



CHANAKYA
UNIVERSITY

The Chanakya Fellowship in Social Sciences (CFSS)

Enabling Transformational Pathways



**STUDENTS
HANDBOOK**

Chanakya University

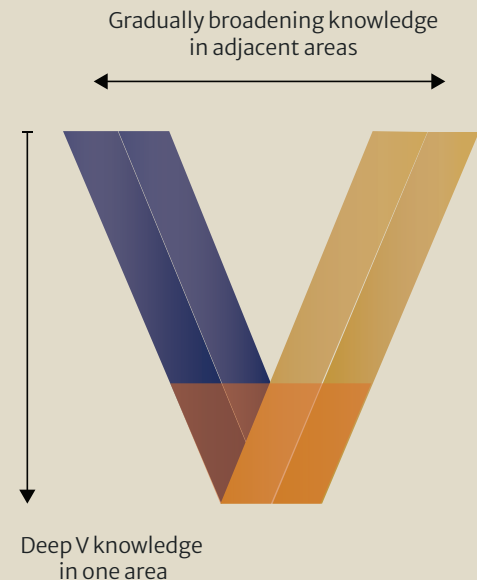
Chanakya University is a global institution in Bengaluru, committed unflinchingly to the service of society through excellence in teaching, development of knowledge, and direct contributions to the world of practice. At Chanakya University, we are committed to fostering a multi-disciplinary approach to education. Our Liberal Education model empowers students to explore their full potential by discovering new avenues for growth and personal development. We believe that learning should be an exciting and fulfilling journey, and we are creating an environment that encourages every student to thrive.



The Chanakya Fellowship in Social Sciences (CFSS)

The Chanakya Fellowship in Social Sciences (CFSS) is a year-long residential postgraduate diploma program offered by Chanakya University. It is a flagship program that brings together fellows passionate about multi-disciplinary, multidimensional, and multisectoral learning. The CFSS offers core courses in Economics, International and Strategic Affairs, Political Science, and Public Policy and provides interdisciplinary training to develop **V-shaped individuals** with deep skills in specific functional areas and vital skills in related disciplines. The Transformational Pathways in Action Module is a unique feature of the program that provides students with exposure to the real world at the premises of the host organization or remotely under the guidance of the partner organization. This module enables students to advance in their professional careers and become leaders.

V-Shaped Individuals



Message from Academic Lead

Chanakya University is a global university, a public-spirited philanthropy initiative with a distinguished Board of Governors and an illustrious International Advisory Council committed to providing excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Aligned with the aspirations of the National Education Policy 2020, the university is looking forward to welcoming the fellows as part of its flagship fellowship programme in social sciences (Post Graduate Diploma in Social Sciences). Unlike any other graduate academic programme, the fellowship offers prospective fellows a unique blend of academic and professional exposure and expertise. The year-long residential fellowship programme will assure a deep and meaningful engagement with various domains of study, research and practice through active mentorship and research guidance. Eminent scholars and professionals will teach the courses in each of these domains. The multi-disciplinary ecosystem at the University will provide many opportunities for the fellows to 'learn' and 'unlearn' through discourse, discussion and debate on campus.

Fostering critical and creative thinking to understand and solve real-world problems is the heart of the fellowship programme. We believe this will help our fellows to determine their 'transformational pathways' for academic and professional journeys.

If you are looking for an opportunity to explore and consolidate your research interest and applied learning in collaboration with eminent faculty members and mentors, I look forward to welcoming you to the Chanakya Fellowship Programme in Social Sciences.

Dr Chetan Singai
Academic Lead

chetan.s@chanakyauniversity.edu.in

Holistic learning across-spheres

Our Fellowship Program offers a unique and comprehensive approach to learning that goes beyond our academic curriculum. As a fellow, you will not only gain knowledge from the faculty and courses but also develop a deep understanding of the various social, formal, national, international, and grassroots scenarios that are crucial for success as a social science professional. Our program is designed to provide you with hands-on experience and practical knowledge that will prepare you for the real world. Beyond this, we provide our fellows with the tools and training they need to maximize their potential and leverage opportunities in any environment. With a diverse range of opportunities for research, fieldwork, and internships, our fellowship program is perfect for anyone looking to build a successful career in the social sciences.

This program emphasizes adaptability, resourcefulness, and innovation, ensuring that our fellows are prepared to succeed in the face of changing circumstances and complex scenarios in personal, social, academic, and professional spheres.



