

Sankara Academy of Vision (SAV) was chartered in 2012 to help with capacity building for eye care. SAV is an integral part of the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust, the parent organisation that runs the Sankara Eye Hospitals across India.

Sankara Eye Hospitals currently operate hospitals across Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The International Student Internship Programme is offered to residents of United States, Canada or England and those interested to serve the needy and willing adapt to the local culture and practices. The programme is structured to give students an insight into the working of India's largest structured community eye care provider.

Apart from the Student Internship, those with a healthcare background could also apply for observerships.

For both programmes knowledge of the local language is beneficial but not necessary.

Why Sankara Internship?

Sankara Eye Hospitals have had the experience of handling Student Interns from across the world that have come from diverse backgrounds with varied expectations for over 15 years.

Advantages of interning at Sankara Hospitals are many; including experiencing a blend of interning in modern hospitals to field experience as part of our outreach eye care programme. You would be able to interact with clinical specialists, public health experts and administrators to understand their work with an insight into their lives.

Interns will experience a unique blend of a non-profit that has streamlined its operational environment on corporate principles without compromising on the dedication to service.

Some amount of customization of the internship experience would be done based on candidates interested area of activity and the nature of work will vary depending on the applicant's existing qualification and experience.

The hospitals provide a safe environment for the duration of stay with cafeteria's in-house. (Accommodation would not be provided for this programme)

If you are interested in participating in any of these programs in India, please read the following Frequently Asked Questions first and then fill out the Application.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Below are some of the frequently asked questions. If you still need some clarification please write to director.sav@sankaraeye.com with a copy to prasanth@sankaraeye.com with the Subject: International Student Internship Application

- Q: [What types of opportunities does Sankara Eye Hospitals, India offer? What are the time requirements?](#)
- Q: [What are the typical numbers of people you can accommodate in the programs in a given timeframe?](#)
- Q: [I am not a college student, or medical student. I am interested in this internship. Can I participate? When are these programs conducted at Sankara Eye Hospital?](#)
- Q: [Where can I find out more about Sankara Academy of Vision & Sankara Eye Hospitals?](#)
- Q: [At what hospitals are clinical programs granted?](#)
- Q: [Where are the hospitals located?](#)
- Q: [Do I need to take any immunization shots before starting my internship?](#)
- Q: [Do you provide financial support for the clinical volunteering programs?](#)
- Q: [Do you provide accommodations and food?](#)
- Q: [Will I be picked up at the Airport?](#)
- Q: [What is the dress code?](#)
- Q: [What is the policy for alcohol and smoking?](#)
- Q: [What is the application timeframe, process & fees?](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: What types of opportunities does Sankara Eye Hospitals, India offer? What are the time requirements?

A: Sankara Eye Hospitals under the Sankara Academy of Vision offers structured graduate and post graduate programmes in Optometry and Ophthalmology. They also offer fellowship training in specialized areas.

Apart from these, students can apply for two different programs – International Student Internship & Clinical Observership. The details and requirements of both are detailed under.

1. International Student Internship

Requirements:

- Open to anyone older than 15 years old (Minimum completed 10th Grade)
- No medical experience required

Duration of Volunteering: Minimum 2 weeks to a maximum of 2 months.

Program Overview:

- Interns will get exposure to the local culture and experiences of eyecare and doctors in India.
- You may get opportunities to attend eye camps, observe doctors and nurses attend to patients, and help in tasks that require no medical background.
- Essentially, you will be doing a lot of learning while you are observing at Sankara Eye Hospitals.
- When attending eye camps, you will help to setup the eye camp, and getting people processed throughout the day. We have eye camps in surrounding rural areas every weekend. The goal of the eye camps is to identify the beneficiaries who need eye procedures so they can live a normal life. Typically, at the end of the day, we bring those needing surgeries back to the hospital where we provide them with room and board, food, medicine and conduct eye procedures so they can resume a normal life. This is part of our ongoing Gift of Vision Rural Outreach Eye Care Programme.

Interns may be given short assignments including (as examples)

1. Feedback Surveys & analysis from Patients
2. Undertake & Document case studies
3. Operational research – clinical / administrative with interviews, case studies etc.
4. Help with inventory management
5. Teach students spoken English
6. Observe and Conduct surveys in eye camps
7. Chaperoning patients (be their guardian while they are with us)
8. Social Media Campaigns

2. Clinical Observership

Requirements:

This program is specifically for those involved in health care:

- Residents in Ophthalmology
- Medical Graduates (M.D. degree achieved)
 - Sub Specialty training in Ophthalmology
 - Undergoing Sub Specialty training in Ophthalmology
 - Geriatric medicine / general medicine sub-specialty
- Optometrists

- Optometry students
- Public health / hospital administrations students

Duration of Observership: 1 week to a maximum of 3 weeks.

Program Overview:

There is great flexibility for the participant to observe as many or few of our programs as desired. The constraints of Observership time and faculty availability ultimately dictate the experience one will receive.

Your time at Sankara Eye Hospital will enable you to interact and observe some of these departments. Your schedule will be based on your interests.

Hands-on experience with eye procedures would not be possible in most instances due to regulatory constraints.

Ophthalmology Residents:

- Can observe the functioning of the outpatient clinic and observe various eye surgeries.
- Partake in the academics at campus, use the library facilities and interact with our doctors.
- Attend our out-reach screening programs that will allow you to not only understand the functioning of a community eye care organization, but also assimilate the unique India that resides in our villages.

