

CASI Student Programs in India

Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Rural Development + Livelihoods



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 enable Penn students to meaningfully contribute to rural development efforts through 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, veterinary medicine, policy, and business are encouraged to apply.

Internship Details

- 10 week internship from May 16, 2016 - July 25, 2016
- CASI will provide up to two (2) Penn students approximately \$3,000 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)

Potential CASI Projects

- Conduct surveys, qualitative interviews, and write case studies related to sustainable agriculture, watershed management, dryland agriculture initiatives, women's self-help credit and savings groups, and rural livelihood initiatives
- Help document and develop recommendations related to the livestock program focused on pregnant cow care, fodder production, deworming, vaccination and disease treatment, and improve efficiency of the milk collection system

Accommodation and Food

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

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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 India.



CASI Resources and Application Details

- Join 2016 outreach list, send email to: casi-2016-student-programs-outreach+subscribe@googlegroups.com
- CASI Open House will be held on **December 9, 2015** from 2:00-4:30pm at CASI, 3600 Market Street, Suite 560
- Attend a "Chai Chat" and speak with one of our past students bit.ly/chaichats2016
- Applications open **December 1, 2015** and close on **January 25, 2016**
- Apply through IIP: <http://sa.oip.upenn.edu/iip>



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