Be the pioneering cohort

Being part of the pioneering cohort of the Chanakya Fellowship in Social Sciences (CFSS) offers an exceptional opportunity to enhance your learning experience, access unique resources, and build close-knit relationships with peers, professors, and industry leaders.

Additionally, being part of a pioneering cohort enhances your visibility to employers and develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership skills. The program focuses on developing core skills in political science, economics, and international relations, including critical thinking, problem-solving, research, and communication skills. Graduates will also possess cross-functional skills such as adaptability, interpersonal skills, research, and problem-solving that enable them to work effectively across different functions and departments within an organization.

Overall, the program equips social science graduates with the skills and knowledge to succeed in the modern workplace, contributing to the success of their Career landscape in a variety of roles and industries.



Educators



Jean-Louis Arcand

Professor of International Economics,
Geneva Graduate Institute

President : Global Development Network



Nikolai Wenzel

L.V. Hackley Chair for the Study of
Capitalism and Free Enterprise &
Distinguished Professor of Economics,
Fayetteville State University



Harsh V Pant

Professor of International Relations, King's
College London
Vice President — Studies and Foreign
Policy, Observer Research Foundation,
New Delhi



Aditya Kuvalekar

Lecturer (Assistant Professor),
Department of Economics, University
of Essex
PhD (Economics), New York
University



Ranjini C Raghavendra

Senior Researcher, Google Health AI
PhD (Women's Studies/Health
Informatics), Lancaster University



Omkar Joshi

Researcher, Maryland Population Research
Center, University of Maryland
PhD (Sociology), University of Maryland,
College Park



Arijit Patra

Senior Principal Scientist, UCB Pharma
DPhil (Engineering Sciences), University
of Oxford



Kishen Shastry

PhD Economics (ongoing), University of
Cambridge



Rahul Verma

Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Ashoka
University
PhD (Political Science), University of
California Berkeley



Disha Sharma

Air Pollution Expert, UN Economic and
Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Post-Doctoral Fellow, SIPA, Princeton
University
PhD (Atmospheric Sciences), Jawaharlal
Nehru University



Pranav Gupta

PhD Political Science (ongoing), University
of California Berkeley



Chirayu Thakkar

PhD International Relations (ongoing),
jointly National University of Singapore
and King's College London



Fellowship Advisory Council

Padma Shri Dr Bibek Debroy,

Chairperson, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister,
Government of India

Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal,

Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New
Delhi

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General at the Research and
Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Padma Bhushan Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan,

