



CENTER FOR
THE ADVANCED
STUDY OF INDIA

CASI
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASI Student Programs in India Rural Development & Livelihoods

CASI-Samaj Pragati Sahayog Internship

The CASI-SPS partnership offers a competitive volunteer internship to current Penn students who are eager to work in India and take a hands-on approach to key issues in development. An internship with SPS will provide Penn students an opportunity to contribute to rural development efforts. SPS focuses on location-specific initiatives in rural and tribal India that enable and empower communities and people's institutions to participate in development and democracy at the grassroots level. The program will help students better understand and reflect upon integrated approaches to poverty reduction, watershed management in a drought prone region, low-cost and low-risk dryland agriculture, women-led self-help groups, livestock development and dairy, and an all women's tailoring unit supplying to national and international markets and retailers. Several SPS programs cater to small and marginal farmers in one of India's most remote, drought-prone, and tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh. The internship can be tailored to Penn students interests but students with an interest in economics, environmental studies, policy, and business are encouraged to apply.

Internship Details

- 10 week internship from May 15, 2017 - July 21, 2017
- CASI will provide up to two (2) 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 International Internship Program (IIP)



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 Aparna Wilder: apwilder@sas.upenn.edu



“Living in India made me start to critique and notice a lot of things that I hadn't in the US. I now notice and think differently about: time, gender inequality, food systems, religion, poverty, education, and waste. I learned exactly how much water I needed and tried not to ever use any extra because it felt like I was stealing water from a dry area that needed it more than I did. In California, where I returned to post-internship, we are in a massive drought—yet even there I don't feel as guilty about water probably because I don't see the hardship caused by lack of water on a daily basis. This small recollection exemplifies the types of things I thought a lot about that I honestly never would have realized.”

—Geneva Gondak C'18

About Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Over the last twenty years, SPS has grown to be one of India's largest grassroots initiatives for water and livelihoods security. Headquartered in a drought-prone tribal area in Dewas district in the state of Madhya Pradesh, their direct interventions are concentrated in 220 villages and towns. They also work with partner organizations on a million acres of land across 72 of the country's most backward districts. Programs include: watershed development; agriculture; self-help groups; Kumbaya – the garment fabrications centre; the right to food; and coordinating the Civil Society Consortium on the National Rural employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). SPS also runs the Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment, where they organize a range of training programs for grassroots partners, government departments, and non-governmental research institutions. For more information on SPS: <http://www.samprag.org/>

Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

SPS is based in Bagli, a rural block in the district of Dewas in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. Located in the Narmada Valley, formed by one of India's largest and most sacred rivers, this area, like so many parts of India, is one of great natural beauty and resources, but also extreme inequality, deep poverty and systemic marginalization, most acute in the tribal pockets of the valley. And yet, both the people and the landscape represent remarkable resilience, creativity, and openness. The innovatively designed campus nestles in villages by a forest at the foothills of the Vindhyan range. It is well connected by road to the small town of Bagli, and is 80 kilometers away from the district headquarters, Dewas, and the historic center and bustling commercial city of Indore. Indore and nearby sites in the Malwa region provide fascinating introductions to the political and religious history of the region and to the rapid changes and challenges of contemporary

Potential CASI Projects

- Research and document international ground water programs in combination with participatory initiatives at SPS.
- Create brochures and booklets for Ram Rahim Producer Company to help.
- Document traditional crops and wild plants with a focus on changing consumption patterns.

Accommodation and Food

Penn students will stay at the hostel on the SPS campus with other staff members. Simple meals are provided on campus.



CASI Resources and Application Details

- **Join the 2017 outreach list:** casi-2017-student-programs-outreach+subscribe@googlegroups.com
- **CASI Open House:** December 13, 2016 from 2:00-4:00pm at CASI, 3600 Market Street, Suite 560
- **Attend a “Chai Chat”** and speak with one of our past students
- **Applications** open December 1, 2016 and close on January 24, 2017
- **Apply through IIP:** <http://global.upenn.edu/iip>