

General Information

Baikal School of BRICS requires applicants to write an essay (Statement of purpose) which explains the nature of interest in Journalism and reasons for pursuing the degree at INRTU.

Through specific examples and detailed reflection, the essay should showcase the applicant's qualifications as a future journalist.

It should address the following questions:

- What aspects of your background and experience are most relevant to your interest in the Journalism?
- What kind of writing/filming/blogging have you done?
- Which issues and phenomena most engage you (Politics, Economics, Social life, Culture) and why?
- What are your key expectations from the Baikal School of BRICS program?

Applicants can include any other ideas he/she considers relevant into the essay (Statement of purpose).

Essay Requirements

To achieve a high score, your essay should meet the following criteria:

Length: 500–2000 words

Structure: Clear organization with a concise summary in the conclusion

Language: Varied vocabulary and accurate grammar

Content: Well-developed ideas presented logically

Ensure you have a thesis and thesis statement. When writing a perfect essay, you must have a thesis to give an essay purpose and develop your stance. The thesis statement makes it simple to understand your perspective or viewpoint.

Have a well-structured essay. Each body paragraph of your essay should begin with a topic sentence which conveys the main point of a single body paragraph. The topic sentence ought to have an argument which supports or builds on the thesis statement

Provide evidence for your arguments. Your argument should be well presented when you state it and explain the specifics which led you to this conclusion.

Resolve yourself to being lucid. Writing the essay requires clear words and sentences.

Purpose to use a formal voice throughout your essay. You should be written with academic vocabulary and grammar structures. Avoid using the informal language and retrenchments such as *can't*, *won't*, *isn't* etc.

Be resourceful in how you come up with your ideas. Perfect essay writing necessitates a distinctive presentation of ideas. Present your opinions in an original format so as to make your essay to appear more alluring.

Purpose to maintain relevance throughout your essay. When writing a perfect essay, ensure that you do not veer off topic. Ensure that the subsequent paragraphs link the main argument or the thesis statement.

Using correct spelling and punctuation. Make an effort of always proofreading through your paper and omit the errors you come across.

Evaluation Criteria

The works are evaluated according to ten criteria, each of which provides an opportunity to receive 0 to 9 points:

- 1) **Author's Original Title** (0 – no title, 3 – repetition of instructor's words, 6 – some correction of instructor's words, 9 – own title).
- 2) **Presence of original thoughts and ideas** on the proposed topic (0 – no ideas, 3 – traditional or limited set of ideas, 6 – own thoughts on the topic, 9 – quite interesting, original thoughts).
- 3) **Organization of the text** by dividing it into **paragraphs** (0 – no division, 3 – each sentence is written on a new line, 6 – division is present but does not correspond to the structure, 9 – the text is organized).
- 4) Presence of an **introduction** (0 – there is no introduction, 3 – there is an introduction but it does not correspond to the text as a whole, 6 – the introduction is related to the text, 9 – it defines the tasks of the text).
- 5) Presence of a **conclusion** (0 – there is no conclusion, 3 – there is a conclusion but it does not correspond to the text as a whole, 6 – the conclusion is related to the text, 9 – it presents conclusions from the text).
- 6) **Arguments and examples** in the essay (0 – no arguments and examples, 3 – traditional or limited set of arguments and no examples, 6 – own arguments and examples on the topic, 9 – quite interesting, original arguments and examples).
- 7) **“Language”** of the text, style and vocabulary appropriate to professional-oriented, journalist writing (0 – informal nature of the text, 1 – mixed style with predominance of informal, 2 – mixed style with predominance of artistic or academic, 3 – one style: artistic or academic text).
- 8) **Coherence, logical consistency of the text** (0 – incoherent sentences, 3 – scattered thoughts on the topic with a certain connection, 6 – thoughts on the topic organized logically, but not connected by linguistic means, 9 – the text is coherent, logically organized with the help of appropriate linguistic means).
- 9) **Cohesion and linguistic integrity of sentences** (0 – the text consists of fragments of sentences or is a “continuous flow”, 3 – most of the sentences are fragments or a merger of two or more sentences, there is no conjunction, there is confusion in the coordination of parts; 6 – most of the sentences are coherent, ordered structures; 9 – all sentences in the text have a clear organization, and their constituent parts are connected with each other by appropriate linguistic means).
- 10) **Presence of spelling and syntactic errors** (0 – there are multiple spelling and syntactic errors, 3 – there are individual spelling and syntactic errors or a number of syntactic errors, 6 – there are individual punctuation errors or the author abbreviates or does not complete individual words, 9 – no errors).
- 11) **Samples of own Journalistic work** (0 – no samples, 5 – not published samples, 6 – one work published and available online, 10 – couple of works published and available online).

Applicants should submit samples of their Journalistic work on separate exam page. Each work should demonstrate an appreciation of the basic standards of good Journalism and an exceptional aptitude for advanced writing/reporting/filming/blogging.