India
Fall Semester
2011 Program Guide
The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University’s student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.
Your UCEAP Network

EAP Online

Bookmark your Participants program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad, Program Calendar, EAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Local EAP Support

Campus EAP Office

The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientation, and academic advising, and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office

The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates EAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

- **Program Advisors** communicate program information, both academic and operational, to students and campuses, and coordinate and provide academic and administrative support in all aspects of your participation.

- **Operations Specialists** coordinate the logistics of the program. Document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, placement and acceptance by the host institution, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements are examples of program details the Operations Specialists coordinate.

- **Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies; review and record courses taken abroad for UC credit; process student registrations, petitions, and grades; and document and maintain students’ academic records.

- **Student Finance Accountants** assist primarily with EAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

Operations Specialist

Jeannie O’Connell
Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: jgoconnell@eap.ucop.edu

Program Advisor

Kirstie Maryott
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Academic Specialist

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Student Finance Accountant

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Phone: (805) 893-5928; E-mail: stufinance@eap.ucop.edu

UCEAP Systemwide Office

6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117-5823
Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583
Study Center Abroad

The EAP Study Center in Delhi administers programs in India. The Resident Program Director of the Delhi EAP Study Center, Mr. Viji Pulimampet, will assist you throughout the semester in Delhi.

Contact Information

Mr. Viji Pulimampet, EAP Resident Program Director
Study Center of the University of California
8 Sri Ram Road, Flat 17
Civil Lines, Delhi 110-054, India

Pulimampet Direct Phone: (011-91-11) 2393-2078
Pulimampet Cell: (011-91) 98-10-625377

EAP Office Phone: (011-91-11) 2393-2398 and 2393-2489
Fax: (011-91-11) 2391-1785
E-mail: pulimampet@yahoo.com

Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code ............ 011
(dial this to call from the U.S.)
India country code ............... 91
Delhi city code .................. 11

Approximate Time Difference

Add 12.5 hours March–October
Add 13.5 hours October–March
**EAP STUDENTS SAY...**

The ILP teachers in Mussoorie were all excellent. They pushed us at a good pace but were also friendly and helpful with adjustment to India. We are staying in Mussoorie, which they claim is in the Himalayan foothills, but these aren’t your run-of-the-mill foothills. We are really high up—not the majestic rolling hills I had envisioned. It’s absolutely stunning and the temperature is pleasant, almost like home. Our whole group is happy to be here; it’s relaxing and almost magical.

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**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

**Intensive Language Program**

After a short stay in Delhi, you will attend a four-week intensive language program (ILP) at the Landour Language School in Mussoorie, a pleasant resort known as the “Queen of the Hills” located in the foothills of the Himalayas. You will be placed in the appropriate level for intensive study of Hindi. Instruction emphasis is placed on reading and conversation at the introductory, intermediate, or advanced level. You must take the ILP course for a letter grade.

Hindi is the primary language of most of Northern India (including Delhi and neighboring states) and a widely understood language throughout the country and the South Asian Diaspora. Continuing Hindi instruction is required during the regular fall term and will be provided at the Study Center.

If your academic program requires the study of an Indian language other than Hindi, or if you have a cogent reason for undertaking such study, you may be able to study a different language if qualified instruction is available and the Study Center approves the request.

After the final EAP orientation, you will travel to your host city to register for classes and begin the fall term.

**ILP End Dates**

The start of the semester at the University of Delhi varies by individual department. Because the Faculty of Management Studies begins early, arrangements will be made for students participating in this faculty to receive Hindi instruction in Delhi instead of in Mussoorie during the ILP.

**University Information**

**University of Delhi**

Learn more about the University of Delhi.

The EAP Study Center is located close to the University of Delhi and the historical sites of Old Delhi. With about 14 million people, Delhi is one of India’s largest and oldest cities. It is divided into Old Delhi, crowded home to many temples, mosques, and bazaars; and New Delhi, a modern city built under British rule. The University of Delhi campus is set in an urban environment and is well connected with the city’s subway system.

If you need specialized books, be sure to take them to India. In Indian universities, library access is much more limited than it is on UC campuses. The EAP Study Center in Delhi has its own library, which consists of a few hundred volumes and key journals and publications pertinent to the study of India and Southeast Asia. You will have access to departmental and research libraries, most of the university’s special interest libraries, and the Vidya Jyoti Seminary Library, which has a good basic collection for undergraduates in most subject areas. For a small fee, you may use the British Council Library and the American Library.
University of Hyderabad

Learn more about the University of Hyderabad.

