



Center for
the Advanced
Study of INDIA

CAS

Ek Tara

Education and Development Programs

CASI-Ek Tara Internship

The CASI-Ek Tara partnership offers a competitive volunteer internship to current Penn students who are eager to take a hands-on approach to Education and Child Development programmes. Ek Tara is a registered charitable trust that aims to enhance the quality of life for girls and women in urban slum communities near Kolkata's eastern fringes. Its primary goal is to provide high-quality educational opportunities and capacity-building initiatives, empowering individuals to lead dignified lives. Students interested in education, public health, social work, and gender studies should apply.

Internship Details

- 10 week internship from May 2025 - August 2025
- CASI will provide up to two (2) 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

- Compose proposals and grant applications for the fundraising and communications team at Ek Tara
- Create workshops and modules for teachers and parents on health, nutrition, child welfare, literacy, and numeracy
- Lead music, dance and arts workshops with children at the Tomorrowland Foundation Music and Arts School
- Research and impact analysis for initiatives benefiting children at the learning center

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@sas.upenn.edu

Learn more: casi.sas.upenn.edu | Student Blog: casistudentprograms.wordpress.com/



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About EK TARA

Ek Tara comprises two distinct spaces: the Ek Tara Learning Centre and the Ek Tara Community Centre. The former is a safe and nurturing learning environment equipped with well-resourced classrooms, digital teaching tools, and an integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths (STEAM) Laboratory. It also houses the Tomorrowland Foundation Music and Arts School. ELC reaches out to 1200 children daily and also looks into their health, hygiene and nutritional requirements as well.

The latter focuses on programming geared towards the economic empowerment and social mobility of women, running vocational training and income generation initiatives, and creating resources to further Ek Tara's mission.

For more information on Ek Tara: <https://ektara.org.in/>

Kolkata, India

Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, is a vibrant city known for its rich cultural heritage and colonial history. As a hub of art, literature, and music, it's often called the "Cultural Capital of India." The city offers a mix of old-world charm with bustling markets, iconic yellow taxis, and the serene Hooghly River. Kolkata is famous for its warm hospitality, delicious street food, and landmarks like the Victoria Memorial and Howrah Bridge. While the city has its challenges, including crowded streets and humid weather, its energy and spirit make it a unique experience for any visitor. The city celebrates festivals with great enthusiasm, especially Durga Puja, which transforms the city into a vibrant and colorful spectacle. For a first-time visitor, Kolkata offers an immersive experience into India's diverse traditions, making it a place that stays with you long after you leave.

Accommodation and Food

Students will stay at an AirBnb close to the Ek Tara office. Food and transport options are readily available in the area.



CASI Resources and Application Details

- For questions, contact Juni Bahuguna, Assistant Director, Student and Visitor Programs at junib@sas.upenn.edu