

Interested in International Development? Intern at an NGO in India this Summer!

Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) in partnership with the Piramal Foundation offers internship placement for Penn students at the Grassroots Development Laboratory (GDL):

- Eight (8) week internship at GDL in Bagar, Rajasthan
- Work to apply best practices in education, livelihoods, access to technology, and health
- Be part of management, conduct research, or start something new
- Work with local entrepreneurs, other international students, and Indicorps volunteers
- International and in-country travel provided by CASI; room and board, and logistical support provided by the Piramal Foundation

Why This Internship?

CASI and the Piramal Foundation offer a competitive internship with GDL to Penn students who are eager to work in India, getting a hands-on sense of key issues in development. An internship with GDL will enable Penn undergraduates and graduate students to meaningfully contribute to poverty reduction. Students can work on developing new strategies and on finding more effective ways of implementing older ideas. The program will help Penn students better understand and reflect on a variety of poverty reduction strategies in diverse sectors including education, health, technology, and livelihoods.



What Do Travel Funds from CASI Cover?

- CASI will provide up to five (5) Penn students with \$3,000 each for travel to and within India during Summer 2009 as participants in the CASI-Piramal internship program at the GDL in Rajasthan

Who Can Apply?

- Penn undergraduates, preferably sophomores and juniors
- Penn graduate students who can clearly demonstrate how this internship is integral to their academic career

Save the Date: 4 pm to 6 pm, January 29, 2009 for an Open House at CASI for 2009 prospective applicants.

Prospective applicants can meet last year's recipients to learn more about their experiences.

How to Apply

What is Required?

- A completed online **Common Internship Application** available as of **February 2, 2009** through the **Penn Office of International Programs (OIP) Web site**. For instructions and hyperlink to the OIP Common Application, please visit <http://casi.ssc.upenn.edu/studentprograms/internapp> starting February 2, 2009. The Common Application will list other Penn internship programs. Please make sure you select the **CASI-Piramal** internship as your preference on the application.

Deadline

- The online **Common Internship Application** is due on **Monday, February 23, 2009**.

Selection Process

- **Finalists will be interviewed during the week of March 2, 2009.**

About Grassroots Development Laboratory (GDL)

A collaborative enterprise between Piramal Foundation and Indicorps, GDL's mandate is to work towards appropriate solutions that have national relevance and potential to be scaled. GDL takes an experiment-driven approach by applying best practices in development and innovative ideas to a geographically focused area. The initiative is designed to be an incubator for disruptive innovations and to be a partnership with the local community to collaboratively improve conditions in Bagar. It focuses on implementation of top-quality, small-scale interventions by highly committed young people. Currently GDL works in healthcare, education, livelihoods, and technology utilization. Some of the 2008 CASI internships were in Source for Change, the Water Project, Bagar Employment Exchange and on building a website on Bagar: www.bagar.org

For more on the GDL, visit: www.piramal.org.in/gdl/



About Bagar

Bagar is in the Jhunjunu district in the North Indian state of Rajasthan. About 300 years old, Bagar is a moderately sized village with a population of approximately 10,000. The village has several beautiful havelis (mansions) and many interesting places of worship.

Like many small towns in India, Bagar struggles with the provision of basic services such as healthcare, potable water, solid-waste management and employment opportunities. Yet, its location, only 150km from Jaipur, and frequent flow of public transport to the city, makes it an accessible, although decidedly rural, place.

For more on Bagar, visit: www.bagar.org/

Reviews from the 2008 CASI Interns

Once I arrived at GDL, I do not think there was a single dull moment for the next two months. I was immediately put to work building a Web site for the village (www.bagar.org) and helping to teach English to intermediate students in the village. Though it was extremely challenging both in terms of workload and living conditions, I will never forget the people I met in India and the things I learned...This internship assured me that I want to pursue a career in India and make a positive impact on the world in the next few years. All in all, I would recommend this program to anyone interested in development in rural India...It was truly a rural experience but I enjoyed having the opportunity to live like the people I was helping.

– Stephanie Searles, Class of '09

My overall experience with GDL was very rewarding. I made some very good friends, learned important business skills from professional consultants, learned about pressing issues of Indian society and also spent time thinking how those issues can be resolved. I thought that I was going to help rural people change for good but, to be honest, I learned much more from them than I actually gave back.

– Kumari Pooja, Class of '09

CASI is an academic research center at Penn's School of Arts & Sciences. Founded in 1992, it is recognized as a national resource and the sole research institution in the US dedicated to the study of contemporary India.

For more on CASI, visit: <http://casi.ssc.upenn.edu>

The **Ajay G. Piramal Foundation** is a private foundation that invests in innovative solutions to sustainable development. It focuses on systemic and replicable solutions to pressing grassroots challenges related to health, education, livelihoods, and access to technology.

For more on the foundation, visit: www.piramal.org.in/

