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KCHR Internships

KCHR offers internships to graduate, post-graduate, M.Phil and research students of all disciplinary backgrounds from any part of the world who are interested in undertaking short-term study projects from an interdisciplinary perspective. The internships also offer exposure to **KCHR's diverse projects and programmes**. Library assignments and fieldwork are compulsory components of the internships.

In special circumstances, teachers and other professionals who want to take a break from their primary occupation for a "studentship" to learn the preliminaries of archaeology or to engage with another aspect of their academic interests may be considered for the internships.

TYPES OF INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

Currently KCHR offers two types of internship programmes:

1. Internship opportunities at the Indian Institute of Archaeology (India), Pattanam.
2. Internship opportunities at the KCHR headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum).

ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1. KCHR Internships are open to applicants of any nationality or disciplinary background.
2. Students enrolled in graduate, post-graduate or research programmes in any recognized university are eligible to apply.
3. The duration of the internship must be a minimum of 3 weeks to a maximum of 3 months.
4. The internship period may be utilized to prepare for dissertations and assignments as well as independent themes.
5. If applicable, the curriculum for the interns will be customized based on the aptitude and potential of each applicant in discussion with the KCHR faculty members.

FEE STRUCTURE

- **For the Indian Institute of Archaeology (India) at Pattanam**

Minimum fee for an individual intern will be Rs. 1000 per week (US \$50/week for international applicants). Fees may vary for groups of interns and others depending on the duration and content of the course or assignment. Full fees must be paid for the entire duration of the internship prior to the commencement of the program.

This fee includes the provision of basic shared accommodation in the village at one KCHR's properties or in a homestay with one of the local Pattanam families. Food and utilities will be chargeable on actuals and must be paid at the end of each week (for short-term internships) or month (for longer-term internships).

- **For KCHR Headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram**

Individual interns will be required to make one payment of Rs. 2000 (US \$100 for international interns) as the overall fee for internships at Thiruvananthapuram. The fee may vary for groups of interns and others depending on the duration and content of the course or assignment. Interns at Thiruvananthapuram will have to arrange for their own accommodation and food.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications are accepted throughout the year and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Students will be admitted based on their applications sent through proper channels, either by email or by post to the address given below.
2. KCHR will not provide transportation. Interns are liable to pay for expenses on utilities incurred to KCHR, if any, during the course of their internship.
3. If the conduct of an intern is not satisfactory or in any way disreputable, his/her internship will be suspended or terminated immediately without prior notice.
4. In the case of suspension or termination of internship, the intern will not be eligible for a refund of the internship fee. Any other loss incurred by KCHR will also need to be borne by the intern.
5. Regular attendance at KCHR is compulsory and leave will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. The intern is required to sign the attendance register on a regular basis and submit a daily report through email except on holidays.
6. Interns are expected to promote environmentally conscious activities by walking or using bicycles in the village.
7. Apart from active participation in his/her themed area, the Intern is expected to produce a critical reflection on his/her internship experience demonstrating how he/she has addressed his/her specific learning goal(s).
8. Address for communications, including applications:

**The Director
Kerala Council for Historical Research
P.B. No. 839
Vylopilly Samskrithi Bhavan
Nalanda, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala 695003, India**

Email: kchrtvm@gmail.com

PROGRAMME BLUEPRINT

STAGE 1: THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications should include the following documents:

- Copy of the department/institution profile to which the applicant is affiliated
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the applicant
- Letter specifying the proposed duration of the internship
- A Statement of Purpose (minimum 500 words) outlining the reason for application, the area of interest of the applicant, and a brief description of the project idea that the intern wants to pursue at KCHR.
- Two academic reference letters.

STAGE 2: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

It is desirable that the applicant take the initiative to suggest the signing of an **MoU** between KCHR and the affiliate institution of the applicant.

(The MoU will be signed on a Rs. 100 stamp paper bearing the seal and signature of the Head of the institute to which the applicant is affiliated.)

STAGE 3: COMMENCEMENT OF THE INTERNSHIP

Applicants will be informed of their application results through email/phone and will be required to pay the full internship fee (as described on pages 2-3) at the beginning of the internship.

STAGE 4: END OF THE INTERNSHIP

After the completion of the pre-agreed duration of the internship, the intern must submit a **Research Report** for evaluation by KCHR. An expert committee will evaluate the report and their comments will be provided to the intern/institution concerned.

A Certificate of Internship* will be issued by KCHR after successful completion of the internship.

*Potential interns may be asked by KCHR to write a co-authored research paper for submission to a peer-reviewed international research journal at the end of their internship. This will generally be communicated at the beginning of the internship and the certificate will only be issued after the paper has been produced and submitted for review in one of these journals.

