

Call for Applications: Himalayan Fellowship 2025

An Initiative by the Himalayan Institute for Learning & Leadership (HILL), UPES Dehradun

Are you passionate about exploration, culture, and sustainability? Do you want to embark on a transformative journey in the heart of the Himalayas?

The Himalayan Fellowship invites **25 exceptional undergraduate and postgraduate students of UPES** to participate in a **four-week immersive experience in the Himalayan region**. This unique initiative combines **field-based learning, cultural immersion, and sustainability-focused research**. Fellows will receive **financial support of Rs 30,000** to undertake this journey, enabling them to engage with local communities, explore pressing ecological and social themes, and document their reflections through structured journaling.

Note: Students are expected to travel frugally using public transport such as buses and stay in local homestays or community-based accommodations. This experience is intentionally designed to be grounded, immersive, and reflective.

Fellowship Aims & Objectives

- Provide a unique experiential learning opportunity in the Himalayan region
- Encourage engagement with Himalayan communities and ecosystems
- Strengthen skills in research, critical thinking, and reflective writing
- Promote storytelling and documentation as tools for impact
- Foster leadership in sustainability, conservation, and cultural preservation

What to Expect

- **Field Exploration & Community Engagement:** Travel through Himalayan landscapes and interact deeply with local communities.
- **Mentorship & Research Support:** Guidance from experts in ecology, culture, and sustainable development.
- **Workshops & Interactive Sessions:** Learn about traditional knowledge, sustainable tourism, and environmental stewardship.
- **Journal Writing & Storytelling:** Maintain a reflective journal throughout the journey.
- **Financial Support:** Funding will be provided to cover essential travel, accommodation, and research expenses.
- **Certification:** All fellows will receive a certificate of completion upon successfully fulfilling the fellowship requirements.

Who Can Apply

- Open to all UPES undergraduate and postgraduate students across disciplines.
- Ideal for students interested in sustainability, field-based research, indigenous knowledge, or cultural studies.
- Students with any major disciplinary action recorded against them will not be eligible to apply.

- Students must ensure this fellowship does not conflict with academic, industry, or SRIJAN internships.

Note: This is not a substitute for the SRIJAN internship or any academic/industry internship. Students should apply only if they can participate without compromising their academic commitments.

Application Process

How to Apply:

Submit the following as part of your application, through this link

[\[Application HimalayanFellowship \]:](#)

1. Statement of Interest – Why do you wish to join the fellowship?
2. Project Proposal – What theme will you explore? How will you document your journey?
3. CV/Resume – Highlight relevant academic, fieldwork, or volunteer experiences.

Selection Criteria:

- Originality and feasibility of the proposed project
- Relevance to the fellowship themes (see below)
- Academic background and motivation
- Preference to students with outstanding performance in SRIJAN internships
- Strictly no AI-generated or plagiarized content

Proposals must be original. Use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard) or plagiarism will lead to disqualification.

Fellowship Themes (Indicative Topics)

Applicants may choose from the following themes or propose their own:

1. Climate Change & Environmental Resilience
2. Indigenous Knowledge & Cultural Preservation
3. Sustainable Tourism & Community-Based Livelihoods
4. Water Resources & Mountain Hydrology
5. High-Altitude Health & Nutrition
6. Youth, Gender & Social Equity in Himalayan Communities
7. Sacred Landscapes, Faith & Ecological Stewardship
8. Renewable Energy & Technology Access in Remote Areas
9. Migration, Identity & Aspirations of Himalayan Youth
10. Disaster Risk, Resilience & Mountain Safety

Expected Outcomes

- **Exhibition Opportunities:** Selected fellows' work may be showcased in national and international platforms.
- **Field Contribution:** Journals and documentation will contribute to global conversations on Himalayan sustainability.
- **Time-Series Research:** Fellows may be invited to contribute to long-term research on regional change.
- **HILL-UPES Network:** Lifetime membership with HILL, offering mentorship and ongoing academic opportunities.

Important Dates

- Application Deadline: 2nd May, 2025
- Announcement of Fellows: To be communicated
- Fellowship Duration: 2nd – 27th June, 2025 (4 Weeks)

Contact For queries:

 Email: himalayanfellowships@ddn.upes.ac.in

 Fellowship Coordinator: Anu Singh

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is this fellowship a replacement for SRIJAN or academic/industrial internships?

No. This is an independent experiential program. It should not clash with SRIJAN or other internship requirements.

2. Do I need prior field experience to apply?

No, but a demonstrated interest in the Himalayas, sustainability, or community work will strengthen your application.

3. How much support will I receive and what will it cover?

Fellows will receive financial assistance of Rs 30,000, intended to cover basic travel, accommodation (homestays), and research needs. You are expected to spend frugally and travel by public transport where possible.

4. Can I apply with a creative or interdisciplinary project?

Yes! As long as it ties meaningfully to Himalayan sustainability and culture, creative formats are encouraged (e.g., photography, storytelling, visual anthropology).

5. What should I avoid in my application?

Do not use AI tools or plagiarize content. Ensure your proposal is original, personal, and clearly relevant to the Himalayan context.

6. Will my work be published or showcased?

Yes, select works may be included in exhibitions, digital platforms, or publications by HILL-UPES.

7. Will I have guidance during the fellowship?

Yes, each fellow will be assigned a faculty mentor who will provide academic and reflective support throughout the journey. Fellows will maintain regular contact with their mentor, including periodic check-ins and sharing of weekly reflections.