

## Internship Program Overview

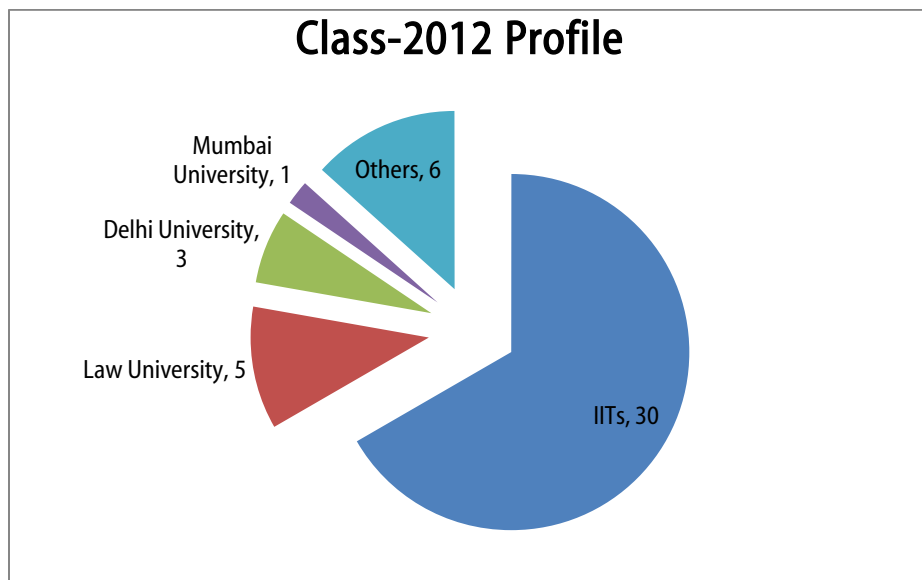
The Summer Internship Program offered by the Rakshak Foundation provides a firsthand exposure and experience about governance, policies and society to selected interns. Passionate, intelligent and hardworking students are chosen to work in this high paced program under the guidance of mentors comprising of faculty members from premier institutions in India and senior civil services officials in this eight-week long program. Individual projects are assigned to interns that relate to common social or policy issues which directly or indirectly affect the quality of life of a common citizen. The program is very rigorous in nature and the interns are expected to quickly come on board and digest large amounts of reading and research material, actively contribute to discussions with peers on the daily basis, and articulate informed positions on a variety of issues through weekly updates and presentations. Program includes regular project related field visits, weekly presentations, daily literature research in a classroom setting, documentation of meeting minutes with mentors and those of field visits, documentary screening and guest lectures by dignitaries. These activities ensure that the student have a multi-dimensional view of the problem before suggesting practical and implementable solution to the problem at hand. Collocation, daily interactions and weekly updates and presentations to all the interns ensures that the interns have exposure and opportunity to discuss all other social issues being researched upon. This allows a healthy pollination of ideas and solutions while strengthening social bonding. Program Structure includes:

- **Daily Research work** – Perform literature search in a classroom setting (4-6 hrs/day)
- **Weekly Presentations** – Formal presentation about weekly progress to all the interns
- **Midterm Report** – Formal midterm report and presentation 4 weeks into the program
- **Final Report and Presentation** – Formal Final report and presentation to all interns and mentors
- **Guest Lectures** – Invited lectures by social personalities and bureaucrats
- **Documentary Screenings** – Well known documentary on current social issues to widen exposure

This unique program grooms the students to become lot more informed, inquisitive, assertive and aware citizen enabling them to play a major role in nation building by participating in the governance with much more confidence. Participants in the program embark on a comprehensive journey that prepares them to successfully navigate the diverse challenges facing the society in today's dynamic world. Through the program interns immerse themselves in a well structured curriculum that examines their commitment, dedication, time management, intelligence and other ethical demands of a top leader. While pursuing the projects with peer interneers from across the nation, participants are inspired by the diverse cultures and new friendships that define the unique Rakshak experience.

## Intern and Mentor Profile (Year 2012)

Rakshak Foundation's Internship program choose the students from the most elite institutes of India ensuring diversity of their backgrounds which is essential for all round learning. In 2012 we recruited students pursuing their graduation in Engineering, Management, Commerce and Law discipline. This year too we are very keen to maintain this variety in the profile of interns.



