

Contribution Guidelines

Target Audience

KhayaalUK is an inter-university magazine committed to publishing features and articles on South Asia and the Indian subcontinent. We are looking for regular contributors to write interesting, opinionated and informed articles on current affairs in the Indian state, industry, art and culture and issues concerning the Indian student populace of the UK. In addition to these articles, we also encourage 'letters' to be submitted; these are responses to articles from previous issues and provide an opportunity for discussion to develop over several issues of KhayaalUK. We are open to writing on a range of subjects from broad perspectives; however to take you through the process and our expectations for our writers, the following are a few suggestions and guidelines on how to write for us. These are broad categories we expect our articles to have but they may overlap and are not at all exhaustive.

Content

Current Affairs and Politics

Articles should be informative with accurate up to date facts and developments noted overtime. Heavy political bias, propaganda and character assassination is not recommended though personal opinions and subjective analysis are more than welcome with appropriate justification. Tone should be formal and crisp.

Broader Development Issues

Research-based approach with more extensive analysis of a broad theme or issue facing the region. Can concern socio-cultural issues, law and the judiciary, media, healthcare etc. Draws on several events, history, anecdotes, and opinions- probably over a period of time to create a well rounded picture of the topic at hand with one or more sides of the story.

Industry/ Profession/ Faculty

Reports developments and perspectives about India and the UK from the standpoint of an industry or profession. Draws from personal and professional anecdotes. Can address personal experiences in a field of study relevant to the Indian student.

Culture, Art, History and Travel

Research-based approach to the cultural or historical aspects of the Indian subcontinent, also perhaps its manifestation within the UK. Work can range from travel logs, regarding architecture or prominent artists and movements, figures and events in history. Work supported by visuals such as photographs or artwork is encouraged.

University life/events

Offers a more personal and conversational tone, speaking directly to the students about life and experiences at university. Addressing issues concerning students of Indian origin or reporting points raised/covered at a particular relevant cultural/learning event at a particular university.

Word limit

Articles will broadly be of three length categories. Writer should be willing to be flexible with the article's length, taking into consideration the constraints of publishing.

-Feature-length article: 2000 words upper limit. Must be a dynamic article to run as the main feature article. Writer must try and get in touch early to get approval to run with that length.

-Sub-feature length article: Approximately 1000 words. Would be one of several similar length articles. Can choose from a list of possible topics to cover in current affairs or a relevant one of their choice.

-Short piece: Less than 500 words. Short and concise. Aimed at providing space for 'Letters' in response to previous articles, covering university events, brief travel logs etc.

Policies on inclusion

The inclusion of the names of organisations such as charities, companies etc. will be at the discretion of the editors. We encourage discussion of the work of several such groups but would prefer not to serve as propaganda for any one particular organisation.

Submission

KhayaalUK aims to provide a writing platform for a host of bright Indian student minds as well as provide a means of bringing them together. Our aim will be to be as fair as possible in the inclusion of articles submitted as well as ensure quality. It is very important therefore for writers to be in constant touch with us informing us about topics of choice and their progress in order to ensure no last minute surprises. It is important to:

- Respect preliminary deadlines (for editors review) and final deadlines
- Modify and edit article as per the direction of the editor if necessary
- Avoid disappointment if the article fails to publish, if approved it will appear on the website or the following Issue.

Email your final article as an attachment in a word document (.doc/.docx/.rtf) with a subject title of "Preliminary article/Finished Article: [Article name]". Please ensure to include a suitable title, author's full name, university, course, level and year of study (or 'alumnus') and a high-resolution headshot of the author.

Submitting photographs / art

We encourage you to send in photographs to support articles if relevant. If they are not your own, please ensure these are not copyright protected and give credit to your source.

Please send in original photographs / art of interest in high-resolution attached to an email with a subject of "Original Art" to khayaal.uk@gmail.com. Make sure to include a title, artist's name, university, course, level and year of study (or 'alumnus' if graduated), a high-resolution headshot of the artist and a brief description on the themes, influences and story behind the piece. It may be considered for the cover page piece.

Informal tips on Researching and writing for an article

Advice from a friend who writes for the Economist!

1. Researching:

Google: Read everything (or as much as possible) that's available online about the subject. This helps. It also ensures that you don't cover things that are already out there. I faced this problem with a recent anti-cancer drugs story. We scrapped my first draft entirely. The editor told me that I had covered stuff that was already 'common knowledge' and that I should only focus on the novelties.

Talking to people: People/friends/acquaintances today are a phone call away and you can badger them with questions. A senior editor from Forbes India told me this -- "Talk to as many people as possible. It may just give you more ideas." (I didn't know what this meant until I tried out.)

2. Writing:

Structure: Once you've read enough, it's a good idea to write down bullet points which could be expanded into individual paragraphs. Once you have the brain dump of many such points, you can arrange them chronologically such that the flow of the points "tell a story".

Cut: My former editor told me this -- "When you're done with a post, walk away from it for two hours, return and cut it in half. Cut paragraphs, cut parts of sentences, ask yourself of each word whether it's necessary, and be brutal. An American playwright once wrote that when he finished a page, he decided what his favourite part of that page was and then cut it; it's a good bet that your favourite part is over-written. Kill your darlings. There's almost no first draft that doesn't benefit from being cut in half."