

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background of the top half of the page features abstract geometric shapes in shades of green, teal, and dark blue.

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

2021-2022
OCUFA Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship
in Higher Education Journalism

Citation for Tahmeed Shafiq and Jadine Ngan



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Read by
Nigmendra Narain, OCUFA Vice-President

The Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education Journalism award for 2022 is awarded to Tahmeed Shafiq and Jadine Ngan. Tahmeed and Jadine are student journalists at the University of Toronto, which is situated on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples.

Tahmeed and Jadine are both at the outset of their careers in journalism and have already covered a range of campus, local, and national issues as reporters for The Varsity student newspaper and as independent journalists for publications including The Walrus, Toronto Life, and The Local. Their award-winning proposal for the Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship focuses on the national crisis of suicide among university students. In their application, Tahmeed and Jadine expressed a desire to trace “the long arc” of grief that comes in the wake of a student death by suicide, as well as investigate larger questions about public health, campus culture, and transparency in data reporting around suicide. The story will include data journalism and video interviews and will be produced by The Walrus magazine.

The Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship supports in-depth, investigative journalism on higher education issues, and it is already clear from their past work that Tahmeed and Jadine are a great fit for that mission. In 2020, Jadine wrote a feature for The Walrus on COVID-19 and mental health crises on Canadian campuses and was a finalist for the U of T John H. McDonald Award for Excellence in Student Journalism for a 2021 Varsity feature on burnout among sessional instructors. As a 2021 Local Fellow at the Local digital magazine, Tahmeed wrote a feature on the precarity of contract faculty employment in Toronto. Both Jadine and Tahmeed were nominated in the Best Emerging Writer category at the National Magazine Awards for their work—Jadine in 2021 and Tahmeed in 2022.



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They also go beyond the typical parameters of reporting to tackle contemporary problems through a contemporary journalism lens. Tahmeed is the former managing editor of *The Varsity*, and Jadine is the current editor-in-chief, responsible for shaping the form and content of the paper. As editors, they created internal student journalism guidelines for reporting on suicide, and Jadine also developed an informed consent process for student reporters working with subjects facing trauma and adversity.

One referee wrote of Tahmeed: “I know that he’s someone that will take full advantage of the fellowship to produce work of value and originality.”

Another wrote about Jadine: “A great magazine writer is a dogged researcher, a consummate interviewer, and also a storyteller and prose stylist. Jadine is all of these things.”

For their ambitious and essential reporting project and their commitment to telling stories about all facets of life at Canadian post-secondary institutions, the Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education Journalism selection committee is pleased to present Tahmeed Shafiq and Jadine Ngan with this award.



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The OCUFA Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education Journalism was established to help address the shortage of informed investigative reporting on Canadian higher education issues in the Canadian media. Open to full-time, part-time, and freelance journalists, including students, the fellowship is designed to support those wishing to pursue in-depth and innovative journalism on higher education.