45 best of the best students across the India attended the Internship Program and worked on projects based on persistent social problems. They completed these projects under the able guidance of mentors from academic and civil services fraternity:-

Mentor Institution / Affiliation	Total
Civil Services (IAS, IPS, IRS, IFS)	15
IIT Professors	13
IIM Professors	9
Entrepreneur	1
Others	2

## **Expectations from an Ideal Intern**

Rakshak Foundation's Summer Internship is a unique research program aimed at providing firsthand exposure to exceptional and motivated students in areas of policy, governance and society. We have very high expectations from our interns and they must be extremely passionate and committed to deliver the best. Their conduct and work must meet international standards. As part of the program, interns may be required to represent Rakshak Foundation during their interaction with senior professors from top universities, civil services officers (IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS etc), bureaucrats and/or government officials. It is important that interns exhibit highest level of professionalism in all aspects of their conduct during such interactions. Typically interns in the Program set ambitious goals for themselves on a weekly and monthly basis and overcome a number of unanticipated challenges to keep pace. This makes the program very demanding and rigorous. Our expectations from an ideal intern are outlined here:

- Accepts the position if and only if he/she is determined to complete the project
- Exceptional, Genuine, Innovative and Involved
- Good academic record with a fusion of extra-curricular and social activities
- Excellent Communication skills (Verbal, written and presentation skills)
- Highly energetic, self-aware, out of the box thinker, self starter, go getter and team player
- Has high moral and ethical values, is punctual, keeps commitments and meets deadlines
- Excels in an orderly work environment while adhering to rules and procedures
- Ability to work on a social issue leading to long term improvements and a positive impact
- Ready to work on an open ended problem not related to one's undergraduate discipline
- Propose feasible and innovative solutions as opposed to overzealous theoretical reports
- Passionate to take on the project beyond the report into real world implementation
- Research work must be of same standard as published at international forums and journals
- Humble polite and prompt with the mentors, management team and peers

## **Some of the Internship Projects (Past years)**

1. Solid waste management around Railway Tracks
2. Right to Information Act – Improving common man's access to information
3. Economic and political effect of the Naxalite problem and its current and future impact
4. Fatalities in Road Accidents – A preventable tragedy
5. Production and Marketing of Handicraft Goods - Opportunities and Challenges
6. Budgetary Trend Analysis – Analysis of budget allocation to ministries over the years
7. Safety and Rights of Construction workers and their families
8. Impact assessment and solutions to current challenges of Tobacco Control legislations
9. Economic and Social analysis of Metro as a solution to urban transportation
10. Scorecard for Journalists- Improving the accountability in media
11. How to effectively manage and execute addressing of public grievance
12. Judicial Accountability - Metrics to Judge the judges
13. Potential of the NSS to channelize youth energy towards upliftment of society
14. Government schemes for the protection of tribal culture and their modernization
15. Anti-corruption laws - Improving the efficacy by using the provisions of criminal justice system
16. Framework for the Right to Healthcare
17. Collusive patterns of corruption in society – analyzing private sector induced corruption
18. Development of a cost-effective solution to walking aid for the Visually Impaired
19. Solutions for expediting investigations, court procedures and trials by using advances in IT
20. Women reservation in Panchayats – Mirage and Reality
21. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail: Activism, truth and the way forward
22. Effect of trading in futures of commodities in India on the prices of essential commodities
23. How could the system be made such that common man could suggest practical changes?
24. Socio-Economic Impacts of Rural Roads on Rural Population
25. Ways to inculcate and sustain Innovation into young minds through our educational system
26. Effects of government policies, inefficiency in storage and supply chain on support prices
27. Government budget outlay and various schemes for primary education - Their impact analysis
28. Existing gaps in primary and secondary education towards preparing our future citizens
29. Allocation and utilization of Central funds to States under specific poverty alleviation schemes
30. Revitalizing public libraries and making public libraries independent and self sufficient

## Intern Selection Criteria

Rakshak Foundation considers all the aspects of your potential while making the recruitment decision. We use the personal interview, combined with your resume and essays, to assess some of the following qualitative aspects of your application

### **Communication, leadership and long term association with the foundation**

The Rakshak Foundation values well developed communication skills for all internship applicants. Intern should be able to express his / her view very well in front of their mentors and peer interns. Rakshak looks beyond the internship program to associate with the intern in long term meaningful way.

### **Diverse Experience**

The selectors at Rakshak Foundation seek candidates committed to academic excellence. We value the sincerity, humbleness and promptness of the candidate. In addition to this, students who are engaged in different activities and have gained wide experience will have an edge over others. In and all, we look for an all-round personality who has an excellent fusion of academics with experience.

