

Field: Government
Name: PRS Legislative Research
Location: New Delhi, India
Name of Position: Research Intern

Brief Description of Organization:

PRS is a New Delhi-based independent, non-partisan research initiative that aims to strengthen the legislative process in India by making it better informed, more transparent and participatory. Founded in 2005, PRS is the first initiative of its kind in India.

The Indian Parliament passes 60 Bills a year, on an average. Each Member of Parliament (MP) represents a constituency of close to two million people. However, MPs in India have no dedicated research staff or institutional support to focus on their research needs or give them basic information and implications about issues at hand. PRS strengthens the legislative debate by providing non-partisan, easy-to-use, topical analysis of key issues to through regularly briefings to political parties and MPs on Bills and other matters that come up for debate in Parliament. PRS currently works with approximately 300 MPs across the political spectrum. More recently, PRS has also begun to engage with state-level Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

In addition, PRS tracks the functioning of Parliament closely and makes all related data available in the public domain. PRS works with the media, youth civil society groups to create and augment channels of citizen engagement with the legislative process.

Information specific to the internship:

The core focus of the work of PRS is to demystify legislation and the lawmaking process, and disseminate information about them to MPs and civil society. The internship projects will vary depending on the issues that come up for debate when the Parliament is in session, the needs of PRS and the interests of the intern. Strong writing and analytical skills are necessary in order to successfully undertake the internship project at PRS.

Potential projects could include:

- International comparative law inputs: PRS prepares short Legislative Briefs on a number of Bills that are introduced in Parliament each year. Often, PRS looks for comparable legislation in other countries for the Bills that PRS is working on. Role: Interns could identify some sectors (such as education, tribal rights, competition laws, etc.) and compile laws demonstrating how similar issues are addressed in other countries.
- Conference Research Papers: PRS holds an Annual Conference on Effective Legislatures on topics related to Parliament and parliamentary performance. The conferences have examined issues including Strengthening Parliamentary Committees, Channels for Public Engagement with the Legislative Process, Campaign Finance Reform, Measuring the Effectiveness of Parliament, Impact of the Anti-Defection Law and Balance of power between the Executive and Legislature. All conference participants received background papers on each of the topics. These outline the context of the systemic issues in India along with providing examples of best practice from other democratic systems. Role: Interns would be expected to prepare a detailed concept note that will be used to brief participants and guide the discussion at the conference in 2012.
- Issue-based research: PRS Analysts work on research inputs across various subjects for Parliamentarians. This research feeds into the work of PRS on legislation as well. Role: Interns would be

expected to provide research assistance to Analysts as and when is required by them.

Schedule:

Desired dates from June 1 – Aug 1, 2012. While the intern will be exposed to a number of PRS projects, each intern will be assigned one or two focused projects for the duration of the internship. Intern will also be given opportunity to attend one session of Parliament during the 2012 Monsoon Session (between first week of July and last week of August). The intern will be expected to assume regular business hours (9am – 5:30pm Monday to Friday).

Additional Details:

The intern will be provided with office space in the PRS office for the duration of the internship, but will need to bring their personal laptop computers.

Stipend:

PRS is not able to provide a stipend at this time, however this position is being offered as one of Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics' Director's Internships.

Contact:

Details on how to apply will appear on this webpage: <http://www.iop.harvard.edu/Political-Internships-Career-Services/Director%E2%80%99s-Internship-Program> .

For immediate questions, please contact Amy Reese at areese@fas.harvard.edu.

Website:

<http://www.prsindia.org/>