



CENTER FOR  
THE ADVANCED  
STUDY OF INDIA

**CASI**  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## Aravind Eye Care System Affordable Healthcare

### CASI-Aravind Internship

The CASI-Aravind partnership offers a competitive volunteer internship to current Penn students who are eager to take a hands-on approach to health care development. Aravind's business model aims to provide high quality and affordable health care to all socio-economic classes. Aravind provides Penn students the opportunity to work alongside doctors and other health care professionals who have dedicated their lives to ending needless blindness. Students interested in medicine, public health, health care management, and social entrepreneurship are an ideal fit for this internship.

### Internship Details

- 10 week internship from May 2024 - August 2024
- CASI will provide up to six (6) Penn students approximately \$5,500 each to cover travel to and within India, affordable housing, and living expenses
- Funds for the CASI Summer Internship are available through a combination of generous support from CASI donors and Penn Global

### Potential CASI Projects

- Develop online courses and patient education materials
- Create information modules focused on eye camps, medical records management, and eye examinations
- Develop and create mobile apps to help patients monitor their own medical care

## About CASI

CASI is an academic research center located within Penn's School of Arts & Sciences. Founded in 1992, CASI is recognized as a national resource and the first research institution in the US dedicated to the study of contemporary India. For questions on CASI Student Programs contact Juni Bahuguna: [junib@upenn.edu](mailto:junib@upenn.edu)

Learn more: [casi.sas.upenn.edu](http://casi.sas.upenn.edu) | Student Blog: [casistudentprograms.com](http://casistudentprograms.com) | [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CASIPenn) [Facebook](https://facebook.com/CASIPenn) @CASIPenn





*"I'm very grateful to CASI for allowing me to embark on one of the revelatory journeys of my life. A summer at Aravind confirmed my interest in health care research and gave me exposure to brilliant ideas and people. From late nights at medical fellows' homes to spontaneous weekend excursions with my co-interns, I was surrounded by people who constantly looked beyond the status quo to get things done more innovatively or explore more adventurously. By bestowing this environment on me, Aravind has made me a better person."*

—Eric Lee C'26

# About Aravind Eye Care System

Aravind Eye Care System is the world's largest eye care provider. In 2011, 2.6 million outpatients were treated and over 300,000 surgeries were performed. Aravind is known for performing affordable and high quality eye care, most notably cataract surgeries, and has made eye care accessible to all regardless of income and location. Since 1976, Aravind has been working across Tamil Nadu to develop a system dedicated to providing affordable eye care services across the region. Through specialty clinics, hospitals, educational training workshops, research, and product development, Aravind has evolved into a sophisticated system dedicated to providing compassionate service for sight. The Aravind Eye Care System today encompasses a network of eight eye hospitals, forty vision centers, seven community eye clinics, a post graduate Institute of Ophthalmology, a manufacturing center, eye banks, and a training center. For more information on Aravind: <http://www.aravind.org>

## Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Madurai is the third largest city in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Madurai was the capital of the Pandyan Kingdom and is celebrated as one of South India's most notable temple towns, known for the Meenakshi Temple. The brightly painted stone-carved temples represent one of the most prominent Hindu pilgrimages.

## Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu

Pondicherry, also known as Puducherry, is a charming coastal town on the southeastern coast of India. Famous for its French colonial influence, the town boasts picturesque streets, vibrant markets, and serene beaches. A unique blend of Indian and French cultures, Pondicherry offers a tranquil escape with its laid-back atmosphere and colonial architecture.

## Accommodation and Food

Penn students stay at Aravind's guest house, a short walk from Aravind's main campus. The guest house is home to many international volunteers and individuals training at Aravind. All meals are served in a community setting at the dining hall. Guest rooms are either single or double occupancy with private bathrooms, wireless internet, cable, and AC.



## CASI Resources and Application Details

- CASI Open House: Thursday, January 18, 2024, time TBD, at CASI, 133 South 36th Street, Suite 230
- 2024 Penn Summer Opportunities and Funding Resources Fair on Friday, January 26, 2024 from 2:00 – 4:00pm in Bodek Lounge in Houston Hall
- Applications close on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 11:59pm EST