

HIGHCOURTOF JAMMU & KASHMIR AT SRINAGAR

22nd July, 2020

Law internships are established programs' in courts all over the world including several high courts in India. Internships are fixed term permissions granted to law students to attend and observe court proceedings, read files of cases, undertake legal research on points assigned to them and any other law related activity. Requests have been received from law students seeking permission to intern in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir. Unfortunately, in the High Court of J&K no scheme for engagement of law Interns, unlike the one for Law Researchers.

The impending Covid 19 pandemic has further created a situation where physical interaction has been minimized; social distancing required to be maintained and the need for 'work from home' procedures to be implemented. This has resulted in a situation where law students are deprived of opportunities for internships in offices/ chambers of Judges, law offices, lawyers chambers etc., during this period. These restrictions are denying students valuable experience of observing the practical working of courts and learning research work. There is thus the need to put in place a proper scheme in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir for engagement of law students (unpaid), either on regular basis and/or e-internships, who may be remotely located as well, enabling their engagement as law interns in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir.

On a consideration of the matter the enclosed scheme is approved for implementation.

Gita Mittal
Chief Justice

**Scheme for Internship and e-internships in the High Court of
Jammu and Kashmir**

1. **Title:** This scheme shall be called “ *Scheme for Internship and e-internships in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir.*”
2. **Entitlement for the services of Law Interns for e-internship:** The Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir may permit internships to law students, either regular or by way of e-internship to such number as may be convenient.

3. **Eligibility Conditions:**

The candidate must possess the following qualifications to be eligible for internship:

- (i) The candidate should be pursuing LL.B course from a recognized Law College/ University established by law in India and eligible for enrolment as an Advocate with the Bar Council of India or State Bar Councils on conclusion of the LL.B course.
- (ii) The candidate must have a good working knowledge of computers.
- (iii) The candidate must be a citizen of India.

4. **Disqualifications:**

The following shall be the disqualifications for appointment as a Law Intern:

- (i) The candidate must not be engaged or appointed anywhere on payment or honorarium basis.
- (ii) The candidate must not be involved in any criminal case whether pending or convicted for an offence involving moral turpitude.
- (iii) The candidate must not be involved in any disciplinary proceedings with the college or university in which studying or any other authority.

5. **Process of application and method of selection**

Application for internship shall be received by one of the mode as follows:

- (i) Law Universities/ College(s) may make therecommendation(s) for internship of a candidate.
- (ii) The candidate may apply directly to the Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in the format provided in Schedule-I.
- (iii) Applications received by the Registrar General shall be circulated to the Judges by seniority and the candidate shall be appointed on selection by the Judge to whose office she/he would be attached thereupon.
- (iv) A candidate may submit his/ her application in the prescribed format to the private secretary of the judge with whom the applicant seeks to intern.
- (v) Such application (as at sr.no.iv) would be placed before the judge concerned for acceptance or rejection.

6. **Terms and nature of engagement:**

Appointment as intern shall beon the following terms:

- (i) The internship does not entail payment of stipend, retainership or fee of any kind by the court.
- (ii) The candidate shall be engaged on a purely temporary basis initially for a period of one month including during the course of summer and/or winter vacationswhich may be extended at the discretion of the judges concerned.
- (iii) The engagement as law intern is purely on temporary basis and shall not confer any right or claim for regular appointment in the High Court or continuance beyond the

period of engagement.

- (iv) The law intern may be discharged without prior notice.
- (v) A law intern intending to terminate her engagement, may do so, after completing assigned tasks and two weeks prior notice.
- (vi) The law intern may be attached with a Law Researcher in the office of the Judge for the purpose of undertaking assigned work.

7. **Conduct during and after the engagement**

The law intern shall have the following responsibilities:

- (i) The work of the Law Intern shall include doing of research work, making case notes of cases for hearing before the concerned Judge, making presentations for the Judge where required for conferences etc. and any other work as may be assigned.
- (ii) The Law Intern shall maintain absolute devotion to duty and a high standard of morals during the term of engagement.
- (iii) The Law Intern shall maintain the highest standard of integrity commensurate with the responsibilities entrusted. She/he shall maintain utmost secrecy in respect of matters which come to her/his notice by virtue of the engagement and shall ensure that no information, documentary or other thing is disclosed parted or disseminated with others, in any manner.
- (iv) The Law Intern will not disclose any fact which comes to the Law Intern's knowledge on account of such official attachment even after completion of the engagement unless disclosure is legally required in discharge of the lawful duties.

- (v) The Law Intern shall not accept any other assignment during the period of engagement.
- (vi) The Law Intern (incase she/he is a final year student) shall not appear before the Judge with whom attached, at least for a period of two years after the engagement.
- (vii) The Law Intern shall dress as per the dress code of an advocate under the Bar Council of India Rules i.e., a white or black shirt/ sari/ blouse/ shirt/ kameez; white or black salwar/ pants; black coat, without advocate's bands.
- (viii) The schedule of work shall be decided by the Judge with whom the Law Intern is attached.
- (ix) The Law Intern shall complete the work assigned irrespective of the fact that it is to be done on a gazette or other holiday.

8. Experience Certificate

The Law Intern shall be issued an experience certificate by the Registrar General on successful completion of internship with the approval of the Judge with whom attached.

9. Undertaking

Every selected candidate shall submit an undertaking before joining as provided in Schedule II.

10. Residuary clause

For any matter not specifically not covered herein, the decision of the Chief Justice shall be final and binding.

Schedule-I
Application for law internship

1. Name: _____
2. Date of birth: _____
3. Place of birth: _____
4. Father's/Mother's name: _____
5. Address: _____

6. Student of:
 - (i) Class: _____
 - (ii) Name & address of
Institution/University/
College: _____

7. Period and dates for which
internship sought: _____

Signature.....

Name.....

Place: _____

Date: _____

Schedule-II

UNDERTAKING

I,do hereby undertake that I have read and understood the Scheme and will abide by the provisions contained in it during the course of my engagement as Law Intern and also after expiry of term of the said appointment.

Signature.....

Name.....

Place: _____

Date: _____

In exercise of the powers conferred under Article 229 of the Constitution, of India the Chief Justice has approved the following scheme for engagement of law students as law interns including e-internships in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir.