

FAQs

— What is this fellowship about?

The objective of the fellowship is to identify comics creators, writers and illustrators who wish to write engaging non-fiction for young adults with a strong gender inclusive focus. It aims to build communities of process-oriented creators who will open up windows to new ways of writing history, foregrounding the contribution of women from diverse fields.

— Who can apply?

This call is ideally open to comics creators/writer-artist teams/duos/an individual who is able to do both. Preference will be given to proposals that can take care of both simultaneously. If you are for some reason unable to team up with a partner (with an illustrator or writer), Zubaan will do its best to pair you with one. You have to sign a mutually acceptable agreement of working together on the project.

Requirements:

- Open to comics creators, writers and illustrators with an interest in creating illustrated stories for young adults. Preference will be given to women, queer, trans and nonbinary people from the Dalit, Bahujan, Adivasi/Tribal, Northeast Indian and/or religious minority communities.
- Demonstrated experience or strong interest in issues related to gender, history, culture, and art
- Commitment to research, write, illustrate and produce a substantial work which would lead to a complete graphic story in the stipulated time frame.
- Availability to participate in a five-day residential workshop in Bangalore, scheduled for mid to end June 2026 (this will be confirmed soon)

— Can I apply if I live outside of India?

Only if you have an Indian bank account and if you will be able to attend the workshop in person and select events as the project rolls forward.

— Is there an age limit?

Yes, 20-40 years.

— What language should the proposal be in?

In this round of the fellowship, the proposals should be in English. We will open up to some Indian languages in subsequent rounds.

— What should I not submit?

Please don't submit manuscripts. Please send us clearly articulated proposals (maximum 2 pages) for a story that will be written subsequently after interactions with mentors.

— What does the process of mentorship look like?

You will be introduced to your mentor(s) in the orientation workshop. You will work out a schedule for regular follow up over email and calls over the next eight months.

— Who will own the copyright to the work created during the fellowship?

Should your proposal be accepted, Zubaan will sign a contract with you outlining the terms. The copyright of your individual piece will be owned by you but Zubaan retains first publishing rights in English and other Indian Languages. The copyright of the published anthology will rest with Zubaan.