

## Summer Research Program Overview

The Summer Research Program offered by the Rakshak Foundation provides a first-hand exposure and experience about governance, policies and society to selected candidates. . Candidates chosen to work in this high paced eight-week program work under the guidance of mentors comprising of faculty members from premier institutions in India and senior civil services officials. Individual projects are assigned to interns that are related 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. Program includes regular field visits, weekly presentations, literature research in a classroom setting, documentation of meetings, documentary screening and guest lectures by dignitaries. These activities ensure that the student have a multi-dimensional view of the problem before suggesting its practical and implementable solution. Collocation, daily interactions and weekly updates and presentations to all the interns ensures that the interns have the necessary 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 (5-7 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
- **Field Visits** – All interns are required to make project related field visits and document their findings

\* Applies to Internship program that run from May-July

This unique program grooms the students to become lot more informed, inquisitive, assertive and an 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.