



## **Global Employer Services Alert** Harmonizing global & local perspectives

### **Introduction of Intern Visa**

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## Background

- Under the erstwhile visa guidelines issued by the MHA, foreign students sponsored by AIESEC for internship could come to India to perform project-based work in companies/industries on a business visa. Also, for internship in Indian companies / institutions with recommendation from Business France under the French International Internship Programme (VIE), employment visas were granted based on a lower minimum salary threshold of US\$ 12,000. However, foreign nationals pursuing internships with companies/industries in other cases had to apply for an employment visa which has a minimum salary threshold of INR 16,25,000 (US\$ 25,000 earlier).
- With an aim to further simplify the visa norms for internship in India, the government of India (GOI) had introduced a new category of visa, called 'Intern Visa'.

## Key Highlights

Heads	Particulars
Applicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign nationals intending to pursue internship with Indian companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and educational institutions.</li> <li>• Gap between completion of graduation / post-graduation and commencement of internship should not be more than one year</li> </ul>
Sub-categories of Intern Visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I-1 – Intern under French VIE programme</li> <li>• I-2 – Intern with business house including those sponsored by AIESEC</li> <li>• I-3 – Intern with NGOs and educational institutions including those sponsored by AIESEC</li> <li>• I-4 – Intern with foreign media organization in India</li> </ul>
Minimum Remuneration and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant should draw minimum remuneration of INR 780,000 per annum, if the internship is with a company. Thus, there is no change with respect to internship under the French VIE program (US\$ 12,000*65 =INR 780,000)</li> <li>• No minimum salary requirement in case of internship with educational institutions and NGOs</li> <li>• Letter is required from the sponsoring entity in India which indicates the period of internship</li> <li>• The company needs to provide an undertaking that it would ensure departure of the foreign national on completion of the internship</li> </ul>
Validity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to the duration of internship programme subject to maximum of one year (visa cannot be extended)</li> <li>• Visa could be issued with single / double / multiple entry</li> </ul>
Procedural aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration with FRRO/ FRO required within 14 days of arrival if visa is valid for more than 180 days</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion of the intern visa to any other visa including employment visa will not be permitted</li> <li>• Earnings from such internship in India will be subject to income tax regulations in India</li> </ul>
Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit of 50 intern visas per year shall apply for each Indian mission / post. However, higher limit of 100 intern visas shall apply for countries with population of persons of Indian origin exceeding 1 million</li> <li>• Intern visa shall not be granted to nationals of Pakistan</li> <li>• For nationals of Afghanistan, China, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan or a foreign national of Pakistan origin or stateless person, visa shall be granted only after obtaining prior clearance from the MHA</li> <li>• Grant of visa for pursuing internship with NGOs shall be subject to prior clearance of MHA</li> <li>• Intern visa will not be issued for internship in certain vital sectors such as defence, telecom, space technologies, mining, civil aviation, construction / strategic infrastructure projects, petroleum and natural gas exploration, private security agencies, human rights, nuclear energy, environmental issues and dams</li> </ul>

## Conclusion

Intern visa should help facilitate movement of fresh graduates and post graduates into India based on a lower salary threshold, as compared to that applicable to an employment visa. However, given the annual cap in terms of the number of intern visas indicated in the policy, it remains to be seen whether the same would be enforced very stringently by the Indian missions.

### Source :

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/index.html>

[Press release \(ID 160350\) dated 31 March 2017 issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi](#)

[Clarification from MHA in response to queries raised](#)

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