

WRITING URBAN INDIA

CALL FOR FELLOWS

What is WUI?

Writing Urban India (WUI) is an initiative that seeks to promote and advance writing and research publications on urbanisation in the Indian context. India's ongoing development transformation has rich potential to generate valuable research insights for urban studies, but writing in this area has only touched the tip of the iceberg. This fellowship seeks to identify, enable, and facilitate early-stage researchers who are involved in the study of the urban in India to develop their own writing across issues and refine it to a stage where it could be published.

How is the fellowship structured?

The fellowship programme will be for the duration of the writing engagement, up to a maximum of six months, and includes a small, one-time award of Rupees 20,000 (Twenty Thousand only) in recognition. The programme will cover the following components:

- Guidance on using the right reading lists; access to journal articles
- Providing access to a peer / mentor network of senior scholars for solidarity and support

Access to knowledge and network



- Assistance with research writing, including guidance on content and expression
- Opportunity to build confidence, and add to presentation and speaking skills

Skill building in writing / communication



Potential Outcomes of the Fellowship



Producing a piece of publishable work in urban studies / development



Confidence and familiarity with framing the right research questions and presenting them well



Cross-perspective exposure to topics in urban development; promoting a wider understanding of one's own research



Larger understanding of research environment & community; knowledge on research ethics

Modes of Engagement during Fellowship

A combination of the following modes of engagement will be available to the selected Fellows during the course of the programme. Fellows would be expected to devote **at least ten hours a month**, over and above time spent on their own writing to activities organised by the network.



The fellowship is NOT an academic degree or any other form of recognition from these institutions. The goal of the fellowship is to nurture writing as an essential part of being urban scholars and professionals. To that extent, while we focus on the process, the end product of the fellowship is a publishable piece of writing in a genre of the fellow's choice – op-eds, commentaries, academic article, and such. **The fellowship is not envisioned as a substitute or alternative to the regular work of the scholar** - but as something that builds on a particular aspect – that is to say, writing - of the work that the fellow is already carrying on as researcher or practitioner.

The Network currently consists of researchers from the following institutions but other researchers are also expected to join in the near future:

Member	Designation / Institution
Dr. Ashima Sood	Associate Professor, Anant National University
Dr. Amita Bhide	Dean, School of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Dr. Anant Maringanti	Director, Hyderabad Urban Lab
Dr. Gautam Bhan	Senior Lead, Academics & Research Indian Institute of Human Settlements
Dr. Gopa Samanta	Professor of Geography & Director, UGC - HRDC University of Burdwan
Dr. Karen Coelho	Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies
Mukta Naik	Fellow, Centre for Policy Research
Dr. Marie-Hélène Zérah	Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research Research Director, CESSMA, IRD, University of Paris
Dr. Partha Mukopadhyay	Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research
Dr. Ratoola Kundu	Assistant Professor, School of Habitat Studies Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Dr. Rohit Negi	Associate Professor, School of Global Affairs Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, New Delhi

Who can apply?

WUI seeks to reach out to a diverse group of students / early-stage researchers / practitioners in urban studies in India. Specifically, those who can apply are:

- a. Urban practitioners
- b. Students enrolled in post-graduate programmes
- c. M.Phil. / Ph.D. researchers
- d. Independent researchers who are not part of an academic programme, but have a body of work on urban issues can also apply.

How will fellows be selected?

The common characteristics we are looking for are deep interest in the subject of urban studies, and a strong drive to generate and publish high quality research in this area. Apart from this, the following would be required to be submitted to the email ID provided below, before the last date. Emphasis for selection will be on the first two items:

- a. 1200-word proposal with a research idea, summarising its originality, rigour, and the value that it brings to the field of urban studies (reflecting promise of the applicant in writing);
- b. 300-word statement of purpose from the candidate as to what they expect to gain from the fellowship;
- c. Detailed curriculum vitae (bio-data), including academic record, of the candidate
- d. Writing samples on urban issues, if any (in any language).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Are there any restrictions on the topics / themes of our research while applying for the fellowship?

A: No. Any topic / theme under urban studies / development is permissible.

Q: Is the application only in English, or can I apply in my regional language?

A: Applications should preferably be in English, since the fellowship would require candidates to write one final output in English. However, fluency in English is not a criterion for evaluation of candidates and if the candidate feels that she or he can make a stronger case for acceptance into the fellowship in a regional language, they can do so.

Q: Are there any restrictions on the age of the candidate / institutions / regions from which we can apply?

A: No. However, because of regulatory limitations, we will not be able to make awards to those without Indian bank accounts.

What is the last date for applying, and when will the fellowship begin?

A: The first cohort would be selected from the applications received by **15th January, 2021**, and the programme is **expected to begin on 15 February 2021**. Later applications can be considered if all fellowships are not awarded.

Email ID for submissions: wui@cprindia.org