**China General Internship Programme**

**Information Note**

The recent renewal of the China's LDCs and Accessions Programme" (The China Programme) in October 2023 allowed for internships under the programme to be increased from 5 to 10 and extended to all other operational divisions in the secretariat; whereby a total of five General internships would be made available secretariat wide. The recruitment of the five internships that are earmarked for the Accessions Division will continue to be the responsibility of the Accessions Division while the ITTC will be responsible for the recruitment of the unearmarked interns in collaboration with HRD. The programme is expected to become operational in the first quarter of 2024.

**Objective and scope**

The ChinaInternship Programme is intended to develop the capacity of young professionals and government officials from LDCs and developing Members and Observers with an academic background relevant to the work of the WTO, to master the WTO rules-based system, so as to prepare for careers in the fields of trade law, international economics and international relations.

The interns will be allocated to a specific division of the WTO Secretariat in accordance with the needs and priorities of the organization and based on the areas of interest of the applicant.

Assignments given to interns are intended to enhance their understanding of trade law, economics and trade policies more generally. The needs of the division are balanced with the capacity-building needs of the interns. Under the supervision of a professional staff member, interns are expected to assist the division in its regular work. The internships are up to a maximum duration of 10 months.

**Eligibility**

A candidate must:

* be a national of a least-developed country (LDC) or developing WTO member or an observer engaged in accession negotiations.
* have completed his/her undergraduate studies in a relevant discipline (e.g., economics, law, political science, international relations), and have completed at least one year of his/her postgraduate studies
* the minimum age for an intern shall be 21 years and the maximum age 30 years.

**Application procedures and deadlines**

Application procedures are detailed on the WTO website (https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\_e/vacan\_e/iypp\_e.htm#China\_s).

Applications for the China General Internship Programme would be accepted between 1 January and 15 March for this inaugural year.

**Procedures**

All operational divisions (AGCD, CTNCD, DD, ERSD, IERD, IPD, ITTC, LAD, MAD, RD, TPRD, TED and TSD) except the Accessions Division, that are interested in hosting such intern are requested to write to Usman Ali Khilji, Head of the Asia & Pacific Regional Desk in ITTC by 20th February 2024. The requests should address how the division would build and improve the capacity of the individual as well as the potential workplan/project that the intern would undertake.

Based on these requests and organizational needs 5 divisions on a first come first serve basis would be selected to host these interns.

The selected divisions would be asked to shortlist 2-3 candidates.

The shortlisted candidates would be interviewed by a panel comprising of ITTC (Manager of the China Programme in ITTC), and Professional Staff from the relevant division(s)). Following the interviews, the panel would make a recommendation to the Directors of ITTC and the hosting Division for consideration/approval.

Once the approval is secured, HRD would be informed of the selected candidate and be asked to proceed with the recruitment.

**Internal procedures and monitoring**

The divisions where the interns are housed would provide an evaluation of the interns' performance at the conclusion of the internship based on defined and agreed individual workplans. The interns would also be required to evaluate their internships. These evaluations would provide the basis of the BTOR as well as annual discussions with the Chinese to review the operation of the internship programme and make any adjustments, if necessary.