Co-Founder & Ex-CEO, Infosys Chairman, Axilor Ventures

Sri S.V. Ranganath,

IAS, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

Padma Shri Prof Subbanna Ayyappan,

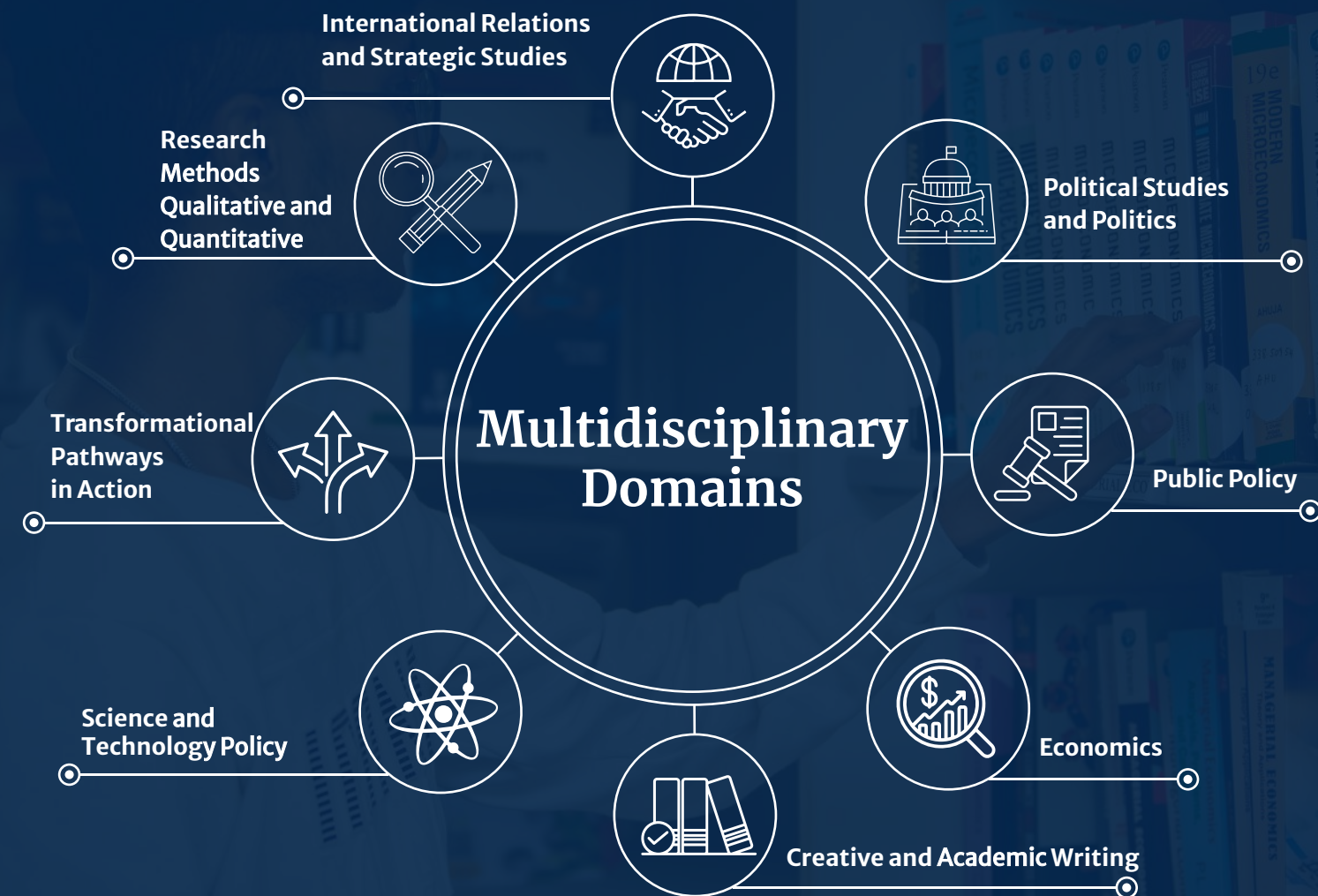
Former Director of the ICAR, Government of India and
the Chancellor of the Central Agricultural University in
Imphal.

Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan,

Former Vice Chairman, UGC, New Delhi and Chairman,
National Assessment and Accreditation Council,
Government of India

Professor Sunaina Singh,

Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University, Bihar



Courses Offered

Foundational

- Research Methods: Qualitative
- Research Methods: Quantitative
- Research Methods: R Software
- Creative Writing
- Academic Writing
- Philosophy of Social Science

International Relations

- Indian Foreign Policy
- International Security
- Empires and Grand Strategy

Political Science

- Indian Politics & Governance
- Indian Voter
- Politics of Representation

Transformational Pathways
Capstone Project/Internship/
Academic Research

Public Policy

- Public Policy: Design and Delivery
- Science and Technology Policy
- Health Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Rural Institutions and Governance

Economics

- Foundations of Political Economy
- Economics of Development
- Economics and Public Policy
- Indian Economy in Transition

Others

- Introduction to Demography Studies
- Law for Non-lawyers
- Introduction to Urban Geography

Transformational Pathways

The objective of the Transformational Pathways in Action Module (TPAM) will be to provide students with exposure to the real world at the premises of the host organization or remotely.

The Transformational Pathways in Action Module (TPAM) will entail the following.

- The host organization/institution provides a detailed orientation to students about the topic/problem statement and/or roles/responsibilities.
- After the orientation phase, students are associated with the mentor to carry out the assignment.
- All students will submit a copy of the final report to the host organization and another copy to the University.
- The duration of the experiential learning module will be for about 6 weeks.