DESCRIPTIONS OF INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES AT KCHR

Internship Opportunities in the Indian Institute of Archaeology (IndIA) Pattanam, North Paravur, Kerala

The Indian Institute of Archaeology (IndIA), an academic centre of KCHR at Pattanam, conducts a one year course titled *Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology: An interdisciplinary programme in Material Culture Studies*. IndIA is now offering a short-term internship programme of 3-12 weeks to those who are interested in undertaking a significant experiential learning opportunity in Archaeology. The internship structure links classroom learning, field work, the Pattanam archaeological excavation, post-excavation research, green (eco-friendly) archaeology, community archaeology and the candidate's other related academic interests.

Unique codes for each theme are mentioned in brackets () below. Please identify the theme code while submitting the application.

1. Classroom learning (PTM001)

IndIA's post-graduate diploma course has six modules (five subject areas and one dissertation). The course includes 20 hours per week of teaching time, with the remaining time devoted to self-study, group discussions, seminars, book reviews, practical documentation, analytical study and research. Library assignments and film viewings are also a part of the classroom learning.

The Classroom Learning Intern is expected to attend the current module of IndIA classes on material culture studies during the duration of his/her internship. (The syllabus is available in the KCHR website.) The primary objective of these classes is to undertake interdisciplinary studies based on the tangible evidence emerging from archaeological sites like Pattanam. IndIA aims to train young researchers to realize the potential of knowing and reconstructing the past as objectively and methodically as possible.

2. Field exploration (PTM002)

KCHR undertakes systematic explorations (through surface survey and scientific documentation) inside and outside of Kerala with reference to the archaeological, historical, anthropological and geological data from Pattanam excavation. The explorations are interdisciplinary, taking into account the geological, ecological, archaeological, anthropological and historical aspects of the region. ***Interns will have the opportunity to participate in previously-scheduled explorations or undertake their own.***

3. Pattanam Excavations (PTM003)*

The Pattanam Archaeological Research undertaken by KCHR since 2006-2007 has evolved into a global project in material culture studies. The excavations have revealed about 1,30, 865 artifacts and approximately 4 .5 million ceramic sherds. KCHR is engaged in the study of these material remains with the following objectives:

1. To refine the cultural sequence of this multicultural site;
2. To study the overseas, coastal and inland trade networks that intersected at Pattanam and their trade dynamics;
3. To study the urban characteristics, industrial output and technological legacy of Pattanam;
4. To define the spatial organization and layout of the Pattanam settlement;
5. To understand the paleo-environment of Pattanam;
6. To understand the relationship between the ancient port of Muziris and the Pattanam site; and
7. To study the state and polity of the region in

antiquity. Besides this, KCHR plans to further expose the partially-excavated wharf and brick structures and convert the surrounding land into an *in-situ* museum. It also plans to establish other site museums and conduct exploratory surveys in the 50 km area surrounding Pattanam in order to locate satellite settlements, burial sites or other archaeological remains.

Interns joining IndIA at the time of Pattanam Excavations (usually from February-May) are expected to participate in the Pattanam Excavation. Please contact the KCHR office/website for more details.

****Read the Special Requirements for this category on Page 8***

4. Post-Excavation Research (PTM004)

Conservation, preservation, analytical study and interpretation of the artifacts are some of the main components of Post Excavation Research.

The research intern is expected to use his/her interests to engage in the study and preparation of a systematic database or to prepare an article for a peer-reviewed international journal.

5. Green archaeology (PTM005)

Committed to the preservation of Pattanam's archaeological wealth, KCHR has bought over 7 acres of land on the Pattanam mound for research and site conservation. The objective is to protect the approximately 111-acre archaeological mound through the organic farming of traditional spices, medicinal plants and flowering plants.

Experts from various research institutes, Kudumbasree units and NGOs working on ecological projects are enlisted to design, create and support scientifically sound landscaping, floriculture, and the harvesting and marketing of produce.

With the Green Archaeology Project, KCHR also hopes to harness the vast traditional systems of knowledge of the local communities, showcase their rich heritage, and integrate this with ways to preserve the environment. As part of Green Archaeology, KCHR advocates the use of bicycles in the heritage zone.

KCHR expects the Intern's active participation in nurturing the spices and medicinal plants grown at Pattanam.

6. Community archaeology (PTM006)

As part of the community archaeology and heritage management initiative, IndIA is promoting the use of bicycles in the village. The aim is to transform Pattanam into a natural, eco-friendly heritage zone by limiting the use of motor vehicles, and creating alternate living practices. ***The Intern can be a part of the initiative by using or promoting the use of bicycles at Pattanam or donating a bicycle and involve in other community empowerment programmes.***

7. Film studies (PTM007)

There are regular film shows as part of the academic curriculum of the archaeology course. They are on varied themes and ***interns can propose film reviews or studies based on the educational***

and feature films in the India Film Archives as well as those they are interested to critically study at Pattanam.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL AND INDIAN VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PATTANAM EXCAVATIONS

- Foreign and Indian students/researchers desiring to volunteer/participate in Pattanam Archaeological research as interns must apply in the format described above. They can submit application by email, in person or by post.
- Applications must have recommendations from the applicant's affiliated institution and an eminent scholar or expert who is collaborating with Pattanam archaeological research.
- The internship fee will be based on the duration of participation and scholarship available to the student, and will be assigned at the discretion of the Director.
- The internship fee for foreign students with institutional support will be US \$500.
- The director is authorized to process and decide on the applications of the Volunteers/ Interns.
- KCHR will issue a Certificate of admission to candidates from abroad, but their visa formalities will be the responsibility of the candidate or affiliate institution. KCHR will not admit any candidate without appropriate visa or clearance from the Government of India.

