

**OVAL OBSERVER FOUNDATION**

**WINTER 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.

- **Oval West Asia Project:** The Foundation launched the West Asia project in June 2015 with the objective of providing a continuous platform for Track II engagements between the West Asia region and India. As part of the project, the Foundation will be conducting a conference in January on security issues affecting West Asia and the role of India in ensuring long lasting peace in the region. In addition to this, The Foundation will be releasing a comprehensive report for the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of

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India on the foreign policy imperatives for India in West Asia. The interns will get an opportunity to contribute to the report and assist the Foundation in executing a successful conference.

- **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.
- **Oval-Jindal Strategic Watch:** Oval-Jindal Strategic Watch is collaborative exercise between the Foundation and the Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA). It is a unique educational initiative 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-Jindal 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 OOF's and JSIA's mandate. The Oval-Jindal Strategic Watch will be launched in December 2015 with about 30-35 foreign policy briefs that covers a broad range of issues. After the launch we will be adding an additional 2 briefs per week, which would be prepared by students with a background in International Relations and International Law. All briefs will be edited and reviewed by the Fellows at the Foundation and faculty members from Jindal School of International Affairs. The interns will get a unique opportunity to be a part of this educational initiative through preparation of briefs and gaining in-depth knowledge on select foreign policy issues.

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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. As part of the initiative, the Foundation is releasing two special edition journals focused on Rural Electrification and Cleaning the Ganges, respectively. The interns would not only be involved in securing external contributors for the journal and supporting in creating a reputable policy oriented journal but will also get the opportunity to co-author pieces with Fellows from the Foundation for these special editions. In addition to this the Foundation will also be releasing a Quarterly Journal on the theme of Sustainable Development Goals in June 2016. The interns will be required to assist the Foundation's team in establishing a reputable peer review board for the quarterly journal and develop strategies for receiving quality contributions.
- **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 which will evaluate 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. As part of this project, the Foundation has already released a report and will be collaborating with NLU-Delhi to establish the next steps for the project. The interns will be providing research and programmatic support to the Foundation, including stakeholder engagement and event management, as part of the project.

**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 [rahul.jain@ovalobserver.org](mailto:rahul.jain@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 **5** months.

**Remuneration:** The selected interns will receive a modest stipend depending on the qualification of the candidate.

*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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