



Applicant Brochure



Master of Arts in English

— Class of 2022-24 —



Pursuing Graduate Studies at Ashoka University



**Ashoka University ranked among Top 5 Private Universities
in India by QS Asia University Rankings 2022**

**Stands at number 1 among all Indian universities on
'International Faculty' indicator**



**Inspiring Educators
and Courses**



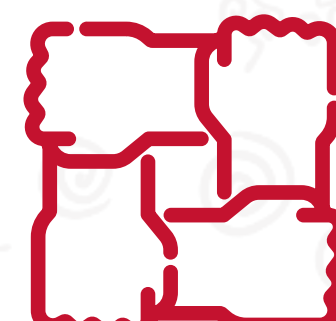
**Ashoka
Ecosystem**



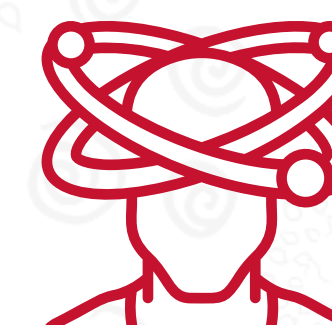
**Upto 100% Need-Based
Financial Aid**



**Cutting-Edge
Research**



**Small
Cohort Size**



**Holistic
Development**

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MA
ENGLISH



Programme Overview

The Master of Arts in English at Ashoka University, is committed to thinking across boundaries of genre, culture and chronology. Our coursework allows for exposure to a wide array of texts, theories and disciplinary formations from around the world.

MA students will also have the opportunity to pursue courses in other departments at Ashoka thus bringing new lenses to bear on literary studies. Above all, students will pursue their study of literature in relation to the larger world they live in and ask pertinent questions of it.

The MA English programme places a premium equally on rigorous critical thinking and in-depth research. This emphasis on rigour, alongside the other avenues for intellectual, professional and personal growth offered by Ashoka University, will better prepare students for a variety of career paths, including further study leading to a Ph.D., teaching at the high-school level, advertising, media, and law.

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**YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION
AND IMPACT BY ENGAGING
WITH A DIVERSE COHORT
AND THE ECOSYSTEM AT
ASHOKA UNIVERSITY**

Course Structure and Requirements

4

Semesters

48

Total Credits

3

Courses per semester

Within the programme, students have the option of pursuing a concentration, and specializing in a particular field. They are also free to follow a general path of literary studies and can choose not to have a concentration. Students who choose to pursue a concentration are required to take a minimum of two electives as well as write a thesis in their field of specialization.

Prof. Madhavi Menon



Seminar in Literary Theory

Required Course

This course will focus on the study of various schools of literary theory. The course seeks to examine the bigger questions of literature—ranging from the ways in which texts can engage with various issues to an understanding of how we make meaning.



Seminar in Writing and Research Methodology

Required Course

This course aims to provide clues to read, interpret and write academically. The aim of the course is to expose students to methods of research and argumentation, writing abstracts, identifying archives, and familiarizing them with citation styles.



Graduate Pro-Seminar

Required Course

Thesis Preparation: The graduate pro-seminar is a two-semester sequence. In the first semester, students will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the methodological foundations of thesis writing by engaging with research-active faculty and their writing, learning directly from scholars in the field.



Graduate Pro-Seminar

Required Course

Thesis Writing: In the second semester of the graduate pro-seminar, students will workshop their thesis drafts through a series of round tables and conference-style panel presentations, culminating in an academic symposium at which they will present their thesis projects to a larger audience.

Electives

Apart from the required courses, students are free to take 8 elective courses that cater to their individual interests. As the programme encourages interdisciplinarity, students are allowed to take one of these 8 electives from another Department across their two years of study. The other 7 electives must be taken from the electives offered by the English and Creative Writing department. At least two of these electives must cover periods before the 1800s.

