



stories for change

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BrinkLit.org

## Education and Curriculum Fellowship Opportunity

Brink Literacy Project - *F(r)iction in the Classroom*

**Title:** Education and Curriculum Fellow

**Start Date:** Flexible, positions start as early as September 2022

**Duration:** 6 months

**Time Commitment:** 18–20 hours per week

**Stipend:** \$10,000

**Location:** Remote (with travel to Denver for one summit)

**Deadline:** Rolling. Review and interview cycles begin August 8, 2022.

### HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your résumé, contact details for two references, and written response to the following questions:

- What is most compelling to you about Brink's approach? (250 words)
- Why do you believe you'd be successful in this role? (400 words)
- What is your superpower? You may be good at many things, but what are you truly great at? (400 words)
- What kind of workplace do you thrive in? What kind of workplace do you struggle in? (400 words)
- Which literary character do you think you relate to most, and why? (200 words)

Please submit your application at [brinklit.submittable.com/submit/231489/education-curriculum-fellowship-friction-in-the-classroom](https://brinklit.submittable.com/submit/231489/education-curriculum-fellowship-friction-in-the-classroom).

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Position starts as early as September 2022, with some room for flexibility.

## A QUICK NOTE

Most candidates for this position will have a combination of storytelling, publishing, administrative, and classroom experience. In particular, we put huge emphasis on the ability to sculpt and help guide others in the creation of moving, innovative stories.

This is the ideal position for an experienced editor and/or writer with a strong education background, specifically teaching in high schools and/or universities. We will certainly consider great applicants who have other experience, but all applicants must have:

1. an intimate understanding of how to create and edit great stories
2. an ability to communicate these elements in curriculum and in the classroom
3. an extremely high level of organization, communication, and logistical follow-through

## ABOUT BRINK

### **Vision:**

Brink believes that in utilising/harnessing the power of storytelling, we can nurture strong, connected, empathetic communities that have access to equal opportunity and self-actualisation.

### **Mission:**

Brink Literacy Project utilizes the power of storytelling to foster a love of literature, increase literacy rates, and empower underserved populations. By combining innovative education programs with community involvement, Brink creates pathways for underrepresented, diverse, and emerging voices.

### **Our Unique Approach:**

Brink believes that by refocusing the stories we each tell about ourselves, individuals can unlock their own potential and achieve self-actualization, regardless of background. Furthermore, by engaging with the stories of others—especially those most different from our own—our capacity is amplified, increasing critical thinking, empathy, and accountability to make the world a more inclusive and tolerant place.

## ABOUT OUR LARGEST PROGRAMS

### Frames Prison Program

Started in 2017, Brink runs this innovative educational program in women's prisons in the US and UK. Using comics as a way to court low-literacy and reluctant readers, we help students distill a single turning point in their lives into a short graphic memoir. This process works to tackle personal trauma, increase self-sufficiency, and help students gain the tools they need to get out and stay out of prison.

### *F(r)iction*

At the heart of all of our programming, we publish *F(r)iction*, an art and literature anthology that seeks to inspire readers to think differently. Printing bestselling authors alongside brand-new talent, we use this platform to elevate marginalized voices, increase critical thinking, and spark a love of literature. Enjoyed by thousands of readers across the globe, this collection is also the primary teaching tool in all our education programs!

### Publishing Internships

If you love storytelling and want to pursue it professionally, you'll know just how hard it is to get your foot in the door. That's why we work to create a bridge between learning about the humanities and actually working in the industry. Our remote, intensive, fifteen-week program gives emerging publishing professionals the experience, knowledge, connections, and passion to pursue their dreams.

### *F(r)iction* in the Classroom

In partnership with high school and university professors, we work to engage students with diverse, contemporary stories using *F(r)iction* as a mentor text. These courses allow students to read and write about a wide range of topics—from heart-crushing memoirs to wild sci-fi comics—each aiming to engage reluctant readers, increase critical thinking and empathy, and spark a lifelong love of reading.

### The Literary Tarot

A tarot deck unlocking the secrets of classic literature—we delve into the libraries of history, unearthing secrets of the cosmos through the wisdom of our favorite classic stories. An all-star team of beloved authors—including **Margaret Atwood**, **Stephen Fry**, **Roxane Gay**, **Patrick Rothfuss**, and **Celeste Ng**—pair literary works with each card in the tarot, unlocking the secrets of the arcana through the world's most powerful stories.

## THE MISSION FOR THIS POSITION

The Education and Curriculum Fellow will spearhead new systems of implementation and creation for one of our largest educational programs: *F(r)iction* in the Classroom.

The fellow will be working with our team of editors and educators to adapt the current university-focused curriculum to be used by a wider demographic, including charter schools, state high schools, MFA programs, and eventually our prison populations. In addition to overseeing curriculum creation, the fellow will also work with our CEO to create teacher networks to pilot programming and support educators as we scale these programs.