Optometrists

- Observe our outpatients procedures
- Teach classes to our students (depending on the experience).
- Participate as part of the pediatric screening / outreach team etc.

Administrators

- Observe the functional aspect of the Hospital as well as the whole institute handling multiple hospitals
- Get opportunities to attend eye camps, observe doctors and nurses attend to patients, and help in tasks that require no medical background.
- Health administrators will be given specific projects, which they will be required to submit for their internship completion certificate. They will be required to send a detailed CV/resume and also indicate their areas of interest. In addition, they will observe the day-to-day functioning of the hospital.

Q2: What are the typical numbers of people you can accommodate in the programs in a given timeframe?

A: We endeavor to ensure adequate supervision of the interns during their stay at our hospitals. Hence we limit it to 2 candidates at a time. (Sankara Academy of Vision retains the right to alter this without according any reason.)

Q3: I am not a college student, or medical student. I am interested in this internship. Can I participate? When are these programs conducted at Sankara Eye Hospital?

A: There are regulatory constraints with volunteering in India. Hence we now offer internships to students to partake and understand the workings of the largest structured community eye care organisation in India.

These programs are conducted throughout the year. The applicant is expected to be aware of the prevailing climate at the hospital and plan accordingly

Q4: Where can I find out more about Sankara Academy of Vision & Sankara Eye Hospitals?

A: You can find information on Sankara Academy of Vision & Sankara Eye Hospitals at www.sankaraeye.com

Q5: At what hospitals are clinical programs granted?

A: Both programmes are offered at our hospitals in Bangalore, Guntur, Coimbatore, Shimoga, Anand and Ludhiana.

Q6: Where are the hospitals located?

A: Addresses and contact information for each hospital can be found at <http://www.sankaraeye.com/contactus.html>.

Q7: Do I need to take any immunization shots before starting my internship?

A: Sankara Academy of Vision has a hospital licensing regulation which requires that anyone who has patient contact provide proof of immunity to Measles, Mumps, Hepatitis B and Rubella. You will need to submit an immunization history, as well as documentation of personal health insurance prior to your start date.

Q8: Do you provide financial support for the clinical volunteering programs?

A: The programs offered by Sankara Academy of Vision have no stipendiary/ salary support. Obtaining the correct visa, making travel arrangements are the participant's responsibility. A fee of \$100 is charged as an administrative overhead for the internship application processing and no further payments would need be done at the Hospitals.

We are unable to provide any type of financial assistance for travel, accommodations, or any other expenses related to relocation to the United States.

Q9: Do you provide accommodations and food?

A: We are not in a position to provide accommodation at any of our centres for interns. For clinical observers in Bangalore accommodation would be provided in a non-air-conditioned room on twin sharing if available.

Our team would be able to guide you to the nearest accommodation available based on our previous experience with other interns / observers.

Cafeterias are available at all the hospitals. If you are interested in eating on campus, this can be arranged for an approximate cost of about \$5.00 per day (includes breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner). This amount needs to be paid at the Institution (in Indian Rupees) by the participant.

The Sankara Eye Hospitals have a strict philosophy of adhering to vegetarianism and thus, non-vegetarian food is not permitted inside the campus. If a participant wants to have non-vegetarian food, he/she may have to go outside to restaurants.

Q10: Will I be picked up at the Airport?

A: It would be best to take a taxi to reach the hospital. You could reach out to your internship coordinator for help in facilitation.

Q11: What is the dress code?

A: Salwars and/or professional trousers (dress pants) are the dress code for women and formal Shirts and trousers with black formal shoes for men.

Q12: What is the policy for alcohol and smoking?

A: All Sankara Eye Hospitals are NO SMOKING, NO ALCOHOL zones. If anyone is caught smoking and/or drinking/distributing alcohol, Sankara Eye Hospital at its discretion will terminate the Internship /Observership.

Q13: What is the application timeframe , process & fees?

A: Applications are accepted at different times based on when you are applying for our programs.

Internship Period	Applications Accepted
January through March	Month of September
April through May	Month of December
June through August	Month of February
September through November 15	Month of May

Please note:

- No early or late applications will be accepted.(Only for the Summer of 2018 we would be accepting applications deviating from the above grid)
- Application processing will start at end of application period. You should expect to hear back within 4 weeks after application deadline.
- Sankara Eye Hospitals have a hospital licensing regulation which requires that anyone who has patient contact provide proof of immunity to measles, mumps, Hepatitis B and rubella.

Application Process

The application pack should be emailed to director.sav@sankaraeye.com with a copy to prasanth@sankaraeye.com and sefintern@giftofvision.org the following;

1. Completed Application Form (In English)
2. Cover letter
3. Copy of your CV (i.e., resume)
4. Proof of Immunization (Measles, Mumps, Hepatitis B And Rubella)
5. Travel insurance
6. Photograph
7. Proof of remittance of Application Fees.

Applications and all related material are accepted via email only.

Fees: We charge an application processing fees of \$100 that should be paid through

Beneficiary Name S K K M Trust	Sankara Academy of Vision
Beneficiary Bank Name & address	HDFC Bank Ltd., Sathy Main Road, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore – 641035, Tamilnadu, India
Branch Name	Saravanampatti (2231)
Beneficiary Account Type	SB- Institution
Beneficiary Account Number	50100004642084
MICR CODE	641240010
IFSC Number	HDFC0002231
Swift Code	HDFCINBB

Email Submission:

Subject: *International Student Internship Application*

To: director.sav@sankaraeye.com with a copy to prasanth@sankaraeye.com