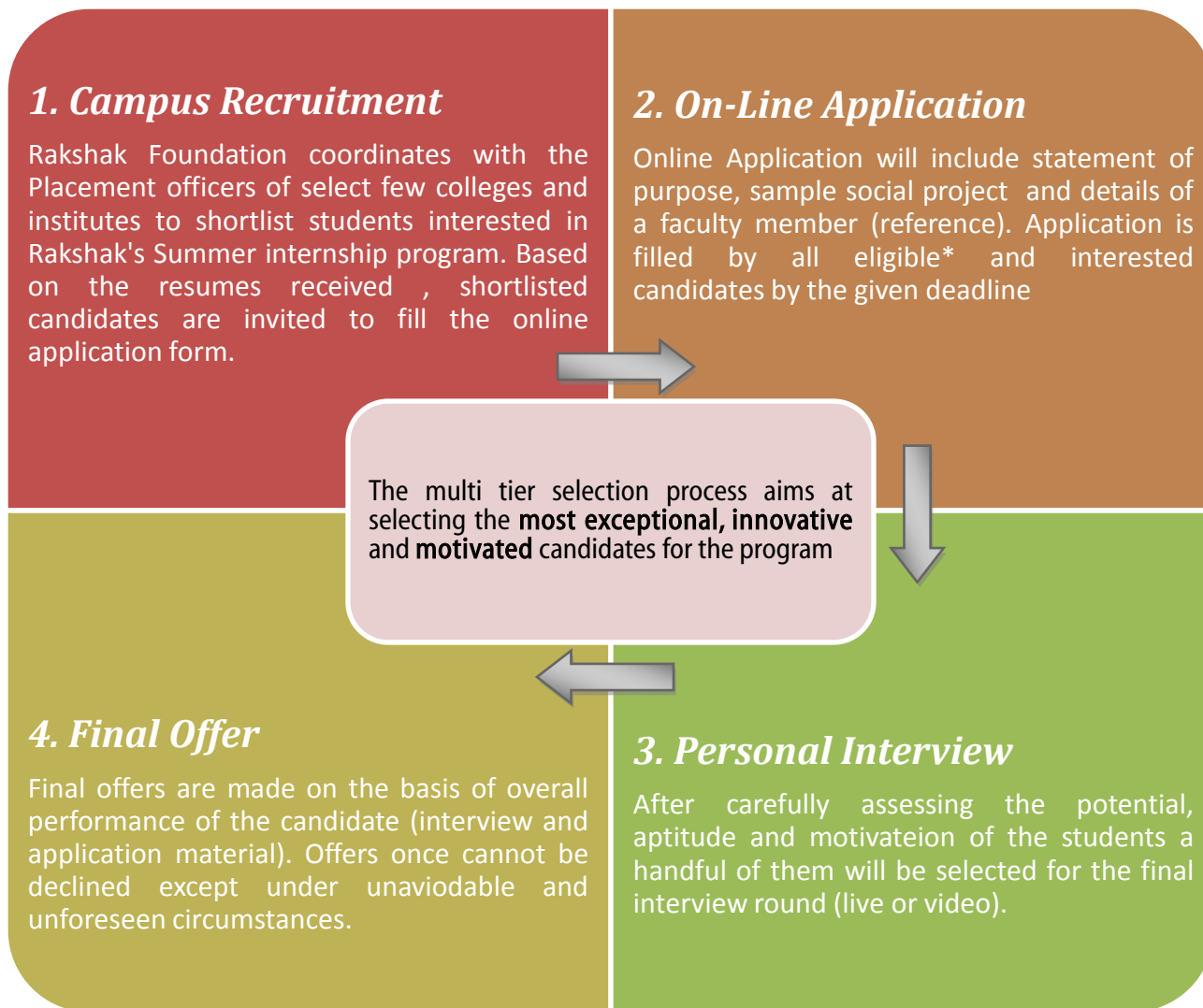
### **Innovative thinker, Self Starter and prompt learner**

Interns during the two months of Internship Program work on a project based on real life social issue and finally come up with many innovative, implementable and practical and feasible solutions. To execute this role, we want the students who have or would like to have a thorough knowledge of different social issues to attain 360 degree perspective. He should possess the attribute of learning from the experience and guidance of eminent mentors and peers from diverse backgrounds.

### **Motivation , belief and honesty**

We want to select those students who are self-motivated to work on an open ended problem or policy matters not necessarily related to one's area of study and are passionate to take on the project beyond the report submission into a real world conclusion. Interns represent the Rakshak Foundation in front of the mentors, bureaucrats and other NGOs during its internship program which makes it essential for them to have a congruence belief in the vision of Foundation. It is important that the intern understand and respects the commitments made to the organization, mentors and is honest in all communication and dealings with the organization

## Application and Selection Process



\*A candidate is eligible for Rakshak Foundation Internship Program only if he/she meets the following minimum criteria:

- Intern must be a full time student in a Bachelor's, Master's or PhD program of a recognized university or college in any discipline
- Internship should not conflict with the intern's academic program
- Intern may have full/part time work-experience between the UG, PG and/or Doctoral studies but should currently be a full-time student
- Intern must not have any active or past backlogs in academic courses