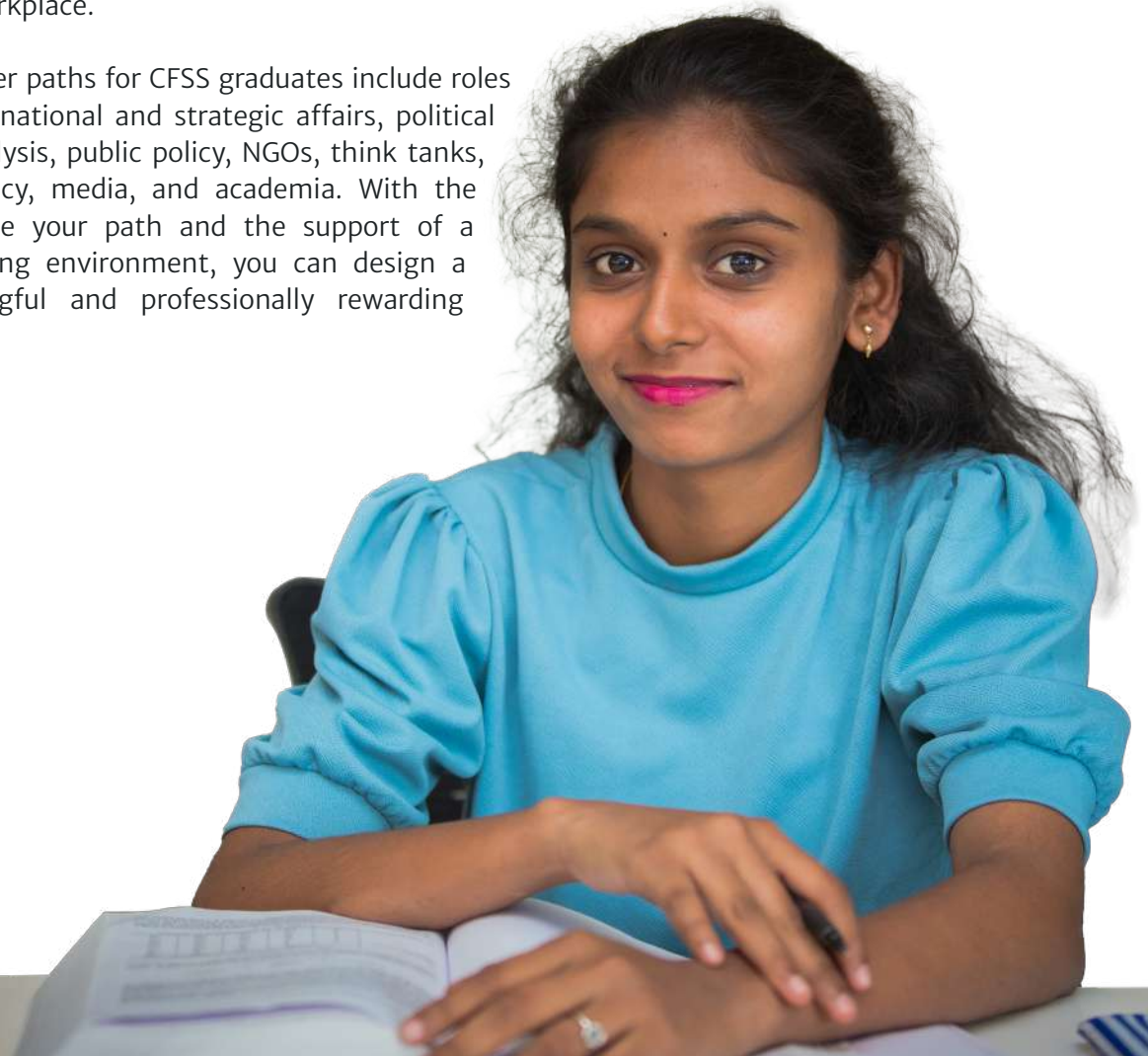
The Following Think tanks/Reputed Organizations are among those who will be participating in the CFSS for the Transformational Pathways in Action Module (TPAM).

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)	Indira Gandhi National Centre For Arts (IGNCA)	Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)
Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)	Swaniti Initiative	Network of Indian Cultural Enterprises (NICEorg)
Center for Soft Power	Global Vikas Trust	SARW, the University of Southern California

Career landscape

Completing this fellowship opens the door to a wide range of fulfilling career paths. Our multi-disciplinary approach to learning will provide you with diverse skills and knowledge that will prepare you for the challenges of the VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous) workplace.

Some possible career paths for CFSS graduates include roles in economics, international and strategic affairs, political consulting and analysis, public policy, NGOs, think tanks, industry, bureaucracy, media, and academia. With the flexibility to choose your path and the support of a collaborative learning environment, you can design a personally meaningful and professionally rewarding career.



