

# VIDHI-TATA TRUSTS FELLOWSHIP

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (RESEARCH)

The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and Tata Trusts are pleased to announce the “Vidhi-Tata Trusts Fellowship,” under which fellows will undertake the **Justice, Access, and Lowering Delays in India (JALDI) project**. JALDI is a multi-year project that aims to advocate for and implement evidence-based reforms to eliminate existing backlog in courts, and ensure that new cases are disposed of in reasonable timelines. The fellowship is a highly competitive programme designed to build research capacity and expertise on issues facing the Indian judiciary.

### ABOUT TATA TRUSTS AND THE VIDHI CENTRE FOR LEGAL POLICY

Tata Trusts is India's leading philanthropic organisation and has played a pioneering role in transforming traditional ideas of charity, to philanthropy that makes a sustainable difference through collaborative partnerships with civil society institutions working on driving impact.

The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy is an independent think tank doing legal research and assisting government in making better laws. The Judicial Reforms Initiative at Vidhi undertakes interdisciplinary, data-driven research on contemporary issues related to judicial institutions. It aims both to inform public debate and propose institutional, legislative, and policy reforms to governments.

### PROJECT AND ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Fellowship provides an exciting opportunity to use your research and skills to transform judicial administration, and impact legal empowerment and access to justice of ordinary litigants. JALDI's twin objectives are to eliminate existing backlog in courts, and speedily dispose of new cases. It aims to do so in three phases: understanding the problems faced by the judiciary, designing targeted solutions, and implementing these through advocacy with the government, judiciary, and lawyers and litigants.

Fellows will be hired in three fields, comprising research, advocacy and communications, and information and communications technology (ICT). Fellowship calls for advocacy positions and ICT positions can be found [here](#).

Fellows engaged with research will undertake multidisciplinary work on a diverse range of areas, including:

- simplification of judicial procedures
- case management reform
- judicial workload and court administration
- financing, budgeting, and appointments for the judiciary
- continuing judicial education and training
- alternate dispute resolution forums
- litigant awareness and empowerment.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### **Essential requirements:**

Candidates must at least have an L.L.B. degree, *or* a bachelor's degree in public policy, economics, statistics, management, or social science-related disciplines.

### **Desirable requirements:**

Candidates with demonstrable interest and experience in interdisciplinary research, master's and doctoral degrees in the above disciplines, and/or comparable work experience are encouraged to apply. Background in litigation, management consultancy, and human resource management would be an asset, as would prior work experience with government or international organizations and knowledge on government procedures and systems.

### **Duration:**

Vidhi-Tata Trusts Fellowships are full-time positions awarded for one year, with an option to renew for a second year by mutual agreement of the Research Director and the fellow.

### **Experience:**

Hiring is invited at two levels:

- Research Fellows: 0-4 years relevant experience
- Senior Resident Fellows: 4+ years relevant experience

### Number of fellowships:

There are four (4) fellowships on offer at the two levels.

- Three (3) Research Fellows
- One (1) Senior Resident Fellow

### WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

- Collaborative and cross-disciplinary work
- A non-hierarchical work environment, and opportunities to ideate and lead self-directed projects
- The satisfaction of tackling one of the most difficult challenges facing India today
- Salaries will be competitive and commensurate with experience. Kindly state your salary expectations in your application.

### PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

Interested candidates should send only electronic copies of the following to [jaldi.fellowship@vidhilegalpolicy.in](mailto:jaldi.fellowship@vidhilegalpolicy.in) with the subject line “Application for Vidhi-Tata Trusts Fellowship\_{Research\_designation}”

1. Latest Curriculum Vitae (CV) in not more than two A4 pages;
2. A brief statement of motivation in applying for the position (not to exceed 500 words);
3. Names and contact details of two referees from academic or professional sources, preferably one from each;
4. Any published or unpublished writing sample on an issue relevant to the JALDI project (between 2000 and 2500 words).

The deadline to submit applications is 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.