The University of Hyderabad campus is spread out and has a lovely rural feeling with plenty of greenery. While on campus, you can rent a bicycle from the SIP office for a nominal fee. Although the city of Hyderabad is 12 miles (20 km) from the campus, students make use of the public transportation to get around.

Hyderabad, the capital city of the south central Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, is a rapidly expanding city with a population of about four million. In recent years, it has evolved into a South Asian center for technological research and development. Sometimes referred to as “Cyberabad,” the city has become India’s newest Silicon Valley. IBM, Microsoft, and Oracle Corporation recently established bases in the new HITEC City (Hyderabad Information Technology Engineering and Consultancy City).

Aside from modern technological developments, Hyderabad is also a city with a rich historical tradition and important architectural monuments. Its culture results from a unique blend of diverse languages, religions, and ethnic populations.

Hyderabad is the only city in the south where Urdu is a major spoken language. Furthermore, there are at least five major Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Urdu manuscript libraries in Hyderabad, which place it on a par with Cairo, Istanbul, and London as a center for Islamic studies and research opportunities.

If you need specialized books, be sure to take them to India. You will have access to the University’s Indira Gandhi Memorial Library. This library is automated, connected to all main academic buildings through a wide LAN, and houses CD-Net, multimedia systems, and scanners. There are six terminals in the lobby for users to search the library database. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Library is open throughout the year, except during public holidays.

Academic Culture

Whether you attend Delhi or Hyderabad, be aware that the relationship between students and faculty is generally more formal than at UC. Faculty members are accustomed to being addressed as “sir” or “madam.” Most courses consist of lectures conducted for two to four hours per week. There are no tutorials and rarely much class discussion. Ask your professors if it is appropriate to ask questions during lectures. Faculty generally do not hold regular office hours, although one can meet with faculty outside of class by appointment.

Courses are comparable to upper-division courses available at UC, and you will be expected to have a strong background in relevant major subjects. For example, to be placed in the History Department, one should have taken course work in history at UC, including at least one or two upper-division courses. You will find that your fellow Indian students will have already completed three years of undergraduate education. Assessment generally is based on research papers and class presentations. Course content is provided on an individual course syllabus or on published departmental syllabi. Reading lists are provided in some classes. UC students usually do not take final exams but write final papers that are evaluated by their professors.
EAP Students Say...

You have to make an effort to get classes, but that’s a good thing. In fact, one of the more rewarding things I’ve gained is the skill to pursue what I want to comprise my education. I had much more control over what I was learning and was an active participant in the process.

Program Descriptions

University of Delhi

You begin your fall studies following the four-week ILP at the Landour Language School in Mussoorie. You will be placed in a host graduate department. The EAP Study Center determines placement well in advance of arrival after a review of your academic records.

Many of the University of Delhi graduate departments offer year-long courses. You may take the first part of a year-long course (for a semester) with the understanding that the course evaluation will be primarily based on a research paper completed by the end of the fall term. This system requires flexibility and self motivation.

You may take one course in a department other than the major host department in which you are placed. Some restrictions may apply when taking courses outside of the major host department.

Economics courses are recommended only for seniors or students who have completed at least two upper-division courses in the subject.

University of Hyderabad

Following EAP orientation in Delhi and the ILP in Mussoorie, you will travel by train to Hyderabad to begin the fall semester. You will work in close association with the University of Hyderabad Study India Program (SIP). Launched in the fall of 1998, UH’s credit-based Study India Program was created to facilitate study abroad programs. You will enroll in graduate-level courses, which translate to upper-division units at UC. While the program is interdisciplinary and includes a wide variety of courses, it focuses on India studies, with special emphasis on South Indian history, culture, and language, including social sciences and humanities field studies. SIP students are assessed regularly through tests, quizzes, home assignments, seminars, tutorials, term papers, and final exams. Liberal access to professors facilitates strong interaction and open discussion of course topics.

Notable schools include the School for Performing Arts, which offers an active program for studio art and excellent opportunities in dance and theater. In addition, there are special offerings in environmental studies that can greatly enrich the perspective of the UC environmentalist. If you are interested in the sociology and cultures of India, you will find ample and interesting courses, especially at the Centre for Folk Culture Studies. The Centre’s research efforts are linked to development projects, and faculty members serve as consultants for development agencies. The Centre has received significant funding from the Ford Foundation.