If students have an area of interest that has not been explored by any of the offered electives, they may also approach faculty to propose the possible creation of an Independent Study Module (ISM) that focuses on the subject in question. The availability of ISMs will depend on the consent of the faculty advisor. Students can take up to a maximum of one ISM on a topic of their devising.



Concentrations

Should students select a concentration, it is required that they do so by the beginning of the third semester, so that they are able to take a minimum of two electives in their chosen subfields before writing their theses. Additionally, each student must choose their thesis advisor by the beginning of the third semester. This should be the professor with whom the student feels most compatible both intellectually and personally.



South Asian Literature

This concentration adopts a comparative approach to the study of textual and popular cultural traditions of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Nepal). Courses might include (but are not limited to): Partition Literature, Scripting Caste, Women Writers from South Asia, Violence and South Asian Literatures, Indian Literatures in Translation, Sufi Poetry, Bollywood and the Ideas of India.



Modern Literature and Culture

This track of study explores the question of modernity and its aftermath, ranging from the Enlightenment era to the present. Areas of focus include 18th - 20th century literature and culture, modernisms including vernacular modernisms in literature and cinema, postmodernism, postcolonial literatures, law and literature, ecocriticism and discourse analysis. Courses might include (but are not limited to): Epic Histories, Privacy, Neoliberalism, Trauma and Disaster, Children's Literature, Cinema and Violence, Acts of Faith, Romanticism, American Outlaws, Conspiracy Fiction, Climate Fiction, Making Space, Loss and Longing, Literature and the Age of Empire, The Rhetoric of Social Protest, Critical Race Theory.



Global and Indian Shakespeares

Shakespeare's plays have been reconceived across the Indian subcontinent, in theatre, literature and especially film, often tackling issues such as gender, colonialism, caste, communal violence, and partition. Students in this concentration hone their critical and creative skills by producing their own locally grounded reimaginings. Courses might include (but are not limited to): Masala Shakespeare, Shakespeare and the World, Spectres of Hamlet, Shakesqueer, Adapting Shakespeare: Writing and Performance Workshop.



Global Medieval Studies

The Global Medieval Studies concentration takes a comparativist approach to the cultures of the various medieval periods in world history, particularly in Europe and South Asia, encouraging students to think critically about periodic nomenclatures. The concentration brings medieval works from different cultures into conversation, encouraging the interdisciplinary study of literature, art, architecture, music, science, religion and philosophy. Courses might include (but are not limited to): Global Medieval Women Writers, Comparative Medieval Mysticism, Global Medievalisms, Utopia in the Middle Ages, Medieval Travel Writing, History of Medieval Medicine, University Cultures.



Gender and Sexuality Studies

This track will focus on the importance of gender and sexuality in literature as well as in our everyday lives. Students will be taught to ground their thinking of literature and the world in wider theoretical frameworks related to queer and feminist thought. Courses might include (but are not limited to): Reading the Body Politic, A History of Desire in India, Shakesqueer, South Asian Literature and Gender, Desiring Film, Women's Writing, Victorian Fetishes, The Law of Desire, Bollywood and Gender, Dalit Literature.



Creative Writing

The Creative Writing track combines literary study with creative practice. Along with courses in the academic study of literature, students also take workshop courses and write a thesis in the genre of their choice: original prose, poetry, and translation, including multi-genre work. Courses might include (but are not limited to): Poetry Workshop, Fiction Workshop, Translation Workshop, Publishing Seminar.



Inspiring Educators

Academicians and scholars from Ashoka University deliver a diverse range of courses. Each course is typically from a distinct domain or area of study, though many are interdisciplinary in approach. They all come together to offer a deeper and richer understanding of the world.

