

Vidhi Access to Legal Education Fellowship

Call for Applications

Introduction to 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.

About the 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 law students from marginalised communities to augment their skills and capacities. Through constant guidance, mentorship, and support, the year-long fellowship aims to bring opportunities to such students and help them discover and improve upon the skill-sets they need to build a career in litigation, academia, or public policy.

Building on the success and learnings from the inaugural VALE Fellowship, Vidhi now aims to benefit law students in their early years of law school by facilitating on-campus learning, the exchange of ideas, and capacity building. In furtherance of this, we aim to establish a society of law students at the University of Kashmir, comprising VALE Fellows, to serve as a platform for learning, collaboration and growth.

This initiative is part of a broader effort by Vidhi to foster student-led initiatives through its Kautilya Societies. Over the past five years, Vidhi has established these societies at nine law schools across India, providing capacity-building support in the form of guidance and mentorship, upskilling workshops, and opportunities for internships and research assistantships. These efforts enable students to engage with and contribute to real-world legal policy projects.

Program Structure

- I. **Orientation & Training:** The Fellows will undergo a month-long orientation and training programme in a hybrid mode. 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

Legislative Drafting 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 one month. 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. **Campus Based Programmes:** The Fellows, in consultation with the faculty coordinators, will prepare an activity calendar for the academic year to guide the events conducted on campus. These activities will include webinars, seminars, workshops, on-ground research, competitions and collaborative projects designed to foster peer learning and engage students in meaningful discourse on critical issues in law and public policy. Vidhi will ensure seamless execution by providing the necessary funding and resources.
- 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 online.
- The Fellows will be required to attend a one month attachment programme offline.

Who can apply for the Fellowship?

- The VALE Fellowship is open for law students from the University of Kashmir and affiliated colleges.
- 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:
 - a. A Curriculum Vitae (not exceeding 2 pages);
 - b. A brief statement (not exceeding 700 words) outlining:
 - i. the applicant's background;
 - ii. challenges the applicant faced while making career choices;
 - iii. 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
 - iv. How can this Fellowship help them achieve these objectives?

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 & Financial Support

The Fellows will be paid a stipend of Rs. 20,000/- for the month of the attachment programme.

Timeline

Stage	Timeline
Call for Applications	17th December 2024
Last Date to apply	5th January 2025
Notifying selected fellows	10th January 2025
Orientation & Training	1st February - 7th February 2025
Attachment Programme	1st May - 31st May 2025

For any queries about the VALE Fellowship, please write to

Ms. Mahvish Kazmi - mahvish.kazmi@vidhilegalpolicy.in