Course Information

While on EAP, you are required to take a full-time course of study and enroll in a minimum of 18 UC quarter units. In general, courses are worth 6 UC quarter units each. In addition to one required course in language study, you can choose from a wide array of course offerings taught in English that are taken through graduate departments. All graduate-level courses are equivalent to UC upper-division courses and will be posted to the transcript as such.
Graduate Students

If you are a graduate student with EAP-approved study plans, you may be accommodated in many fields. Opportunities at both the University of Delhi and University of Hyderabad are available in anthropology, art history, business and management studies, development studies, English and English literature, history, language study, linguistics, music, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology, South Asian studies, and women’s studies.

Internships

You may participate in various kinds of field study or community service for academic credit by signing up at the EAP Study Center for a Special Study Project. You may design an independent study project, a research project, or an internship to be posted to your UC record.

Independent study requires that you select a viable project in consultation with a host university faculty advisor and the Study Center in Delhi. The Study Center and UCEAP must approve your independent study proposal. Your study must complement the content of another course in which you are enrolled. Students generally make arrangements with the course instructor to further delve into a subject covered in the course. The advisor for the independent study may be a faculty member from the host department. At the University of Delhi, the advisor may also be from the National Museum.

You also may participate in a wide range of volunteer activities for local social welfare organizations. EAP participants have assisted health clinics, worked with children with disabilities, and helped to preserve ancient buildings in Delhi. The Study Center maintains a list of NGOs and other organizations with which you may volunteer.

At the University of Hyderabad, internships can be arranged under faculty supervision in a variety of fields, including communication studies, gender studies, and computer science. Internships at the University of Delhi are available through the Faculty of Management Studies.

Grades

Grading scales can vary. Grades are based primarily on a final research paper and on the written evaluations submitted by your professors. It is important for you to maintain frequent contact with your professors, consulting early and often with them on your academic performance and on selecting final paper topics. It is likely that the professor may not accept your paper for grading if you are regularly absent from class or do not consult periodically regarding your paper.

In language instruction courses (ILP and fall term), grades are awarded on the basis of homework assignments, class participation, quizzes, and a final exam.

For more information about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
EAP STUDENTS SAY...
Before you go, read about Indian philosophy, culture, and religion to gain insight about what is going on.
Don’t approach India with preconceived notions and expectations. Try to go with an open mind.

CULTURAL AWARENESS
Educate Yourself
Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as Lonely Planet and Urban Lowdown, are excellent resources.

Keep up with current events by reading articles in newspapers, magazines, and journals.

You will also need to understand the local culture and history. The following can provide a wealth of insight into India and its culture.

Recommended Reading


EAP STUDENTS SAY...

EAP friends are important, but don’t rely too heavily on them. Break out and be independent. Don’t hang out in groups of Americans.

Language Preparation

English is the language of instruction at India’s Central Universities, including Delhi University and the University of Hyderabad, and it is widely spoken and understood among the nation’s educated people. However, India presents an incredibly rich and diverse linguistic environment; its population speaks dozens of languages belonging to several language families. Many Indians are bilingual or multilingual, and the vast majority speak languages that belong to one of two great language families: the Indo-Aryan (mostly in northern India) and the Dravidian (mostly in southern India). The most widely spoken and understood language is Hindi, which is the native language of people living in the northern states (from Rajasthan in the west to Bihar in the east) and is often referred to as the Hindi Belt. Hindi, along with the closely related Urdu, are among the most widely spoken languages with more than 400 million speakers throughout India, Pakistan, and the South Asian Diaspora. The founders of independent India intended Hindi to be the nation’s official language, but resistance to this in non-Hindi regions, especially in the Dravidian South, made this politically impossible. If you are attending Delhi University, study of Hindi (or Urdu) is required unless you demonstrate to the Resident Program Director the need to study another Indian language.

If you are attending the University of Hyderabad, be aware that Hyderabad is located in Andhra Pradesh. While the official language of the state of Andhra Pradesh is Telugu, the predominant language in Hyderabad itself is Urdu. The spoken (though not the written) form of Urdu is very close to Hindi. Consequently, for students going to the University of Hyderabad, the study of Hindi remains the most useful option. If you prefer, you may substitute Telugu for Hindi as your required language.

