



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 to work along side doctors and other healthcare 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 2020 - August 2020
- CASI will provide up to five (5) Penn students approximately \$4,000 each to cover travel to and within India, affordable housing, and living expenses
  - Funds are made possible through the support of Penn's Office of the Vice Provost for Global Initiatives and in conjunction with Penn Abroad and Penn's Global Research and Internship Program (GRIP)

### 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 Laura Iwanyk: [liwanyk@upenn.edu](mailto:liwanyk@upenn.edu)

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*"My internship truly reaffirmed my passion for healthcare and developing interventions to benefit those who cannot access proper healthcare. I've never encountered an organization as effective at delivering high-quality care at such a low cost as Aravind. It is now a permanent reference point for me as I continue to pursue a career in medicine."*

—Camilo Toro C'17

## 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.

### 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: December 9, 2019, time TBD, at CASI, 133 South 36th Street, Suite 230
- Attend a "Chai Chat" on Thursdays from 3:00-4:00pm to speak with one of our past students
- Applications close on January 20, 2020