka.edu.in