Whichever language you choose, prepare for it before departure and look into an elementary text such as those in the Teach Yourself series (especially if you have no prior exposure to the language).

Social Conduct

Relationships

Public interactions between men and women are usually much more restrained and segregated in India than in the U.S. For the most part, Indian students do not get together in mixed groups. Men usually do not speak to women unless they are well acquainted, nor do they ask to be introduced to a woman. American men should never touch women, even casually, because it is likely to be misunderstood. At most social gatherings, except in the larger cities, expect formal or informal segregation of the sexes. It is generally unacceptable for men and women to live together, and dating is not part of the Indian lifestyle. In modern Delhi some young people are breaking away from this tradition.

Women

There are many exceptions to generalizations about women in India, like all generalizations about the country. In urbanized Indian society, there are many women who are as independent and forthright as their Western counterparts, and many Indians have come to accept and even admire the position of Western women. In general, however, the quality traditionally most admired in Indian women is modesty.
As an American woman, especially if unmarried, be aware that your appearance and behavior may be misinterpreted. Sexual harassment has been reported by a number of women who have studied or lived in India. Living alone or traveling alone is unusual. Inviting a man home or smoking or drinking in public may be considered inappropriate behavior, and talking freely to men who are strangers may be considered an invitation for advances.

To avoid sexual harassment, carefully consider the implications of your dress, comments, and actions. It is advisable to talk to and observe Indian women in their daily activities. Avoid crowded buses and other confined public places. In addition, it is best not to attend dances or expect to date. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable or threatening situation, leave the situation and seek support from others. You may wish to take a self-defense class before departure; most UC campuses have classes available.

Many American women report that they are less harassed and attract fewer stares if they wear Indian, rather than American, dress. When wearing Western attire, especially in rural areas, it is best to create a modest impression by wearing a head covering, long-sleeve blouses, and skirts below the knee. Do not wear shorts, halters, or revealing attire in public. When invited to a place where you might have to sit on the floor, consider wearing pants, a full skirt, or Indian dress.

**Men**

You will find few taboos or limitations in India. However, be aware of some of the issues and restrictions facing female friends, and be sensitive and supportive. Also, be aware of how your behavior toward women may be misinterpreted. For example, if you are overly or inappropriately friendly with an Indian woman, her and her family may see it as dating and have certain expectations for the relationship.

**EAP STUDENTS SAY...**

The main difference in the cultures is that Indian people are not friendly to random people they have never seen before. Eye contact, smiles, and small talk are reserved for people you know. Such gestures directed at strangers, especially by a woman to a man, will be considered advances because the only women in India who make such gestures are prostitutes. Women smiling at women will likely provoke a cold stare. It seems that in India there’s a huge barrier between people. Once that barrier is bridged, however, there is overwhelming friendliness.
ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Travel Documents
Make several copies of your passport, visa, tickets, and other important papers. Leave a set of copies with someone reliable in California, and take at least one set of copies with you to be kept separately from the originals.

Student Visa
You must have a student visa valid for the period of your stay. If you already hold another type of visa (tourist, entry, business, etc.), you must still secure a student visa. Without a student visa it is illegal for a foreign national to enroll at an Indian university. EAP cannot proceed with your registration if you do not hold the proper visa.

The online Predeparture Checklist (PDC) posted on the Participants section of the EAP website will provide details about the student visa application process. Once you receive the Letter of Acceptance from your host university, apply for your student visa without delay. Filling out the student visa application and following the required procedures is time consuming. The visa is usually issued shortly before the departure date. Therefore, unless you have already received your student visa, do not plan to leave the U.S. before June 10.

Police Registration in India
Once in India, you will be required to complete police registration within 14 days of arrival. The Study Center will help you with these registration procedures.
Although you should pack light, keep in mind that you’ll be here for a while and this or that item that may seem useless may help ward off homesickness.

Take a couple of good locks to India, and carry your own lock when traveling to use on your hotel room.

Take hair conditioner. It’s impossible to find.

The EAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad.

