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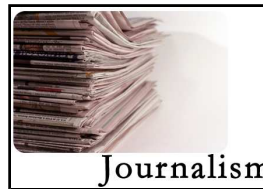
Study in Canada - Univs&Programs - 16 Jul, 2007

The 'Write' Stop ★★★★★

If you're looking to ease into the Canadian media industry, The Canadian Journalism for Internationally Trained Writers program, could be tailor made for you, writes Savia Rajagopal

The Canadian education system prides itself on continuously evolving and creating innovative curriculum that is in step with the needs of today's world. To that end, a unique program called Canadian Journalism for Internationally Trained Writers (PJITW) is being offered by Sheridan College in Ontario, Canada, targeted at those individuals who have worked professionally as journalists and are looking to gain a foothold in Canadian media.

Into its second year of running, this program attracts a multitude of people from various nationalities and backgrounds, thus emphatically representing Canada as a multi-cultural nation. The program by itself is for the duration of one academic year which is split across 3 academic semesters and begins in January of each year. With an internship of 3 months at the end of the program, this course finds many takers as it blends theory and practical training effortlessly. The course structure aims at reinventing and refining a writer's skill sets to suit the Canadian journalism environment, with several industry experts extending their expertise and support to this program.



What makes this program truly innovative is that nowhere in North America is such a program available to students who bring with them rich, varied work experiences from around the world. By allowing students who have at least 3 to 5 years of work experience to apply for this program, it permits experienced journalists to gain entry into the program on the basis of their rich experience and previous academic achievements. Sheridan also offers a two-year journalism program that is available to anyone else who may wish to pursue journalism as a career but have no formal journalistic experience.

To gain entry into this program, the eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Postsecondary diploma or degree (International credentials will be assessed by OCAS) or
- 3-5 years experience in the journalism/writing profession; or a complementary profession and
- 500-word autobiography
- 250-word document stating why you wish to be in the programme
- Résumé
- Sample of work such as maximum of five published writing samples. One unpublished essay or article (maximum five pages) is also acceptable.

In addition to the abovementioned factors, there is an English assessment test, right at the outset that seeks to determine the level of language skills of the prospective students. Should it be unsatisfactory, then the students are directed towards English language training.

The program structure includes interesting courses such as the Culture and Protocol of the Canadian media, Research techniques for International Journalism as well as courses that acquaint new writers in Canada with Canadian literature, etc. The teaching method is an interesting mix of theory and practical assignments, thus giving foreign students a fairly

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good idea of what to expect at their future workplace. The faculty that handles various courses are established writers, editors and journalists from the media and that adds a real, practical edge to the prescribed syllabi.


For those who undertake this program, future job positions could include those such as reporters, writers, editors at newspapers, magazines, publishing companies, websites and other new media. Also, positions such as writers for NGOs and other governmental organisations can also be an option.



Fees

The fee for the course is 4400CAD

(For more information, go to www.sheridaninstitute.ca)

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