



CALL FOR APPLICANTS: The StOries Project

The **CERC in Migration and Integration** program at Ryerson University launches the **StOries Project: Strangers to Ourselves as an alternative training project, grounded in research, reflection, and creative writing.**

Program Structure

The dual core aspects that ground this project are **reading** (including research and discussions); and **writing**.

Reading: Participants can expect to be in a virtual academic setting quite similar to that of a graduate seminar. Readings, topics, and asynchronous online resources will be provided, and participants will be expected to come prepared, for leading discussions, and for participating in them. Through instructor-led and guided discussions, we will be engaging with texts on migration related themes from multiple perspectives and formats across genres. Participants will be encouraged to share readings they find resonant and powerful, and this ongoing and evolving repository of resources will be accessible to all on a virtual platform.

The following textual formats are examples of the genres that will comprise assigned readings:

- literary and creative writing like novels and short stories representative of immigrant and diasporic experiences;
- scholarly and journalistic forms like essays, non-fiction, memoir, for instance, on key topics relating to identity and diversity, race and multiculturalism; and
- texts from popular or mainstream culture.

The workshop setting will also be a peer-led learning space, with breakout rooms designed for collaborative learning, and for iterative and reflexive workshopping of ideas.

Further, the project aims to create safe spaces for dialogue, so that participants may tease out complex dilemmas inherent in differentiated relationships migrant communities have to the Canadian (multicultural) state.

Writing: Participants will be supported to develop their ideas and their expressive skills so they can write their own migration story, which will be published in an edited Anthology at the end of this project.

Participants may select from a range of forms for self-expression, like, fiction, non-fiction, personal essay, or a short scholarly reflection piece in response to their favourite immigrant story. The project will include a workshop with a **Canadian writer**.

Expected Outcome

The StOries produced by the project will be included in an Anthology edited by [Anna Triandafyllidou](#) and [Alka Kumar](#).

Program Schedule

Jun. 15 to Sept. 15, 2021: 6-8 meetings of reading and training and a Saturday workshop in September with a writer.

Oct. 15 to Nov., 2021: Write your own story – Individual mentoring by Alka Kumar (with a virtual office hour).
Stories completed by Nov. 15, 2021.

Dec. 15, 2021 to Jan. 15, 2022: Review and feedback

Jan. 15 to Feb. 28, 2022: Production of Anthology

Who is this program for?

This program is designed for graduate students (see specific eligibility below), who have an interest in experiential aspects of migration, as well as the issues these raise. Selected participants will receive a participation fee upon successful completion of the project.

Who is eligible to apply?

Mandatory requirement:

- Currently a graduate student, enrolled in any program at a Canadian University
- Completed graduate studies in the last 3 years, either in Canada or internationally and currently reside in Canada

Additional considerations:

- Individuals with an interest in exploring issues of identity and diversity, and all the liminal spaces that exist between being a 'local' and a 'newcomer' in Canada are encouraged to apply.
- A strong interest and some experience in creative writing are required. Prior knowledge or studies in migration are considered as assets.

How to Apply

Please send a motivation letter (1-2 pages) explaining why you are interested in being part of this project, and a short CV (2-4 pages) outlining relevant experience and expertise. Please submit in one file clearly indicating as filename: your first and last name. Optional: submit a sample of published (non-scholarly) work – up to 10 pages, for longer works please submit an excerpt.

Deadline for submitting your application: May 20, 2021

Results to be announced: Jun. 15, 2021

Start of the project: Jun. 25, 2021 – End of the project Feb. 15, 2022

Send application to: cerc.migration@ryerson.ca