

F. No. 01/69/12/01/2026-O&M
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Department of Commerce
(Directorate General of Foreign Trade)

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi - 110011

Dated: May 04, 2026

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME, 2026

Internship in DGFT Headquarters and Regional Authorities

1. About the Internship Programme

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has been running an Internship Programme over the years to enable structured engagement between officers of the Directorate and young scholars and researchers with strong academic credentials from reputed institutions pursuing study or research in Public Policy, Economics, Finance, Management, Law, Foreign Trade, Logistics, Operations Research and Artificial Intelligence.

The Programme is designed to bring fresh academic perspectives into the policy-making process, enabling the Directorate to critically examine its activities and undertake corrective measures in an objective and impartial manner. For the interns, the Programme offers an opportunity to gain exposure to real-world policy formulation and implementation, contributing meaningfully to their career advancement and professional expertise.

2. Themes for Summer Internship 2026

The Summer Internship Programme, 2026 will be organised around two distinct thematic tracks, corresponding to the place of engagement:

(a) DGFT Headquarters, New Delhi: “Services as the Next Export Frontier: Reimagining India’s Foreign Trade Policy.”

This track will examine how India’s Foreign Trade Policy can be re-imagined to place services exports — spanning IT/ITeS, professional services, financial services, healthcare, education, audio-visual and emerging digital services — at the centre of the country’s external sector strategy. Interns will be expected to engage with questions of policy architecture, regulatory enablement, market access, digital trade infrastructure, and the design of incentives and facilitation instruments.

(b) Regional Authorities (RAs) of DGFT: “Rejuvenating Districts as Export Hubs: Strengthening Grassroots Export Competitiveness.”

This track will focus on the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative and the broader agenda of building grassroots export capacity. Interns at each Regional Authority will work on district-level export ecosystems, identification and promotion of export-worthy products and services, institutional coordination across State and Central agencies, and the role of digital platforms such as the Trade Connect ePlatform (TCeP) in linking exporters at the district level to global markets.

3. Number of Slots

- DGFT Headquarters, New Delhi: approximately 30 (thirty) slots.
- Regional Authorities of DGFT: approximately 05 (five) slots in each of the 24 Regional Authorities, aggregating to around 120 (one hundred and twenty) slots.

The total indicative engagement under the Programme is therefore approximately 150 interns. The actual number engaged will be subject to the availability of slots in DGFT Headquarters/Regional Authorities and the recommendation of the Selection Committee.

4. Eligibility

The Programme is open to Indian nationals residing in India or pursuing their studies abroad, who satisfy the following conditions:

- The candidate must possess a graduation degree, with a minimum of 60% marks in aggregate, from National Schools of Law, Central Universities, AICTE-recognised Financial/Economics Institutions, recognised National Management Institutes, Foreign Universities or other Institutions of excellence.
- The candidates pursuing or having completed a Post Graduation degree in Public Policy, Economics, Finance, Management, Law, Foreign Trade, Logistics, Operations Research or Artificial Intelligence, will be preferred.
- Candidates who are currently pursuing their studies must produce a permission letter from their Supervisor / Head of Department at the time of joining.

Candidates who do not satisfy the above conditions need not apply.

5. Selection Methodology

Selection to the Programme will be based exclusively on a written précis prepared by the candidate on the theme corresponding to the place of engagement opted for. There will be no interview.

(a) Précis Specifications

- Length: between 1,500 and 2,000 words (excluding annexures, footnotes and references).
- Format: PDF only, uploaded through the Web Form referred to in paragraph 9 below.
- **Content:** the précis must articulate original ideas of the candidate on the theme applicable to the place of engagement chosen (DGFT Headquarters or Regional Authority). It should set out the problem statement, analytical approach, proposed ideas/recommendations and a brief implementation outline.
- **Authenticity:** the précis must be authored by the candidate. It must not be generated, in whole or in part, by any artificial intelligence or large language model tool. The candidate shall furnish a self-declaration / undertaking to this effect through the Web Form. Any précis found to have been AI-generated shall result in summary rejection of the candidature, and where already engaged, summary termination of the internship.

(b) Scrutiny and Selection

All précis received within the prescribed timeline will be scrutinised by a Selection Committee constituted for the purpose. The Committee will evaluate the précis on the basis of analytical clarity, originality of ideas, policy relevance, feasibility and quality of articulation. The decision of the Selection Committee shall be final and binding, and no queries shall be entertained after the completion of the selection process.

Offers of internship will be communicated to selected candidates by e-mail only, subject to the availability of slots and the approval of the Competent Authority.

6. Duration

The Internship will be undertaken from May 25, 2026 to July 31, 2026, that is, for a period of approximately ten weeks.

