

Admission Notification for the Young India Fellowship Class of 2017-2018

The Young India Fellowship (YIF) at Ashoka University is now accepting applications for admission for the Class of 2017-18. The YIF is a one-year multidisciplinary postgraduate diploma programme in Liberal Studies. The Fellowship brings together a group of bright young individuals who show exceptional intellectual ability and leadership potential from across the country, and trains them to become socially committed citizens of the country. YIF exposes them to a diverse set of subjects and perspectives, delivered by some of the finest teachers from India and around the world. The aim is to help Fellows become well-rounded individuals who are able to think critically about issues from multiple perspectives, communicate effectively and go on to become self-aware leaders with a commitment to public service.

The Young India Fellowship at Ashoka University is delivered in collaboration with University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), Carleton College, University of California Berkeley, University of Michigan, King's College London, Trinity College Dublin, Sciences Po Paris, Yale University and Wellesley College.

YIF offers full and partial scholarships to successful applicants and there is no fee for applying to the programme.

Eligibility

The YIF programme is open to:

- Those with a recognised undergraduate or postgraduate degree
- Those who are no more than 28 years of age on 31st May, 2017

The Fellowship promotes diversity and applicants from all areas of specialisation are encouraged to apply. While applicants who have been educated in a vernacular language as their medium of instruction are welcome, it is expected that they will be able to converse, read and write in English, since the medium of instruction at the programme, is English.

For more information about YIF, visit <http://youngindiafellowship.com/>

Admission process for the Class of 2018 opens on August 22nd, 2016 and will close on February 28th, 2017.

The admission process is split into two rounds:

Round 1

Applications open on- 22nd August, 2016

Last date to submit application- 18th Dec, 2016

Telephonic interviews- 1st October, 2016 – 31st January, 2017

In-person interviews- 1st December, 2016 – 28th February, 2017

Final offers to 1st-round applicants- 1st January, 2017 – 10th March, 2017

Round 2

Applications open on- 19th Dec, 2016

Last date to submit application- 28th Feb, 2017

Telephonic interviews- 1st February, 2017 – 15th May, 2017

In-person interviews- 1st March, 2017 – 31st May, 2017

Final offers to applicants- 15th March, 2017- 15th June, 2017

Programme begins – 13th July, 2017

Some of the highlights of the programme include:

1. Partnership: The YIF is run in collaboration with the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, Carleton College, and University of Michigan, King's College London, University of California, Berkeley, Trinity College Dublin, Sciences Po, Yale University and Wellesley College.

2. Unique Curriculum: The Fellowship offers a broad range of learning and multiple perspectives through courses which build skills and perspectives. Some of the areas of learning at the YIF include Sociology, Economics, Statistics, Philosophy, Art, History, Literature, Business, Leadership, Group Dynamics, International Relations, Writing and Visual Communication.

3. Faculty: The courses are taught by inspiring faculty from India and abroad. Some of our eminent instructors include Kenwyn Smith, Professor of Organisational Behaviour from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; A.K. Shiva Kumar, Development Economist & Visiting Professor, Harvard University; Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Historian, Author & Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University; and Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission of India and member of the National Advisory Council.

4. Peer Learning: The Young India Fellowship offers an invaluable opportunity for Fellows to forge relationships for the future. Typically, a YIF class comprises engineers, scientists, accountants, lawyers and designers, as well as those who have graduated with degrees in History, Sociology, English Literature and the Liberal Arts. There are also those who come with some work experience. This multidisciplinary environment, coupled with the demographic diversity in each class, gives every Fellow a unique exposure to multiple perspectives. Through group activities and projects, Fellows are exposed to – and eventually learn and absorb – a wide range of skill-sets and interests from their peers. For many, this learning from others in their class is as invaluable as the more formal education they receive.

5. Mentorship: YIF Fellows are mentored by a group of high academic, business and social achievers in their journey to excellence. Some eminent mentors include Christophe Jaffrelot, Director, CERI, Sciences Po; Ashok Alexander, former consultant with McKinsey and head of India operations, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Ravi Bhoothalingam, Founder and Chairman, Manas Advisory; Sumantra Bose, Professor of International and Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science; and, Laila Tyabji, craft revivalist, art designer and the founder of Dastkar.

6. ELM: To complement coursework with real work experience, Fellows learn through the Experiential Learning Module (ELM), which is an eight-month long part-time engagement with an organisation on live projects. Each project is taken up by a team of 3-4 Fellows and involves working closely with the top management of the organization. Besides giving a glimpse of real-world issues, the module is aimed at equipping the students with basic team-building and problem-solving skills. Some of the ELM projects undertaken have been with Harley-Davidson India, Microsoft, Cipla, Media for Change, Natural Justice, PRATHAM, Shri. Naveen Jindal's Office of Development, McKinsey Global Institute, Abott India, India Innovation Centre, Samagra, MP Rajiv Gowda's Office, MP Jayant Sinha's Office, Centre for Political Data at Ashoka University, Evalueserve, FutureBrands, and LaUltra.

7. Beyond YIF: Some Young India Fellows are studying at some of the world's leading universities like University of Oxford, Stanford University, Yale University, Kellogg Business School, London School of Economics and Political Science, Sciences Po, Central European University, University of Michigan, Geneva Institute, Berlage Center for Advanced Studies in Architecture and Urban Design, Columbia University and the University of Chicago. Many alumni have been awarded prestigious scholarships like Chevening, Commonwealth, Fullbright and Rhodes Scholarships.

Many have been placed at top corporate houses like American Express, BCG, McKinsey, Microsoft, Schlumberger, Cipla, Ernst & Young, Genpact, Goldman Sachs, Godrej, Hidesign, Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB), Star TV, Google, Religare, Ratnakar Banks, Tata Power, Hindustan Times, and start-ups like OYO Rooms, Zoztel, Convegenius and AsaanJobs. A couple of Fellows have also cracked the UPSC exams with all-India ranks under 50.

Some have decided to contribute in the not-for-profit, development and sustainability sectors and have joined the ranks of organisations like the Samagra, Pradaan, World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, Amnesty International, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), UN Sustainable Solutions Development Network, Samaj Pragati Sahayog and PRATHAM. A few Fellows have shown evidence of their entrepreneurial spirit, setting up their own start-ups or continuing with those they were already part of.

8. Guest Lectures: The Fellows attend guest lectures by global achievers and role models drawn from a range of sectors in the further pursuit of education through experience. Young India Fellows have been inspired by more than 130 pre-eminent individuals like Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, Madeleine K. Albright, Former Secretary of State, United States of America; Raghuram Rajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India; Kaushik Basu, Chief Economist, World Bank and Professor of Economics, Cornell University; Ramachandra Guha, Historian, writer & columnist; Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India ; Ireena Vittal, Partner at McKinsey & Co; Pranoy Roy, Co-Chairman & Co-founder, NDTV, Rajdeep Sardesai, Shashi Tharoor and Robert Swan.

9. Need Based Scholarships: The YIF is a unique and highly selective programme in which each Fellow is hand-picked as part of a pan-India search, and is offered full or partial funding. Apart from full scholarships, YIF offers partial funding to successful applicants through full tuition, half tuition and merit scholarships.

10. Ashoka University: YIF was the precursor to Ashoka University, a long cherished dream of the founders to create a Liberal Arts university and set a new standard in Indian higher education. Ashoka University offers a three-year undergraduate programme with an option to do an extra postgraduate year through the Masters in Liberal Studies programme. The Young India Fellowship is Ashoka's postgraduate diploma programme in Liberal Studies.