Packing Tips

Essential
- Copies of your passport, visa, tickets, and other important papers
- Multi-tool pocketknife such as a Swiss army knife (remember airport security requirements and pack it in your checked luggage)
- Ample supply of Pepto-Bismol (also available as chewable tablets)
- Antidiarrheal such as Imodium
- Adequate supply of any prescription medication that you take (see the Health chapter for more information)
- Copy of your prescription for glasses or contact lenses (if applicable)
- DEET-based mosquito repellent
- Individually wrapped sanitizing hand wipes
- Sleeping bag or travel “hostel bag,” which is a light, compact sleeping bag shell (bedding is often less than desirable in cheap hotels and hostels)
- Sturdy combination lock

Optional
- Preferred cosmetics, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, or toiletries (although most brands are now available and you should avoid burdening yourself with unnecessary luggage weight if possible)
- Camera
- Travel games and playing cards
- MP3 player
- Travel alarm
- Pictures from home
- Sunglasses
- Micro fiber travel towel

Pack Lightly

Airlines impose weight limitations on luggage (restrictions vary by airline). Consider that you will have to carry everything you take. EAP students recommend you limit the amount of clothing you take because clothing can be purchased or made inexpensively in India. Avoid taking expensive clothing, which is often damaged by local laundry services.

Clothing

Clothes for hot, humid weather are needed (100 percent cottons are best), as well as warm clothes for the cold. December is cold, and since housing in India rarely has any form of central heating, warm clothing is necessary both indoors and out. Warmer winter clothing is available, although generally the clothes are not durable. Layered clothing is suggested. Indian women wear shawls in the winter rather than coats; you can buy warm and attractive shawls anywhere in India. Thermal underwear and warm sleepwear are needed. Women should include warm tights. Although shoes and sandals are available for reasonable prices, you should take a few pairs of comfortable and sturdy walking shoes.

Mussoorie, where the ILP is held, is cool and can be wet during monsoon season. Be sure to pack warm clothing, a waterproof jacket, and solid, water-resistant walking shoes.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...”

Take warm clothes. Cool clothes are easy to find, but warmer things are not always made so well.

Don’t take too much stuff. I was a ‘better safe than sorry’ person. Wrong move! You’ll regret it, won’t need it, and won’t want to lug excess baggage around.

If you are female, don’t think of wearing tank tops and shorts.

Clothing for Women: A Cultural Note

Female students dress much more conservatively in India than they do in California. Women may want to dress according to local Indian styles and fashions, especially when traveling through the country, to avoid unwanted attention. EAP students caution women to leave their shorts and sundresses at home. Indian women are thoroughly covered in either saris or the traditional Punjabi salwar kamiz (pajama suits). Western-style dresses or skirts can be worn, but they should be long enough to cover the knees when seated. Many university students, particularly in Delhi, now dress similar to the students on UC campuses in T-shirts and jeans. This is considered acceptable on the Delhi campus and will not attract undue attention. Nevertheless, avoid cutoffs, jeans with holes, sheer tops, and other garments that may attract unwanted attention.

Climate

Delhi

Delhi is 700 feet above sea level. The weather varies widely from near freezing temperatures in January to extremely high temperatures in June (117°F); it is humid and hot in July and August. In June, the skies cloud over, and when the monsoon rains arrive the temperature drops as much as 15 or 20 degrees. Approximately 80 percent of all rainfall occurs in the Delhi region during the eight to ten weeks of monsoon (July and August). The landscape, normally arid from nearly ten months without rain, suddenly turns green. By September most of the rains are gone, although cloud formations persist until October when the weather is warm and pleasant.

Hyderabad

Hyderabad is situated at an altitude of 1,722 feet. For most of the year, the weather is mild and arid, though in April and May temperatures can reach 104°F (40°C). By the end of June and July, the annual rains have ended and the city enjoys temperate weather until it becomes cool in December and January.

Electrical Appliances

The electrical current used in India is 50 cycles AC at 220 volts as opposed to the 60 cycles at 110 volts used in the U.S. Electrical sockets take a different type of plug, although the newer ones may take the standard two-prong American plug. In either case, do not connect devices rated only for American electrical current to an outlet in India without an appropriately rated transformer. If you take American appliances, it is best to take those that are especially designed to work on either voltage or have rechargeable batteries. Improper use of an appliance or electrical device can be dangerous and may result in damage to the device. Small appliances such as hair dryers, etc., are widely available in India.

If you want to take an American appliance or device that does not work with Indian current, you can purchase small travel transformers before departure. Note, however, that even with such a transformer some devices with small motors such as shavers may not work or may be destroyed because of the difference in the number of cycles.

