

## OVAL OBSERVER FOUNDATION

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Oval Observer Foundation is a strategic engagement and action platform with a focus on driving socio-economic growth in emerging economies. It seeks to provide an action platform for economic, social, political as well as transnational concerns associated in developing countries and their markets. The Foundation adopts a unique approach by insisting on continuity and developing action oriented projects rather than restrict itself to a talking shop organization, which is unfortunately the case with many non-profit entities. The major themes around which our projects are associated with include *inter alia* improving the economic climate, access to finance, facilitating global trade by fostering linkages for south-south co-operation, greater flow of FDI in emerging markets, critiquing political affairs by understanding key governance issues, strategic affairs and security concerns and lastly, accelerate the idea of sustainable development by adopting new technology based solutions. The Foundation embarks to provide high quality research on the aforesaid critical themes and engages in a number of conferences, round table dialogues, debates and awareness campaigns with leading policy experts and industry professionals with the objective developing robust and actionable solutions for the identified issues.

The Oval Internship Programme intends to provide opportunities to students and graduates to assist us in our numerous endeavours to construct policy based solutions in the desired sectors. The internship will offer students and young scholars the opportunity to gain hands on knowledge of the public policy sector through direct engagement with our on-going and future projects. To this extent, the experience gained by the interns will be unparalleled, as it would offer rigorous training exercises for developing research, analysis and programmatic skillsets. The Foundation is currently offering internships for the following projects.

- **Data Governance in the Health Sector:** The project involves study of legislations applicable to the health sector and the requirements therein for maintenance of data. The underlying objective of this project is to assess the implementation gaps in terms of data collection and building an advocacy platform for inculcating best practices for the same in the health sector.
- **Event Management:** The Foundation hosts 1-2 events every month with the objective of developing new projects and initiating intellectually stimulating discussions on pressing issues pertaining to emerging economies. The intern would be required to take charge of the logistics of such events and following up with the participants for framing ideas for a project.
- **Centre of Trade & Investment Policy:** The Centre for Trade and Investment Policy is a newly formed trade and investment research arm of the Foundation, which will focus on launching a quarterly magazine called “The Trade Observer” that explores the biggest debates surrounding the international trade and investment regime in an objective and comprehensive manner. The Centre will also develop annual reports, which focuses on trade and investment prospects in a chosen developing or least developed country. The focal country for the 2015 report on Trade is Kenya and for Investment is Bangladesh. The Centre is also planning to release monthly newsletters, and launch a trade and development journal by September 2015. The Centre will also conduct Track II trade dialogues for expediting pending FTA negotiations of our target countries.
- **Oval Strategic Watch:** Oval Strategic Watch is a unique educational initiative by the Foundation that focuses on developing a body of knowledge on outstanding foreign policy issues. From important international summits to crisis issues and long-standing disputes, Oval Strategic Watch will produce concise analysis and background guides to summarise issues of critical importance. The project will aim to cover the entire gamut of India’s bilateral and multilateral issues and will be updated regularly to include not just historical and long-standing disputes, but also emerging areas of concern.

Each brief will provide an introduction and historical background of the dispute/issue, highlight the problem arising out of such a dispute, and present an analysis of diverging viewpoints. The briefs will also elaborate on possible solutions suggested by policy experts, diplomats, heads of state, NGOs as well as common citizens and allows the reader form his own conclusion on the issue rather than favouring any particular view.

This approach, although common in other sectors, is a unique mode prescribed especially in the field of strategic affairs and international relations. The emphasis on the aforesaid approach is chiefly, in order to provide not only a policy expert or a politician a brief outline of the issue but also make such concerns equally accessible to casual readers. The project has commenced with India as a core focus country and will expand to include other emerging economies, in accordance with the Foundation’s mandate.

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- **Oval Sustainability Initiative:** Oval sustainability initiative will cover a host of projects ranging from rural electrification to policy prescriptions on bolstering climate readiness in emerging economies. The interns would need to have a strong background in environmental sciences and/or environmental policymaking.
- **Oval Campaigns:** The Foundation has launched several campaigns and utilises it communications channels for operating these campaigns. Interns with a creative bent of mind and willing to delve into making info graphics, scheduling interviews and handling social media are welcome to apply for this position. Some of the campaigns that are already underway are Food Security, Best Practices against Money Laundering and Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products.
- **Oval Plain Packaging for Emerging Economies:** The Foundation is launching a massive campaign for plain packaging of tobacco products. The project will entail preparation of a detailed report will evaluates the benefits of plain packaging and solution for navigating the legal and political obstacles that the tobacco lobby may present to the imposition of such a measure in emerging economies. Our focal country for the launch of this project is India.

**Who Can Apply?** The Internship is open to students and graduates from backgrounds in law, public policy, economics, political science, international relations, environmental sciences and international trade, as per the sector specific requirement.

**Application Procedure:** Interested applicants would need to mail the following documents to [pranav.menon@ovalobserver.org](mailto:pranav.menon@ovalobserver.org) or [rachit.ranjan@ovalobserver.org](mailto:rachit.ranjan@ovalobserver.org) :

- A) Cover Letter – Why one would want to work with the Foundation, their interests, project he/she would like to be involved with, et.al.
- B) Updated Resume/CV
- C) A written sample on any of our key interest sectors (750 – 1000 words)

**Duration:** The duration of the Internship programme could be for a minimum of **1** month to a maximum extendable period of **3** months.

**Remuneration:** The internship will entail a modest stipend depending on the qualification of the candidate.

**Rewards:** Based on the performance of the intern, an offer for a position could also be made for interested applicants.

*The Foundation is looking forward to an enthusiastic response and a unique opportunity to collaborate with some of the brightest minds of tomorrow!*

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