Internship opportunities at KCHR Headquarters Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), Kerala

The KCHR headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram offers internships on the following themes.

Unique codes for each theme are mentioned in brackets (). Please identify the theme code while submitting the application.

1. Digitizing Kerala's Past (DKP) Project (TVM001)

This project aims to create a digital archive of rare documents and photographs relating to the social, cultural, historical and scientific heritage of Kerala. After digitization, these documents will be uploaded on the KCHR website and made available for public access. ***One sub-project for which interns are needed is identifying and digitizing historical records, chronicles, images and documents that are presently in the private custody of a person, family or institution.*** More details can be found here: <http://dkp.kchr.ac.in/en/>

2. Contemporary History Archives (TVM002)

This archive visualizes the documentation of contemporary aspects of life in Kerala that normally escape direct or indirect efforts of documentation. A day in the life of a person (<http://dkp.kchr.ac.in/en/>) and the Kamala Surayya Archive (<http://kchr.ac.in/kchr6-06-09/website/index.html>) are good examples of archiving the lesser-known aspects of an individual's life, contacts, visits, friendships, meetings, interviews and casual acquaintances. This project plans to make a comprehensive archive of contemporary Malayali life by recording the lived experiences of contemporary individuals from various parts of the society.

3. Archives of Family Histories and Biographies (TVM003)

The Archives of Malayali Family Histories and Biographies is an ongoing local history research initiative. KCHR has a unique collection of family histories, autobiographies, *grantavaris* and *nalvazhees*, the full list of which is available here: <http://kchr.ac.in/2011pdf/familyhistorylist.pdf>

KCHR provides academic assistance to conduct family history research and writing. ***The KCHR expects prospective interns to enhance this archive by undertaking original research in collecting and archiving Malayali family histories and biographies.***

4. Writing of local and institutional histories (TVM004)

Academic and organizational support is being offered to Local Self-Government Institutions (LSG) and cultural organizations in Kerala to undertake research by writing and mapping the local history and cultural heritage of a village/*Panchayath* or institution. ***Prospective interns are required to plan and participate in related activities such as LSG advocacy, survey, data collection, analysis, compilation, editing, and publication.***

5. Historical Atlas of Kerala (TVM005)

This project envisages the documentation of and database creation for the archaeological/historical sites, artifacts and monuments of Kerala. ***Prospective interns are expected to locate and document existing information on archeologically and historically significant sites, artifacts and monuments and help to create a comprehensive database.***

6. Archaeological Explorations and Surveys (TVM006/PTM002/PTM003)

The project plans to utilize the available archaeological, historical and geological data from the Pattanam site to launch systematic explorations in and outside of Kerala (through surface survey and scientific documentation). The purpose of these explorations will be to identify and document potential archaeological sites contemporary to Pattanam.

7. Documentation of the Buddhist and Jain Vestiges of Kerala (TVM007)

This project aims to locate, document and help conserve the archaeological, archival, oral historical and other sources that are indicative of pre-9th century CE Kerala history and society.

Prospective interns participating in this multi-disciplinary exploration are expected to prepare data on the Jain and the Buddhist vestiges of Kerala for publication online and in print.

8. History of Malayali Migrations and Migrant Communities (TVM008)

This project proposes to collect, compile, comprehend and publish the oral histories, lived experiences, narratives, photographs and other relevant documents of the Malayali diaspora. KCHR proposes to build a resource base on this theme with online facilities for the submission and dissemination of assembled datasets. ***KCHR interns can engage in the project by collecting data from individuals or institutions who are interested in contributing to this project.***

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does KCHR connote by the term “Intern”?

An intern is the principal investigator of the above internship projects. It is their sole responsibility to perceive, design and take the lead role in implementing their proposed project.

2. Can I submit a research proposal outside the contours of the above themes?

There are no hard and fast rule on this. The proposal submitted by the applicant can be based on an ongoing KCHR project or independent of them.

3. Is financial support available from the KCHR in case I want to employ additional help for my project?

Yes, provided the intern justifies the requirement of such equipment logically and scientifically and if it can be brought into the project heads classified as “Conservation of the Historical/Intellectual Legacy of Kerala” or “Digitizing Kerala’s Past”.

For further queries, please email KCHR at kchrtvm@gmail.com



past for a positive future

Kerala Council for Historical Research

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