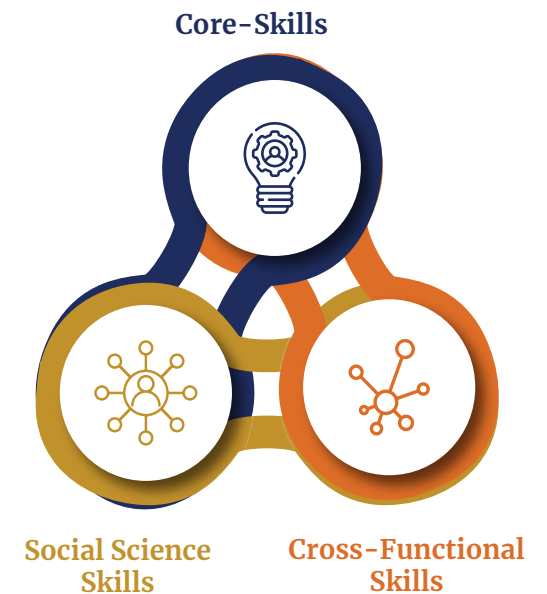
Build Skills To Get Recruited

Core Skills:

Political Science: knowledge of political systems and structures, research and analytical skills, familiarity with political theory and ideology, understanding of public policy and decision-making processes, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, strong written and verbal communication skills, interpersonal skills for effective networking and relationship-building.

Economics: understanding of macroeconomic and microeconomic principles, ability to analyze economic data and draw conclusions, knowledge of financial markets and institutions, familiarity with econometric analysis and statistical software, strong quantitative and analytical skills, ability to conduct research and synthesize information, effective communication and presentation skills.

International Relations: knowledge of global politics and diplomacy, familiarity with international organizations and institutions, understanding of foreign policy and national security issues, ability to conduct cross-cultural analysis and research, strong written and verbal communication skills, analytical skills to assess political and economic risks, interpersonal skills for effective networking and relationship-building.



Cross-Functional Skills:

- Communication: strong written and oral communication skills
- Critical thinking: the ability to analyze complex information, identify patterns and trends, and make sound judgments based on evidence.
- Problem-solving: adept at identifying and solving complex problems
- Research: trained in research methods and data analysis
- Interpersonal skills: possess strong interpersonal skills, which enable them to build relationships and work effectively with colleagues and clients.
- Adaptability: equipped with the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and environments
- Additional skills that social science graduates may find valuable in the workplace: data analysis, digital literacy, project management, intercultural competence, entrepreneurship, sales and marketing, marketing and branding, innovation and creativity, emotional intelligence, research skills, knowledge of policy and governance, cross-cultural competency, strategic thinking, and problem-solving.



Diversity and Belongingness

Student diversity (Devanahalli to Arunachal Pradesh)

At Chanakya University, we believe that diversity is the cornerstone of transformative education. Our community is made up of talented individuals from 14 States and Union Territories in India and two countries around the world, each bringing with them a unique set of experiences, perspectives, and ideas that enrich our intellectual and cultural landscape.

By studying in a diverse environment, our students gain the opportunity to expand their understanding of different cultures and ways of thinking and develop a more nuanced and empathetic perspective. This prepares them not only for success in their future careers but also for leadership in a world that is increasingly globalized and interconnected.

At Chanakya University, we celebrate and embrace our diversity, and encourage our students to do the same.

Admissions

To be eligible to apply for the Chanakya Fellowship Programme intake:

- Applicants should have completed a undergraduate degree or equivalent in any discipline as of July 2023 from a recognized university
- We welcome applicants of all age groups across diverse academic, geographical, professional and socio-economic backgrounds.

Note: Final-year students, working professionals, postgraduate or doctoral degree holders, entrepreneurs, freelancers, and those in the middle of a gap year or preparing for competitive examinations, among others – are all eligible to apply.

Dates to Remember



A Rolling Deadline with Priority for Early Applications for Scholarships

August 1, 2023
Start of Fellowship

May 31, 2024 Conclusion of Fellowship

Scholarships/Financial Aid

Chanakya University has been providing scholarships to ensure diversity, belongingness, and inclusion.

In line with this, the Chanakya Fellowship in Social Sciences (CFSS) awards scholarships on the basis of merit as well as financial need, and in some cases, a combination of both. We understand that financial challenges can make it difficult for students to pursue their academic goals, which is why we aim to help deserving students by providing need-based scholarships.