Jonathan Gil Harris

Head of the Department, Professor of English; Ph.D. University of Sussex
Graduate Pro-Seminar; Masala Shakespeare; Apparitions of Macbeth

Madhavi Menon

Professor of English; PhD, Tufts University
Seminar in Literary Theory; The Law of Desire; Transnational Transgender

Johannes Burgers

Assistant Professor of English; Ph.D. The City University of New York (CUNY)
Holocaust Literature

Alexander Phillips

Assistant Professor of English; Ph.D. Cornell University
Country and City: Beyond the Urban/Rural Divide

Rita Kothari

Professor of English; Ph.D. Gujarat University
Translation Theories and Multilingual Contexts

Amit Chaudhuri

Professor of Writing; D.Phil in English, Oxford University
Is There a Modern Indian Literature?; The Creative and the Critical Workshop

Mandakini Dubey

Assistant Professor of English; Ph.D. Duke University
Orientalisms

Vivek Narayan

Assistant Professor of English and Performance Studies; Ph.D. Stanford University
Performance/Politics

Sharif Youssef

Assistant Professor of English and Legal Studies; Ph.D. University of Chicago
The Rise of Modern Mythology: Totemism, Fetishism, and Idolatry

Subhasree Chakravarty

Assistant Professor of English; Ph.D. The Ohio State University
Seminar in Writing and Research Methodology

Saikat Majumdar

Head of the Department, Creative Writing, Professor of English and Creative Writing; Ph.D. Rutgers University
World English

Mali Skotheim

Assistant Professor of English; Ph.D. Princeton University
Classical Performance

Abir Bazaz

Assistant Professor of English; Ph.D. University of Minnesota
Acts of Faith

Aparna Chaudhuri

Assistant Professor of English; Ph.D. Harvard University
The Global Medieval: Ideas, Inventions, Archives; MA Proseminar in Thesis Writing

Alexandra Verini

Assistant Professor of English; Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles
Graduate Proseminar in Thesis Writing; Medieval Travellers

Aparna Vaidik

Associate Professor of History; Ph.D. Jawaharlal Nehru University
History on the Couch: Psychoanalysis and the Historical Method



Prof. Jonathan Gil Harris



Prof. Rita Kothari



Prof. Johannes Burgers



Ashoka University Ecosystem

The Master's experience at Ashoka gives you access to the larger Ashoka University ecosystem, and an opportunity to engage with people and spaces beyond the MA programme.

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I came to Ashoka University as a Young India Fellow, seeking new paths following a degree in Neuroscience. The year-long association with Ashoka's social and intellectual spheres not only made me (un)learn a diverse set of topics but also transition into a new journey altogether.

From studying neurological amnesias in the past to engaging with linguistic and cultural amnesias now at the MA English programme, I feel that I have finally come “home”. The Department has so much to offer, especially to those aiming to specialise in South Asian Literatures, like me.

Sanchit Toor

MA English 2020-2022



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. As graduate students stay together and build a focused experience, they will 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.

