

Vidhi Access to Legal Education (VALE) Fellowship

Call for Applications

About Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy ('Vidhi') is an independent think-tank doing legal research to make better laws and improve governance for the public good. Vidhi does this through high quality, peer reviewed original legal research; through engaging with the Government of India, State governments and other public institutions to both inform policy-making and to effectively convert policy into law; and through strategic litigation petitioning courts on important law and policy issues. Vidhi's abiding values are non-partisan engagement, research excellence and independence.

Vidhi Access to Legal Education (VALE) Fellowship

The VALE Fellowship is an initiative of Vidhi and is supported by the Forbes Marshall Foundation. The VALE Fellowship aims to provide an opportunity to young and motivated lawyers from marginalised communities to augment their skills and capacities. Through constant guidance, mentorship, and support, the six-month fellowship aims to bring opportunities to such lawyers and help them discover and improve upon the skill-sets they need to build a career in litigation, academia, or public policy.

Structure of the Fellowship

- I. **Orientation & Training:** The Fellows will undergo a month-long orientation and training programme at Vidhi's Delhi Office. The programme has been curated to provide Fellows with an opportunity to hone their legal research, writing and communication skills. Sessions conducted by experts on emerging areas of law and a short duration course on Equality Law will provide the Fellows with the necessary exposure.
- II. **Attachment Programme:** The Fellows will be assigned to different teams working at Vidhi's Delhi, Karnataka and Maharashtra offices for a period of three months. The Fellows may also choose to work with lawyers, non-governmental organisations and independent researchers identified by Vidhi. Through the attachment programme, the Fellows will get an opportunity to work on a wide range of law and policy issues. This will provide Fellows with valuable experience and contribute to their overall development.
- III. **Report writing & Seminars:** To encourage critical thinking and problem solving, the Fellows will be required to prepare a policy brief or a research paper, aligned to the work undertaken during the attachment programme. Vidhi may organise fortnightly seminars for Fellows to present their research findings.
- IV. **Mentorship:** Vidhi will provide extensive mentorship support to the Fellows.

Mode of the Fellowship

- The Fellowship will be conducted in a hybrid manner.
- The Fellows will be required to attend the orientation and training programme in-person at Vidhi's Delhi office.
- Fellows may opt to undertake other phases of the Fellowship remotely.

Who can apply for the Fellowship?

- The VALE Fellowship is open for:
 - Final year students (batch of 2023) and recent law graduates (batch of 2022) from the Department of Law, University of Kashmir, J&K and affiliated law colleges;
 - Final year students (batch of 2023) and recent law graduates (batch of 2022) from the Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
- People from diverse backgrounds, especially from the SC/ST communities, minority religions, LGBT+ community and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

How to apply for the Fellowship?

- Applicants may apply for the VALE Fellowship by filling up this [application form](#).
- Along with the application form, Fellows are required to submit the following documents:
 1. A Curriculum Vitae (not exceeding 2 pages);
 2. A brief statement (not exceeding 700 words) outlining:
 - a. the applicant's background;
 - b. challenges the applicant faced while making career choices;
 - c. immediate career objectives (to be achieved in the next 3-5 years) and long term career objectives (to be achieved in the next 5-10 years); and
 - d. how can this Fellowship help them achieve these objectives?
 3. An essay on any of the following issues (not exceeding 1500 words);
 - a) Law as a tool for empowering vulnerable communities
 - b) Towards substantive equality: Affirmative action beyond reservation
 - c) Whether affirmative action policies in higher education in India adequately address the institutional discrimination?
- The above mentioned documents must be uploaded as a single PDF file.

***Those who have already applied in furtherance of the previous call for applications need not apply again.**

Selection process

- Candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of assessment of the submitted documents.

- Shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.
- Depending on the number of applications received, the applicants may be called for multiple rounds of interviews.
- A total of 10 Fellows will be selected.

Stipend

- The Fellows will be paid a monthly stipend of Rs. 10,000/-.
- Need based financial assistance (upto Rs. 5000/- per month) will be provided to five Fellows who choose to undertake the Fellowship in-person.

Tentative Timeline

Stage	Timeline
Call for applications	1st week of August 2022
Last date to apply	15th August 2022
Selection process begins	16th August 2022
Notifying selected Fellows	1st week of September 2022
Orientation & Training	October 2022
Attachment Programme	November- January 2023
Report Writing and Seminars	February 2023 - March 2023

For any queries about the VALE Fellowship, please write to

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