

Guidelines

Guidelines for the Nāgrika Fellowship Programme 2025-26

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The Nāgrika Fellowship Programme is an initiative by Nāgrika **designed to empower the youth of India's smaller cities** to positively and productively engage with their cities and communities.

The program builds local leadership and knowledge by involving young people in ground-up urban research and storytelling. Fellows will work collaboratively with each other and the Nāgrika team to create easy-to-understand, locally relevant knowledge about cities that are often overlooked in mainstream urban discourse.

Fellows are expected to be based in their chosen city throughout the duration of the program. **Applications open till September 21, 2025.**

Why Become a Nāgrika Fellow?

If you've ever wondered why **your own city** doesn't find its way into the mainstream urban conversation, and if you believe its stories, challenges, and possibilities deserve to be seen and heard, the **Nāgrika Fellowship is for you.**

This fellowship is not just about studying cities; it is about exploring, questioning, and **reimagining your city.** Anchored in your small city, you will uncover how everyday urban life takes shape, how policies play out on the ground, and how communities navigate change. By doing so, you will help build long-lasting, community-rooted efforts that ensure smaller cities are not left out of India's urban future.

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As a fellow, you will:

- **Explore your own city deeply**, developing an intimate and nuanced understanding of its rhythms, systems, and lived realities.
- **Uncover overlooked narratives** by listening to and documenting the voices of people who make the city what it is.
- **Bridge research and storytelling**, turning your observations into accessible knowledge and representation.
- **Build community-rooted contributions**, laying the groundwork for long-term civic and social impact.
- **Grow as a practitioner**, developing a portfolio that blends research, policy, and creative documentation.

The Nāgrika Fellowship is an invitation to see your city with fresh eyes, to connect local knowledge with national conversations, and to shape more inclusive narratives of India's urban future.

Eligibility Criteria

To apply for the Nāgrika Fellowship, applicants must:

- **Between 21 to 27 years old.**
- Living in a small city in India (Population less than **20 Lakhs** as per 2011 census) - [Use this link](#) to verify your city population. You need to be in this city for the entire duration of the fellowship
- Are enrolled in a bachelor's level programme or have earned an equivalent degree recognized in India.

To complete the fellowship successfully you must be:

- Committed to devote 30-40 hours per month for the duration of the fellowship (6 months)
- Attend all the online and two in-person seminars
- Have working proficiency in English as all sessions will be held in English

What Can You Expect as a Nāgrika Fellow?

- **Learn by doing:** The opportunity to learn by doing through real-time fieldwork, documentation, and storytelling
- **Expand your mind:** Explore your city through your multiple lenses
- **Mentorship & Support:** Regular mentorship and support from your cohort and the Nāgrika team.
- **Financial support:** Fixed monthly stipend, Round-trip fare and stay for in person seminar.
- **Sharpen Research Skills:** A space to sharpen your skills in urban research, analysis, and visual storytelling
- **Publish research:** A platform to publish and share your work with wider audiences
- **Amplify Voices:** A chance to amplify the voices of your city and bring underrepresented issues to light

What Do We Expect from a Nāgrika Fellow?

- **Curiosity** about how cities function, grow, and impact communities
- **Strong observation** and documentation skills (written and visual)
- **Commitment** to spend 30–40 hours per month for six months
- Clear and **effective communication** skills (especially in English; local languages welcome for fieldwork)
- **Self-discipline** and accountability in meeting deadlines and goals
- **Willingness to participate actively** in workshops and mentorship sessions this means that in online sessions you will be expected to keep your video on
- **A collaborative attitude** open to feedback and working with a team

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What is the eligibility criteria for being a Nāgrika Fellow?

The eligibility criteria for Nāgrika fellows are:

- 21 - 27 years of age
- Are enrolled in a bachelor's level programme or have earned an equivalent degree recognized in India.
- Living in a Small City: The fellowship is meant for youth living in cities with population less than 20 Lakhs. You must be currently living in the city that you want to represent during the fellowship.

Q: How can I apply for the Nāgrika Fellowship Program?

You can apply to the Nāgrika Fellowship Program only by [Google Form Link](#).

Q: What is the program duration?

- The Fellowship is for 6 months. Starting on 10 October to 12 April.

Q: What is the time commitment per month for the fellowship?

- Fellows will be required to commit 30 to 40 hours per month to the program that is 6-8 hours per week.
- It will also include one or two in-person seminars which would be 3-4 days.
- The live online sessions will typically be held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings at least twice a month.

Q: What is the scope of work of a Nāgrika Fellow?

The Nāgrika Program invites small city youth to engage in a six-month fellowship focused on comprehensive urban documentation, including photography and analysis of infrastructure, accessibility, walkability among others. Through structured modules and workshops, fellows will compile their findings into a detailed report, offering insights and recommendations for enhancing the urban landscape.

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Q: What is the criterion for the city that I wish to research?

Cities that will be researched under the Fellowship Program should have a population of less than 2 million (20 lakhs) as per the [census of India 2011](#).

Q: What is the remuneration for Nāgrika Fellows?

- All Nāgrika Fellows will be given a certificate when they complete their six-month duration.
- A monthly stipend of INR 5000
- The fellows will receive select Nāgrika merchandise when the programme completes.
- Round-trip fare and stay for the in-person seminar.

Q: Am I eligible if I am from a small city but am currently pursuing college in a Metro?

No, in order to participate in the fellowship, you must currently be living in a small city and be able to engage with it physically as well as meet other people living in the city.

Q: How can I enquire about my queries?

The best way to resolve any queries is by writing an email to connect@nagrika.org clearly highlighting the query and adding “Nāgrika Fellowship” in the subject.

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