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Law internships in India: how to get them and how to use them

Internships decide how well a law student is prepared for practice. How to apply, where to intern each year and how to make four weeks count.

In law, internships are not an extra. They are where a student finds out what lawyers do, which kind of practice suits them and whether anyone will remember their work. The rules of legal education require internships during the course.

A plan by year

Early years. Trial courts and legal aid. Watch how cases move, how witnesses are examined and how clients are handled. Work with a district court lawyer or a legal services authority.

Middle years. High Court chambers, tribunals, non-profit organisations, policy bodies. Begin research and drafting.

Later years. Law firms, senior advocates' chambers, corporate legal departments, or the area you intend to enter. These internships often lead to job offers.

Try each side of the profession at least once before deciding.

How to apply

- Apply early. Many offices fill places months ahead.
- Write a short e-mail addressed to the right person, with a one-page CV.
- Say what you have studied and what you can do.
- Use your college's internship cell, teachers and alumni.
- Do not send the same message to a hundred addresses.
- If you hear nothing, follow up once, politely.

Students without contacts in the profession should not be discouraged. Many lawyers respond to a sincere, well-written application. District courts and local firms are often more open than students assume.

How to make four weeks count

- Arrive on time and stay as long as the team does.
- Carry a notebook. Write every instruction down.
- Ask for the file before the hearing and read it.
- When given research, answer the question asked, cite sources and state what you could not find.
- Check your work for errors before handing it in.
- Ask sensible questions at the right moment.
- Keep everything you see and hear confidential.
- Ask for feedback at the end.

What to avoid

- Treating the internship as a certificate.
- Using a phone in court or in meetings.
- Discussing client matters outside the office.
- Submitting unverified material produced by an AI tool.

What offices owe interns

Supervision, real work, courtesy and, where the firm can, a stipend. An internship should not be a cost that only well-off families can bear.

Keep a record

After each internship, write down what you did, what you learned and whom you worked with. It will shape your CV, your interviews and your choices.

Why it matters

A degree shows that you studied law. Internships show that you can work. Employers hire on the second.

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