## POSITION NARRATIVE

### Overview:

If you are hired into this fellowship position, you will spend most of your time split between four primary types of work:

1. *Curriculum Creation and Review*: reading comics, stories, and essays; writing curriculum based on them; and ensuring we are creating resources for our students and teachers in innovative ways
2. *Publishing Pipelines Overview*: evaluating the output of the programs (what the students turn in) to ensure stories are of the highest quality, can easily be mentored by celebrity authors, and can be elevated meaningfully into the press
3. *Logistical Oversight*: overseeing program dates, contacts, and training for educators
4. *Community and Business Cultivation*: maintaining and growing our community of teachers, education directors, and nonprofit partners to increase impact

This position is ideal for someone who enjoys working to create innovative solutions; believes in the power of storytelling to change lives; can collaborate constructively and humbly with teams of educators, editors, and publishers; and is excited about disrupting educational systems to create lasting, individual change.

## **Experience**

Brink is not a degree-based employer. We hire based on skills and ethos, not traditional experience. With that said, competitive candidates for this position will:

- display an acumen for story creation and/or editing
- possess strong project management skills
- have an understanding of the current educational sphere (including the ability to navigate what you've seen work and fail, so we can pivot to improve the systems we work in, instead of adding to the problem)

## **Your Starting Point**

The *F(r)iction in the Classroom* program has been tested in a variety of forms, primarily with *F(r)iction* as a mentor text in university classrooms. Building off that success, we'll be piloting new accompanying curriculum, lecture modules, and ways to have students submit work to our editorial and publishing teams. This program will require you to jump in at the nascence of a whole new system, studying market competitors, working with new educators, and critically evaluating ways to improve and proliferate this curriculum.

Although much of this role will require strong management of your tasks and deliverables, you'll be supported by your supervisor, colleagues, and partners.

## **Collaboration and Self-Drive**

Brink's working environment is a strong combination of collaboration and self-drive. For the former, you'll be working closely with our CEO, educators, publishers, and our community partners. This requires humility, respect, and an eagerness to learn and grow. If you are unwilling to collaborate constructively, this is not the role for you.

Additionally, although we often work together to brainstorm and vet ideas, this position will require a great deal of self-drive and organization. We'll expect you to organize and deliver on timelines you create and manage. If you struggle to self-motivate and keep yourself accountable, this is not the role for you.

## **Mutual Respect**

Brink is not an organization that seeks to control or micromanage our staffers. Aside from group meetings, our staff runs their own calendars, works around their own commitments, and has no "check in" times. We trust our staff to hit deadlines and to communicate with us if there's a situation outside of their control that prevents deliverables from being met.

Strong communication, mutual respect, and shared ethos is central to the way we work. With a staff scattered across four continents, this is especially important to the way we remotely work and come together to achieve impact.

If you're most comfortable in a more restrictive, in-person working environment, this is not a good role for you.

### **Onboarding and Learning**

This fellowship will be divided into stages:

- 1) onboarding
- 2) plan creation
- 3) plan implementation
- 4) review and future planning

Although most stages will be driven by the fellow, the first month (onboarding) will largely focus on learning about Brink's programs, meeting the team, and vision sessions with our CEO. You'll start reading stories and reviewing curriculum, but we anticipate this first section to mostly be acquainting yourself with our current programming so you can start to formulate roll out plans.

Throughout the fellowship you will receive direct feedback on the resources you create from both the CEO and staffers around you to help shape your work, as well as continue collaborating on vision and strategy planning with our CEO.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Brink's mission centers around inclusion, empathy, and humility. Thus, both the working environment and the materials we teach are centered around championing and embracing diversity in all its forms including (though not limited to): race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religion, and disability.

We do not expect all our staff to personally identify with the diverse community we serve, but a deep respect for differences and a commitment to approaching difficult topics with humility and respect is essential to our work.

Working with marginalized communities (such as low-income communities that your project will specifically serve) requires an enormous amount of empathy and diverse perspectives. Thus, someone who is not only comfortable but *excited* to engage with these populations is essential to this role.

## POSITION RESULTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

### Results

*Results this position will be responsible for achieving:*

1. You have designed a research-driven roadmap of deliverables and requirements for specific educational requirements (high school, university, and prison courses) is designed
2. You created new, innovative curriculum within those parameters for one issue of *F(r)iction* (curriculum for approximately 20 stories, poems, essays, and comics)
3. You've have guided the selection of educators to partner with and helped determine a support plan for teachers who pilot new curricula
4. You've written a business plan for reevaluating impact and expanding program once the pilot period ends

### Responsibilities

*A slightly "lower altitude" view of major responsibilities of this role:*

- 1) Explore and Research Current Educational Gaps and Propose Innovative Solutions
  - a. For university and high school classrooms, the fellow will research what's currently being done and what can be done better, and explore how this program can offer innovative solutions to support teachers and students
  - b. In moving into high schools, there will be several different requirements per state with how curricula will have to be implemented. Fellow will research key states and create a plan to adapt curriculum
  - c. Create viable rollout plan during the fellowship time
- 2) Rebuilding Curricula for New Demographic
  - a. Building curricula around a single issue of *F(r)iction*, the fellow will be responsible for managing the creation of one curriculum package, from writing entries, reviewing other educators' entries, and critically evaluating efficacy with Brink's CEO and our education partners
- 3) Program Business Development
  - a. Select schools and educators to pilot new curricula, track progress, and build out a scalable model to increase classroom use
  - b. Work with our CEO to create funding proposals