Some recipients of the scholarship may receive a complete tuition and hostel fee waiver, depending on their circumstances. This means that they will not have to pay any fees for their tuition or accommodation.

If you are interested in applying for the CFSS scholarship, we encourage you to submit a high-quality essay (the optional 300-word scholarship essay) that showcases your academic achievements, financial needs, and any relevant personal or community achievements.

We hope that this scholarship will help make higher education more accessible to students who may be facing financial barriers and help them achieve their academic goals.

Admission Criteria

Applicants are selected through a holistic admission process conducted over two rounds based on supplemental application, statement of purpose, and interview.

Applicant Profile

The Chanakya Fellowship in Social Sciences program is looking for candidates who can harness their academic and professional competencies. Individuals who we believe can use the learnings from the fellowship in synergy with their existing qualifications and aspirations to enable myriad pathways for their life. The key traits we look for in a candidate include passion, commitment, creativity, and critical thinking. Fellows will be expected to show the utmost dedication to the program and complete all coursework and projects for the fellowship period.

Applications are invited from a cross-section of disciplines. An ideal applicant is one who demonstrates a drive to succeed individually and collaboratively. We seek fellows who demonstrate the potential to be a leader in fields such as academia, corporate careers, social entrepreneurship, media, bureaucracy, technology, civil society and politics among others. Through active classroom participation, fellows will be able to leverage peer learning to facilitate multi-disciplinary understanding.

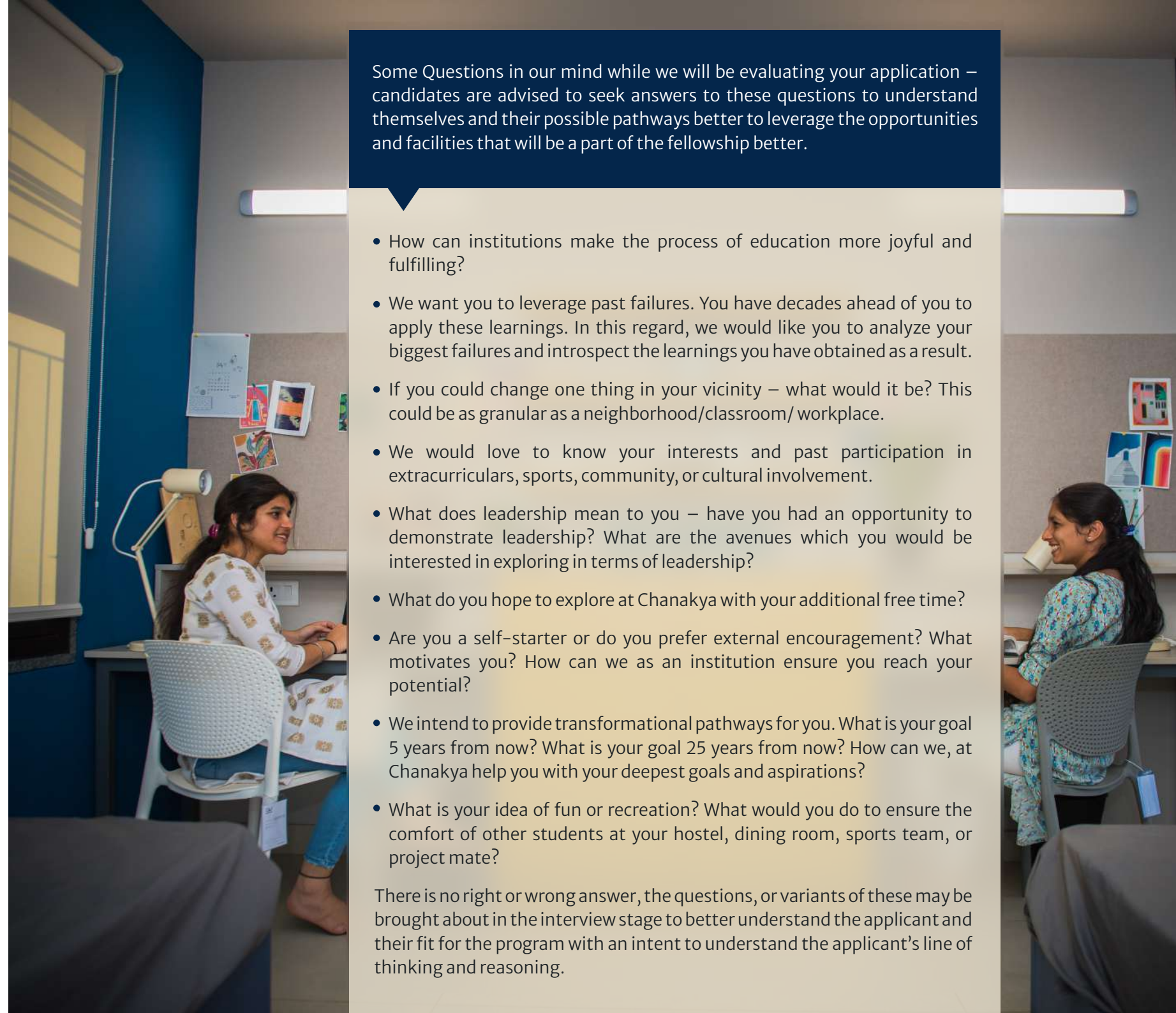
The application form aims to assess the candidate on the following parameters:

