

Independent Thought & Social Action International



An internationally recognized, education reform organization

International Internship Program 2013



If you answered “Yes” to any of the questions in the picture above, intern with Independent Thought & Social Action (ITSA) International, an education reform organization running social action training camps which promote critical thinking and social activism to students who have only experienced the traditional, rote memorization-based Indian education system! Visit [facebook.com/ITSAInternational](https://www.facebook.com/ITSAInternational) for updates.

After another successful summer with interns from institutions, like Swarthmore, Bard, Middlebury, University of Chicago, Emory, Williams College, St. Xavier’s College, and Bard High School Early College, ITSA International is excited to announce applications for our Summer 2013 internship program! ITSA, over the summer, is entirely staffed by interns and volunteers, and interns play a central role in developing and implementing the workshops to create socially responsible youth leaders in Ahmedabad!

Job Descriptions

We are looking for passionate, motivated, and energetic undergraduate, graduate, and early college students to join our team this summer. ITSA is entirely staffed by interns and volunteers, and we expect our interns to play an extremely central role in carrying out the workshops this summer. Our team will consist of college students from the US and India.

Most interns will be **workshop leaders** whose primary duty will be workshop facilitation. The aim of the workshops is to first challenge India’s youth to think more critically about social issues, like gender

discrimination, human rights violations, and poverty for example. The second goal of the workshops is to encourage participants to take what they have learned and create social change. To successfully do all this, workshop leaders will receive specialized training, and outside of workshops, workshop leaders' time will primarily focus on curriculum research and development.

ITSA is also looking for several **publicity interns** tasked with social media updating, website development and design, graphic design, photography/videography, or video production depending on the specific publicity position.



Training and Orientation

Initial training and orientation will focus on acclimatizing you to India and Ahmedabad, the city ITSA is based in. After this, you will take part in scheduled visits to local schools and NGOs to further orient you to the work you will engage in for the rest of the summer. Interspersed during all this training will be scheduled sightseeing trips as well as plenty of free time for you to explore Ahmedabad.

Experiencing India

In addition to involvement in ITSA activities, interns will have free time to go on short sightseeing trips in and around Ahmedabad. A trip to historic sites in North India, including the Taj Mahal, will also be organized as the concluding retreat when there will be time to reflect on the summer experience as well as travel through India.



Housing

For the first four and a half weeks, interns will be housed in the ITSA house. Interns will then spend the last three weeks of the program staying with warm and loving host families to gain a more immersive experience into Indian culture. A few nights may be spent at a youth hostel in Ahmedabad as well.



Program Dates: June 17th, 2013 - August 9th, 2013 (7.5 weeks)

Program Cost

The entire program will cost \$1,740. This cost covers transportation within India to all necessary ITSA and community service sites; homestay with an Indian family including a host sibling; three home-cooked meals a day; and visits to tourist spots within Ahmedabad. The costs for the trip to North India, including visiting the Taj Mahal, Akbar's Palace, Fatehpur Sikri, India Gate, and the Indian Parliament, are included as well.

Colleges often have *grants/scholarships* available to take on summer opportunities/summer internships abroad. The ITSA internship can also qualify for a research grant from your college if you indicate on your application that you are interested in doing research with us since we have research positions available as well. Check with your college's summer opportunities office/career services.

[The cost does not include transportation to Ahmedabad/India, personal spending money, and visa application fees. Please note that similar organizations often charge three times our cost for similar length programs. The ITSA internship allows interns to truly make a difference in lives of students and to experience India from perspectives of Indian families while forming friendships with Indian peers.]



Application Info

To apply and for more information, you must fill out an online application found on ITSA's website, <http://ITSAinternational.org>. In addition, you must send us your resumé and have a letter of recommendation from a professor/employer sent. Resumés, letters of recommendations, and questions should be e-mailed to intern@ITSAinternational.org.

Application Deadline: February 17th, 2013

Testimonials

“Choosing to send in an application to become an intern was one of the best decisions I ever made, and I cannot sum up its worth and importance so neatly...going to India and being an intern for ITSA affects me still, every day, and I am in all respects continuously thankful for the opportunity.”

~Emma King, BHSEC Manhattan, Summer Intern

“Our daughter had a FANTASTIC experience! The program more than exceeded our expectations and the amount of work you guys put into ‘educating’ the interns about India was truly amazing.”

~Parent, Summer Intern

We will be happy to put you in touch with our past intern's and their families if you wish to contact them for more information.



