

ABOUT NCAS

The National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS) is a social change resource centre that aims to strengthen people centred and rights based public advocacy so as to empower people who are struggling for the creation of a just and humane society. Though the focus of its activities is India and the rest of South Asia, NCAS is emerging as premier centre for people centred advocacy in the Global South. The progressive establishment of a just and humane society is its goal, and people centred and rights based public advocacy is the process to achieve that goal.

NCAS works as a collective of activists, researchers, public interest lawyers, journalists and subject experts. It attempts to support and strengthen people centred public advocacy through capacity development programmes, research and documentation, and campaign support and networking. As part of its capacity development programmes, NCAS has initiated an Advocacy Internship Programme since July 1999.

VISION

NCAS is a pro-active learning organisation that works

- ⇒ Towards a participatory, rights-based and people-centred policy environment and
- ⇒ a transparent and accountable governance;
- ⇒ so as to advance human rights, equitable social change and distributive justice.

MISSION

The mission of NCAS is to create an enabling environment for social action groups, social change agents and citizens

- ⇒ to get access to democratic institutions and

- ⇒ to effectively advocate the rights of the marginalised sections so as
- ⇒ to empower them (the marginalised sections include especially women, tribals, dalits and labourers in the unorganized sector).

FUNCTION

As a social change resource centre, NCAS endeavours

- ⇒ to strengthen the capacity of people and social action groups to advocate on issue of basic rights and public interest, and to facilitate democratic processes
- ⇒ by extending capacity building, information, research and campaign inputs.

ADVOCACY INTERNSHIP

Advocacy Internship is a programme that grooms a set of young and dedicated professionals who are committed to social activism. It is a programme that caters to the need of social activism today. This internship will enrich the participants with the political perspective, knowledge and skills required for effective public advocacy.

OBJECTIVES

- ⇒ To train energetic and young men and women to take up social activism.
- ⇒ To create a cadre of social advocates who have knowledge, skills and sensitivities to pursue social activism.
- ⇒ To prepare professionals who would promote organised actions to influence public policies and to effect sustainable attitudinal and behavioural change in the society.

CURRICULUM

A multidisciplinary curriculum and syllabus spread over 11 months will focus on the following subjects:

- ⇒ Understanding of the Indian Society, Polity, Economy
- ⇒ Issues in New Social Movements
- ⇒ Concepts and practices of advocacy
- ⇒ Approaches to Social Change
- ⇒ Contemporary Human Rights Activism
- ⇒ Policy analysis
- ⇒ Strategic planning
- ⇒ Development Communication
- ⇒ Research
- ⇒ Campaign building and networking

METHODS

NCAS will provide a conducive environment and facilities for the interns to learn and work. It will be responsibility of the interns to make the best use of the environment and facilities. Greater emphasis will be laid on the following methods of learning:

- ⇒ Self learning
- ⇒ Interactive collective learning
- ⇒ Hands on field experience learning
- ⇒ Tutorials
- ⇒ Assignments / Term papers
- ⇒ Dissertation
- ⇒ Lectures
- ⇒ Seminars / Workshops

DURATION

The Advocacy Internship Programme is for 18 months including six months of fieldwork and for writing the dissertation.

FACULTY

The faculty for the programme comprises experts in different fields including academicians, social activists, civil society leaders, and lawyers and media persons.

EVALUATION

A comprehensive evaluation of the interns will be done as a continuous process based on an agreed Assessment Profile.

EXPECTATIONS FROM INTERNS

The interns are expected to contribute to the body of progressive debate on 'People-centered Advocacy' that NCAS is engaged in. During the course work, the interns will be encouraged and expected to take leadership in involving their own selves and the internship team to plan and manage concrete efforts (workshops/media documentation/human rights activism) to give back to the society their learnings.

ELIGIBILITY

The Advocacy Internship Programme is open to any person below the age of 25 who intends to understand the world in all its complexities, has a strong social conscience, and values social commitment more than individual selves. Openness to learn, receptivity to new ideas, and keenness to take up challenges are seen as most important criteria. Preferred educational qualification is a postgraduate degree in any discipline with at least two years experience

with a social action / human rights / consumer rights group. A graduate degree is also considered for deserving candidates.

SELECTION OF INTERNS

Filled-in application form should reach NCAS by 22nd June 2009. After preliminary screening of applications, shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in a Youth Camp in Pune in mid-July. Final selection of the candidates will be done after this camp on the basis of potential to work with people, competence, leadership qualities, vision, motivation to learn etc. The new session will start from mid August 2009.

STIPEND

Each intern will be given a monthly stipend towards living expenses in Pune for a period of 12 months. NCAS takes the responsibility to negotiate with the field organization for the boarding, lodging and a minimum stipend amount during the 6 month-long placement. Contingency expenses of up to Rs 500/-per month will also be provided during this period, on a case-to-case basis.

For Further details, write to

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**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVOCACY
STUDIES**

**ADVOCACY
INTERNSHIP**



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Pune, INDIA