

Alisha Mahen

Instruction Designer + Experience Designer // Designing experiences with people to make a difference in their lives.

/ Education

MFA Design for Social Innovation / School of Visual Arts / GPA: 3.89

SEP 2018 - 2020 // NEW YORK CITY, NY

BA Economics (Honors) / Lady Shri Ram College for Women / University of Delhi

JUN 2009 - MAY 2012 // NEW DELHI, INDIA

Managerial Accounting

and Financial Control / LSE Summer School

JUN 2010 // LONDON, UK

/ Master's Thesis

Using participatory research methods to create tools and services for female Yemeni immigrants in New York City to plan their own education and careers. [Read More](#)

/ Skills & Tools

Human-centered Design, Facilitation and Co-Creation, Experience Design, System Mapping and Visualization, Rapid Prototyping, Usability Testing, Storytelling, Synthesis, Ideation, Sketch, Keynote, Microsoft Office, Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop

/ Internships

Eskolta School Research and Design Inc. / Program Intern

SEP 2019 - MAY 2019 // NEW YORK CITY, NY

Co-designed professional development sessions to empower transfer schools in NYC with design research and PDSA methodology. Designed tools and facilitation guides for participants to use. Visualized feedback from different sessions to improve their effectiveness, which led to higher engagement, mastery and participation.

hiCOLab / Design & Innovation Intern

JUN 2019 - AUG 2019 // BURLINGTON, VT

Applied strategies of human-centered design to define and design a system that integrates health and well-being into the workplace and daily experiences of 8500 employees at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Conducted research using ethnographic methods and prototyped potential solutions over two phases.

/ Professional Experience

Acumen Academy / Instructional Designer

AUG 2020 - Present // NEW YORK CITY, NY

Designed synchronous and asynchronous programs for social entrepreneurs and innovators in partnership with content matter experts. Curated the curriculum and crafted the learning experiences based on desired outcomes and competencies. Managed the operations for the learning platforms in order to improve the user experience.

Programs *designed*:

- **Leadership Accelerator:** A 10-week transformative leadership development program for entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, and social innovators focused on hard-edged leadership skills essential for leading change.
- **Train the Trainer Program:** A year-long training program to develop a collective of facilitators with the values, skills, and capacity to deliver Acumen Academy's content across geographies.
- **Nonprofit Fundraising Essentials:** An online course that introduces entrepreneurial mindsets and practical strategies for nonprofit fundraising, including funding models, donor development, storytelling, and project budgets.

EduStart / SEL Curriculum Designer

MAY 2017 - AUG 2018 // MUMBAI, INDIA

Designed an online platform targeted to provide social emotional learning (SEL) for K-8 students in the United States. Conducted secondary and user research to create the SEL curriculum, learning materials, and facilitation guides. Worked on developing the user experience and interface for the platform. Tested the platform with schools in India and the YMCA, Houston to get feedback on teacher and student experience.

3.2.1 Education Foundation + The Akanksha Foundation / Teacher

MAY 2014 - APR 2017 // MUMBAI, INDIA

Taught ~400 students from low-income households in a public-private partnership elementary school. Designed and implemented a school-wide SEL curriculum by integrating cognitive learning theories with the design-thinking framework. Continuously incorporated student feedback into the curriculum by facilitating one-on-one reflections on their experiences with the curriculum.

Teach For India / Teaching Fellow

JUN 2012 - APRIL 2014 // PUNE, INDIA

Taught 47 students in grades 3-4 in a low-fee private school. Reimagined and constructed technology-integrated visual learning spaces to mitigate limited infrastructure. Directly contributed to an average of 70% student mastery in mathematics and 2.35 years of student growth in reading levels.