Internship FAQs

General Internship Questions

1. ***Do I have to be a college student to apply?***

Given the demands of living and working in a foreign country like India, ITSA requires applicants to have graduated college, be in college, or enrolled in an early college program.

2. ***Do I have to have activism experience?***

While such experience isn't necessary for any of the internship positions, please do mention any relevant experience in your application.

3. ***What are the dates of the program?***

Interns must arrive in Ahmedabad by June 17th and will depart on August 9th.

4. ***How much will living expenses be?***

The total living expenses for the entire program will cost \$1,740. This cost covers transportation within India to all necessary ITSA and community service sites; homestay with an Indian family including a host sibling; lectures by NGOs and other guest lecturers, housing, three home-cooked meals a day; and visits to cultural spots within Ahmedabad & North India. The costs for the trip to North India are included. Colleges often have grants/scholarships available to take on summer opportunities/summer internships abroad. The ITSA internship can also qualify for a research grant from your college if you indicate on your application that you are interested in doing research with us since we have research positions available as well. Check with your college's summer opportunities office/career services. ITSA internship allows interns to truly make a difference in the lives of students and to experience India from the perspective of Indian families and while forming friendships with Indian peers and school children.

5. ***What does the program cost not cover?***

The cost mentioned above does not cover transportation to and from Ahmedabad/India, personal spending money, and visa application fees.

6. ***Will there be an orientation to India and ITSA?***

Yes, the first two weeks of your time in Ahmedabad will consist of training. Initial training will focus on acclimatizing you to India in general and Ahmedabad specifically. After this, you take part in scheduled visits to local schools NGOs and to further orient you to the work you will engage in for the rest of the summer. Interspersed during all this training will be scheduled sightseeing trips as well as plenty of free time for you to explore Ahmedabad.

7. ***Where will ITSA's summer 2013 work be located?***

The ITSA Internship will be located in the city of Ahmedabad, the city where the Gandhian movement began, which is in a western state of India called Gujarat. Interns can fly in and out of SVP International Airport in Ahmedabad.

8. ***Is there a way to contact interns who participated in ITSA last year?***

Yes, absolutely! Let us know and we can connect you with interns from last year.

9. ***Who can I contact if I have questions?***

Feel free to email us at intern@itsainternational.org if you have any questions at all.

Workshop Leader-Specific Questions

1. ***Do I have to be an Education major?***

No, but any experience with Education classes might be helpful with creating lesson plans. ITSA will spend a lot of time training so education experience is really not necessary.

2. ***What ages/grades will attend workshops?***

Last year, workshop participants ranged from 12 to 16 and were in grades 7 to 12.

3. ***How often will workshops take place?***

In total, there will be eight workshops with two workshop sessions taking place every week. There will be other events that will also be organized in addition to the workshops with students from in and around Ahmedabad.

4. ***Why do you mention “workshop facilitation” and not “teaching”?***

“Teaching” implies that knowledge is being transferred in one direction: teacher to student. However, ITSA truly believes that the workshops are a learning experience for not only the participants but our interns as well. As they “facilitate” a workshop, ITSA hopes our interns will challenge their own thoughts and assumptions just as much as they challenge the participants’.

5. ***Who decides the curriculum?***

Every workshop leader will be assigned to a group consisting of three members. The three of you have the freedom to come up with a curricular theme of your choosing though this theme must be related to social change and must be approved by ITSA’s leadership. This theme will tie into the specific lesson plans you design for the eight workshops. There is a lot of freedom and room to be creative and to make ideas that people have happen.

6. ***What have curricula covered in the past?***

Last summer, we had three different workshop groups which each spearheaded their own curriculum. One group, Human Rights and Peace, examined human rights from various angles and explored their implications for the mainstream versus the marginalized. The Public Methods of Creating Change workshop explored how art can bring about social change before producing their own zine of socially charged artwork. The Social Action and Justice group explored the specific issues of corruption, environmentalism, gender discrimination, and modern-day slavery to understand of how different levels of activism can bring about change.

7. ***What does “curriculum research and development” entail?***

Development simply means actually writing down and honing your curriculum, your lesson plans. To do this, you will need to do research. This may entail reading up on historical and modern-day Indian social issues in order to weave them into your lesson plans. You could also look up NGOs and activists doing relevant work to your curriculum in order to invite them to your workshop. Or, you might need to find or devise an activity or game to help illustrate a topic to your participants.