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FOUNDATION FOR
UNIVERSAL RESPONSIBILITY
of His Holiness The Dalai Lama

Young Writers' Workshop

Compassion, Connection, Candour: A Writing Circle

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will lead the sessions?

Devapriya Roy will helm the inaugural cycle of the Workshop. She is the acclaimed author of *The Heat and Dust Project* (co-authored with Saurav Jha), *Friends from College*, and the graphic novel *Indira* (illustrated by Priya Kurian), among others; she is also a Senior Writing Instructor at Ashoka University, where she has taught Critical Thinking Seminars and Creative Writing courses for six years. Devapriya will be assisted by Anukriti Prasad. Additionally, the Workshop will feature guest sessions with eminent journalists, authors, editors and publishers.

What is the frequency and duration of these sessions?

The sessions will be held every Saturday at the India International Centre, Delhi, unless stated otherwise. The duration of each session will be 2-3 hours.

How will the sessions be structured?

Most sessions will begin with an hour-long, interactive lecture by Devapriya Roy, discussing craft, technique, and focused discussions on the readings. This will usually be followed by an hour of writing time, with specific exercises for short pieces that will later be workshopped by the cohort or receive feedback from the facilitators.

This is the foundational structure that, subject to mutual agreement by the cohort and facilitators, may be modified.

Can I still apply if I have no formal writing credits?

Yes. We require undergraduate-level reading and writing experience and welcome applications from aspiring writers who seek to develop their craft in alignment with the values of the Workshop. You need not be a published writer or have taken creative writing courses in the past.

What does the selection process look like?

After we review your application, if you have been shortlisted, you will receive an email link with slots for a brief, virtual interview, one of which you will select. The interview will be a one-on-one interaction to help us understand your motivation and intentions behind applying to the Workshop and allow us to gauge your interest and sincerity. If selected, you will receive an acceptance email, after which you are required to confirm your participation and submit your refundable security deposit.



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I'm based in another city. Is there a provision for virtual participation?

Unfortunately, we are only hosting in-person meetings in Delhi for this cycle of the Workshop. We encourage you to apply for any virtual editions we organise in the future.

What forms of writing will the cohort work with?

For this cycle of the Workshop, we'll be working with short fiction and personal essays. You are welcome to apply even if you have not previously written short stories or essays but please note all your writing for the programme and your final submission will have to either be a story or an essay.

Are there any set themes and topics that I will need to write about?

No. The Workshop does not seek to limit your work, only to develop a lens of compassion and connection through which you create. We want to discover and nurture stories that reveal a hopeful perspective of human nature and the significance of human connection.

What does the programme cost?

The Foundation does not charge fees for its programmes; the Workshop itself is free of cost. However, to ensure accountability and to encourage successful completion of the programme, all accepted participants are required to submit a refundable security deposit of ₹5,000.

How should I submit my security deposit?

Once you have been selected, please submit a post-dated cheque for ₹5,000 in the name of the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama by courier/registered post or by physically dropping it off at our office. The cheque will be returned to you once you have fulfilled the requirements of the Workshop. Alternatively, you may choose to donate it to the Foundation at the end of the programme, if you so wish.

What happens if I am unable to attend a session?

As mentioned, attendance for each session is mandatory. The learnings in each meeting will be determined by the presence and participation of every writer and compromising this will affect the entire cohort. Extenuating circumstances aside, an absence may invoke your security deposit.



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What constitutes successful completion of the programme?

Once accepted, each writer is required to attend EVERY meeting of the Workshop to contribute actively to the growth of the cohort. You are also expected to turn in a complete, standalone work at the end of the Workshop that will eventually be featured in the print anthology we expect to compile with our writers' final, workshopped submissions.

What are the requirements for the final submission?

Your final personal essay or short story must be an original, complete, standalone work that you have received feedback on from the cohort or the facilitators. The word count for this will range between 3000-5000 words. This work may not be one that has been previously published, nor can you submit it elsewhere for publishing once you have turned it in for the Workshop.

Can I receive feedback on work I have previously submitted or published elsewhere?

No. Since these are focused sessions that are being curated with specific themes and intentions, we encourage all participants to engage, respond and create original work, within the context of the Workshop.

In case of any further questions, please write to info@furhhdl.org