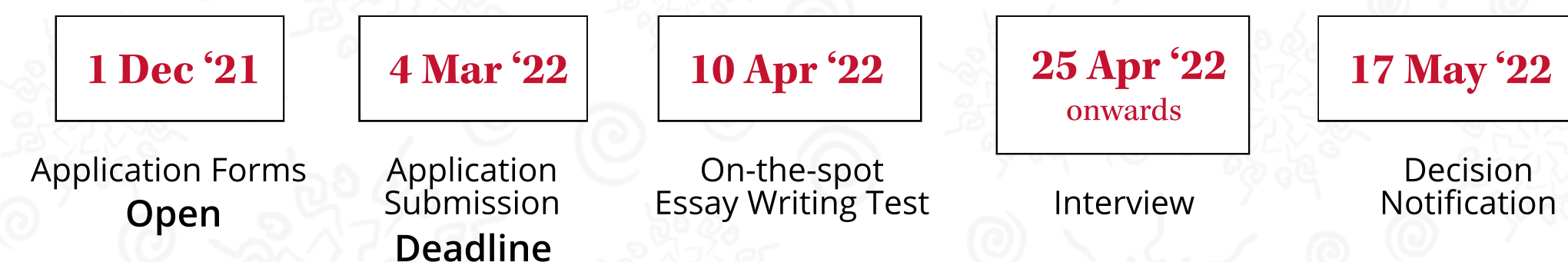


Cultural and Co-Curricular Engagement

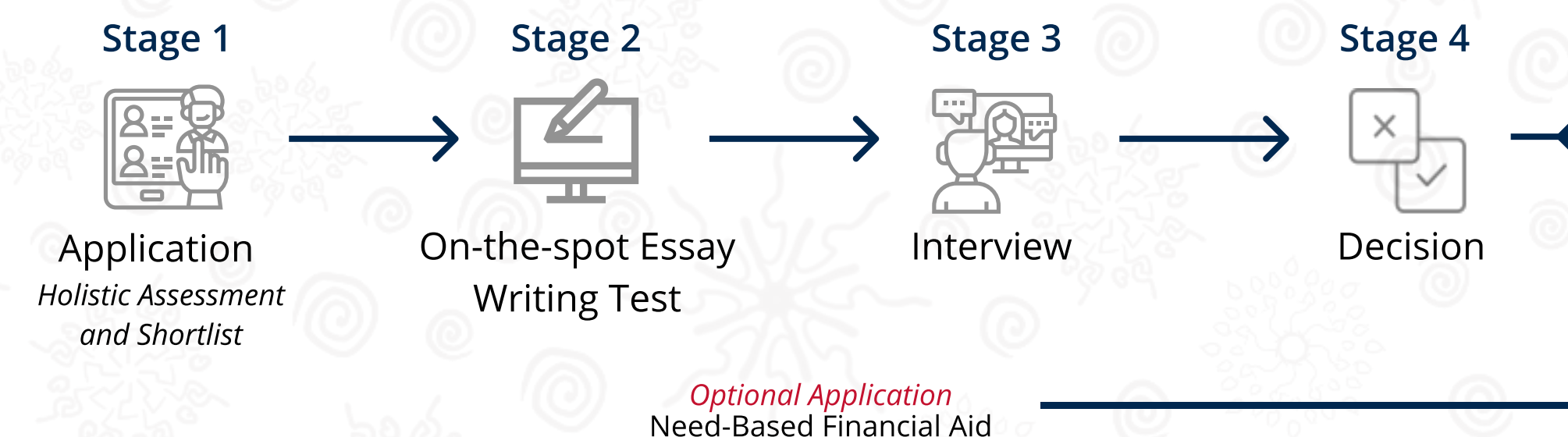
As a Master's student, you might find yourself immersed in organizing and participating in a range of activities, from festive celebrations and sports events, to zero waste initiatives, concerts and student activism. You can be part of official clubs and societies, with a range of focus areas, such as quizzing, reading, photography, poetry, and the environment; or you can start a new one.

apply.ashoka.edu.in

Application Forms for the academic session commencing in August, 2022 are now open.



Selection Process (Online)



Candidates who receive an offer of admission from the Office of Admissions and the Department of English will be given the option to apply for financial aid.

Eligibility Criteria

- (1) A recognized undergraduate degree or be enrolled in the final year of their study.
- (2) The minimum percentage required to apply to the programme will be 55% for students from Indian universities, and a GPA of 3.0 or its equivalent from foreign universities.
- (3) Admission to the programme does not necessarily require an English undergraduate degree, even though it may provide an advantage in transitioning to the master's level study of English at Ashoka University.

Note: Ashoka University Students, who have graduated with a BA in English can enrol for the one-year Ashoka Scholars Programme (ASP) for an Advanced English Major. These students can then join the MA in English and use an extra year of study to complete their coursework and convert their ASP into a year of credit towards the MA. Since they have already opted for the ASP Advanced English Major and will write a thesis as part of its requirements, they will not be required to write a separate thesis for the MA.



Holistic Admissions

Ashoka University follows a holistic admissions process, which involves a thorough understanding of a candidate's journey, context, academic and non-academic record, and interests.