7. Place of Engagement and Reporting

- Interns selected for DGFT Headquarters will be attached to the Heads of the respective Divisions, to whom they shall directly report.
- Interns selected for Regional Authorities will be physically located at the office of the concerned Regional Authority, and will be attached to and report directly to the Joint Director General / Additional Director General of Foreign Trade in-charge of that Regional Authority.
- A candidate shall opt for either DGFT Headquarters or one Regional Authority. A candidate cannot apply for both simultaneously, and only one application per candidate will be entertained.

8. Presentation of Ideas, Certificate and Rewards

- Each intern shall, towards the conclusion of the internship, deliver a presentation on the ideas developed during the engagement to the Head of the concerned Division (in the case of DGFT Headquarters) or to the Head of the concerned Regional Authority (in the case of RAs). The presentation will be held in the last week of July, 2026.
- Each Regional Authority shall identify two (02) of the best ideas presented by its interns and forward the same to DGFT Headquarters for consideration.
- Internship certificates will be issued only after the intern has delivered the prescribed presentation and the same has been evaluated by the Head of the concerned Division/Regional Authority. No certificate will be issued in the absence of the presentation.
- The best ideas, identified from amongst those presented at DGFT Headquarters and those forwarded by the Regional Authorities, shall be suitably rewarded by the Department.

9. Mode of Application

Interested candidates shall submit their application through a single online Web Form provided for the Programme. The Form shall include a drop-down field through which the candidate shall indicate the place of engagement opted for, namely DGFT Headquarters or one of the 24 Regional Authorities.

- Application link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdK4lLWifNk4QvjUMRcA-g7yvfGm2jCc16wG7V1B4vSPVIZgQ/viewform?usp=header>

Each application shall be accompanied by:

- A duly filled Web Form;
- The candidate's curriculum vitae (CV);
- The précis in PDF format, prepared in accordance with paragraph 5 above;
- A self-declaration / undertaking, through the Form, that the précis has been independently authored by the candidate and has not been generated by any artificial intelligence or large language model tool;
- In the case of candidates currently pursuing their studies, a permission letter from the Supervisor / Head of Department at the time of joining.

Applications received before or after the prescribed timeline, or applications that are incomplete, shall not be entertained.

10. Timeline

S. No.	Activity	Date
i.	Date of Advertisement	May 04, 2026
ii.	Last date for submission of online application along with précis	May 17, 2026
iii.	Declaration of final list of selected candidates	May 21, 2026
iv.	Commencement of Internship	May 25, 2026
v.	Conclusion of Internship and Presentation of Ideas	Last week of July, 2026 (concluding on July 31, 2026)
vi.	Forwarding of two best ideas by each Regional Authority to DGFT HQ	August 07, 2026

11. Remuneration

There shall be **no remuneration, stipend or any other monetary payment** to interns engaged under this Programme. Interns shall not be treated as employees of DGFT, and there shall be no assurance, expressed or implied, of any future employment with DGFT or with the Government of India.

12. Logistics Support

Necessary logistics support, taking into account functional requirements at the place of engagement, shall be provided to the intern by the DGFT Headquarters/ Regional Authority concerned. Interns shall be responsible for their own travel, boarding and lodging arrangements during the internship.

13. Declaration of Secrecy

Interns shall furnish a Declaration of Secrecy to the Directorate / Regional Authority, in the prescribed format, prior to the commencement of their internship. Any breach of the Declaration shall entail summary termination of the internship and may invite such other action as may be permissible under law.

14. Termination

DGFT may, at any time and without assigning any reason, terminate the internship, and the decision of DGFT in this regard shall be final and binding. An intern desirous of leaving the Programme prior to its scheduled conclusion shall give a prior written notice of fifteen (15) days to DGFT.

15. General

- Mere submission of an application or fulfilment of eligibility conditions does not confer any right to be selected for the internship.
- Canvassing in any form shall result in summary rejection of the application.
- Applications which are incomplete, or which are not accompanied by the précis in the prescribed format, shall be summarily rejected.
- **Note: Application will not be considered without a duly filled Web Form, CV and the précis in PDF.**

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I hereby certify that the information furnished in the application form and supporting documents is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I further declare and undertake that the précis submitted by me along with this application has been independently authored by me, and that no part of it has been generated by any artificial intelligence or large language model tool.

I understand that any breach of this declaration shall entail summary rejection of my candidature, and where already engaged, summary termination of the internship, in addition to such other action as may be permissible.

Date: _____

Name in block letters: _____

Place: _____

Signature of the Candidate: _____

NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE

ISSUED BY THE INSTITUTE / UNIVERSITY _____

(Applicable for candidates currently pursuing studies)

This is to certify that the information furnished by Mr./Ms. _____ in the Web Form and accompanying documents is correct to the best of our knowledge. The candidate is permitted to undertake the Summer Internship Programme, 2026 of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade during the period May 22, 2026 to July 31, 2026.

(Signature and Seal of Authorised Official)