- **Past Academic Record** – Since this will be a rigorous program which will be academically demanding, a candidate's past academic credentials will be evaluated. However, this will be one of several parameters which will be evaluated.
- **Adaptability**– Ability to work with diverse teams with different ideologies and worldviews and respect cognitive diversity.
- **Stakeholder Management** – Ability/Interest in working with a cross-section of stakeholder groups
- Ability to take the initiative and demonstrate Leadership qualities
- Passion/Commitment towards society at large and drive to succeed.

Some Questions in our mind while we will be evaluating your application – candidates are advised to seek answers to these questions to understand themselves and their possible pathways better to leverage the opportunities and facilities that will be a part of the fellowship better.

- How can institutions make the process of education more joyful and fulfilling?
- We want you to leverage past failures. You have decades ahead of you to apply these learnings. In this regard, we would like you to analyze your biggest failures and introspect the learnings you have obtained as a result.
- If you could change one thing in your vicinity – what would it be? This could be as granular as a neighborhood/classroom/ workplace.
- We would love to know your interests and past participation in extracurriculars, sports, community, or cultural involvement.
- What does leadership mean to you – have you had an opportunity to demonstrate leadership? What are the avenues which you would be interested in exploring in terms of leadership?
- What do you hope to explore at Chanakya with your additional free time?
- Are you a self-starter or do you prefer external encouragement? What motivates you? How can we as an institution ensure you reach your potential?
- We intend to provide transformational pathways for you. What is your goal 5 years from now? What is your goal 25 years from now? How can we, at Chanakya help you with your deepest goals and aspirations?
- What is your idea of fun or recreation? What would you do to ensure the comfort of other students at your hostel, dining room, sports team, or project mate?

There is no right or wrong answer, the questions, or variants of these may be brought about in the interview stage to better understand the applicant and their fit for the program with an intent to understand the applicant's line of thinking and reasoning.



Application Process

Two-stage application process.

The Application process aids the candidate in self-discovery. Any claims made during the application must be backed with examples, wherever applicable. While English will be the medium of instruction and the application, however, the quality of English will not be a factor in the application. Chanakya University aims to ensure candidates from varied socio-economic backgrounds apply to the CFSS.

Stage 1

- To register, please scan the QR code located on the back and proceed to submit the form or visit <https://chanakyauniversity.edu.in/registration/>
- Applicants will receive a confirmation email.
- Fill background information, education, current role, and related information
- The candidate shall submit a detailed CV/resume, a statement of purpose (about 500 words), and an essay (max 500 words).
- Optional writing brief (max 200 words) for candidates to convey any other essential information.
- Applicants for scholarships are required to share a 300-word essay to substantiate.

Stage 2

- A personal interview will be conducted based on the information provided by the applicants, the interview may also entail relevant topics as decided by the panel to determine the fit of the candidate.

Program Fees

Tuition fee: **INR 5.5 lakhs**

Hostel fee: **INR 1.3 lakhs**





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FOR ANY QUERIES, CLARIFICATIONS, REACH OUT AT
cfss@chanakyauniversity.edu.in

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**[https://chanakyauniversity.edu.in/
registration/](https://chanakyauniversity.edu.in/registration/)**



Apply Now