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If there is one good thing that happened to me in this pandemic, it definitely is being in/at and about Ashoka. Out of the many brilliant yet challenging things about the Ashoka fraternity, it definitely has to be the Professors who are just much more than facilitating academic engagements and encouraging discourses in an impeccable way. I had only heard of the peer learning model of education, however, I got the fortunate opportunity to experience it during these testing times when almost everything seemed not just difficult but impossible.

Ashoka pushes your unimaginable limits of thinking, unlearning and engaging to re-learn and that according to me, makes it what it is – absolutely unique and creating room for a radical possibility of change. I am so grateful to be a part of this fraternity. Looking forward to making it more valuable and enriching for my own self and everyone around!

Aafreen Shah
MA English 2020-2022





Programme Fee and Financial Aid

Ashoka University is committed to offering a world-class education in India which is accessible and affordable for students from all walks of life.

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MA students can expect to find a culture of inquisitive reading, writing, and discussion at Ashoka. Engaging in such discussion and debate in class prepares students to engage in scholarly conversations, as they not only develop their own interests, but also recognize the ways in which their unique perspectives contribute to the fields with which they are engaging.

We take time to question the questions, asking, are the questions that have been asked of a given text good questions? What is at stake in asking these questions? What new questions might you formulate? Where do you want the field to go?’

Mali Skotheim

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Ashoka University



Programme Fee (INR): Class of 2022-24

The Fee Structure of the MA in English programme has the following components:

Component	First Year (AY 2022-2023)	Second Year (AY 2023-2024)
Tuition Fee	502,000	512,000
Residence Cost (Opt-In)	(A) 90,000 / (B) 170,000	(A) 94,500 / (B) 179,000
Total	592,000 / 672,000	606,500 / 691,000

Ashoka University provides Residence and Meal facilities for MA Students, on an optional basis. If you opt-in for Residence as provided by Ashoka University, please note the following details:

Option (A) is the standard off-campus residence provided by Ashoka University for MA Students who opt-in for residence and meals.

Option (B) is an on-campus residence within the Ashoka University campus for MA Students, wherein permission is granted by the Office of Student Affairs as an exception and on a case by case basis.

The annual minimum Meal Cost is INR 35,000 for students who opt-in for residence provided by Ashoka University. Meal consumption over INR 35,000 will be charged on actuals.

Need-based Financial Aid

Upto 100% Waiver on Tuition, Residence and Meals

Ashoka University's 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.

68%

of students in Class of '23 are on some form of need-based Financial Aid

62%

of students out of all those on Financial Aid, received 100% aid.

1.5 Crores

(INR) Cumulative need-based Financial Aid given to students from the last 2 cohorts



Ashoka University

Ashoka University is a private, non-profit university that commenced operations in 2014. It is a pioneer in its focus on multidisciplinary liberal education, which is usually defined as one that transcends the boundaries between the arts and sciences, and carries a strong emphasis on learning across subjects.

Founders and Historical Context

In 2008, a core group of four founders came together to envision and conceptualise Ashoka University as a philanthropic venture in the higher education space. Ashoka University currently has over 100 founders, both individuals and organisations, who represent some of India's leading institution builders, entrepreneurs, academicians, and industry stalwarts.

Governance Model

Ashoka University is distinguished by its collective philanthropy and shared governance model, an unprecedented initiative in Indian higher education. The university's governance model ensures that decision making is undertaken as a collaborative effort between the different governing and management bodies of the university. Founders of Ashoka envision that over time, alumni will take up governance and leadership roles of the university.

Collaborations

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



MA
ENGLISH

APPLICATIONS OPEN
apply.ashoka.edu.in



Photo Credit: Utkarsh Budholiya

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SOCIAL MEDIA

 [grad_ashoka](https://www.instagram.com/grad_ashoka)

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Education City, Sonapat, Haryana - 131029