Gifts

It is appropriate to bring small gifts when visiting Indian homes. Take a few small, lightweight, typically American gifts for your foreign hosts and new friends. However, do not worry if your suitcase is already full; you can also buy appropriate host or hostess gifts in India.
Travel to India

Group Flight
EAP arranges for all program participants to travel as a group to the first destination in Delhi. Information about the group flight is prepared by a travel agency and will be distributed to you by e-mail. All EAP students are asked to participate in the EAP group flight. You will make your reservations directly with the travel agency by completing the Group Flight Information and Reservation Form provided by the travel agency. You will pay the agency directly for your ticket. As an EAP group flight participant, you will be met by the Study Center staff at the airport and escorted to the correct location for the start of the program.

To change EAP-arranged flight plans after the deadline noted on the travel agent’s reservation form, you must send a written request to the travel agency. If you withdraw from a flight after this date you will be liable for all unrecoverable transportation charges. A late request to be added to the flight is subject to flight availability and possible increased flight costs.

Independent Flights
If, for legitimate reasons, you find you cannot participate in the group flight to Delhi, be aware of the following:

- As an independent traveler, you will not be met at the airport by an EAP representative. You must make your own arrangements to arrive at the YWCA International Guest House on Sansad Marg on the “Last Date to Arrive” (see the Program Calendar tab located in the Participants section of the EAP website). Prepaid taxis at the airport arrival terminal are recommended. You can exchange currency at the airport to pay the cab fare and other arrival expenses.
- If you are delayed due to circumstances beyond your control, you must contact the EAP Study Center in Delhi. See contact information in Your UCEAP Network.
- EAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges incurred for independent travel arrangements.
- If you arrive before the “Last Date to Arrive,” remember that you are responsible for arranging your own accommodations prior to the start of the program.
- You are subject to dismissal from the program if you fail to appear on the “Last Date to Arrive” (EAP Student Agreement, Section 10).
- Book a round-trip flight. You must be in possession of a return ticket or a ticket showing onward travel from India.
- Be sure that your flight is flexible. Flights offered at discount rates sometimes do not include flexibility. Without a flexible ticket, changes to your flight dates can end up costing you hundreds of dollars.
**For All Travelers**
The start date of the program can change due to unforeseen circumstances. You are responsible for keeping in close contact with the Campus EAP Office and the EAP Systemwide Office, and for making modifications in your travel itinerary to accommodate changes.

UCEAP will e-mail you updates about the program; check your e-mail regularly for important announcements.

**Travel Precautions**
Identify each item of your luggage on the inside and outside with your name, home address, and destination. To avoid theft, never leave your luggage unattended.

When traveling, always keep your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money with you. Never put valuables in your checked luggage. Leave extra credit cards at home and carry only what is necessary. Do not ask others to carry any items abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.) and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines may not allow you to take them or customs abroad may charge you a high duty. This is a concern particularly with electronic goods.

**Financial Aid Students**
Your financial aid package is based partly on the EAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare is based on the cost of the EAP-arranged group flight to India. If your independent travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the EAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither EAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

**Orientation**
The programs begin with a mandatory orientation in Delhi. You will meet with the EAP Resident Program Director, Mr. Viji Puliampet, and learn about housing, local registration, and other issues of immediate concern.
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Buses are traumatic! Women can encounter ‘Eve-teasing,’ a range of male activities that include anything from staring to blatant grabbing.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

See also the Safety chapter for important Transportation and Road warnings.

Delhi

Most students get around by motor rickshaw, bus, or bicycle. Traffic moves on the left side of the street, not on the right as in the U.S.

The most convenient, economical forms of public transport include the numerous auto rickshaws or scooter cabs that are ubiquitous in all Indian cities. Most Delhi autos have meters, but the drivers may claim that they are not working or not current and may ask for more than the meter reading. If the driver is not willing to go by the meter reading, it is a good idea to settle the rate for the trip before getting into the vehicle. Scooter cabs designed to transport five passengers (but in practice generally transport more than they should) ply on a number of routes in the city. They can be flagged down at any point and will drop off passengers at any point along their routes. Fares are somewhat higher than those on the buses.

Two-seater bicycle rickshaws are also widely available throughout the city and are an economical option for short journeys. Always negotiate a rate with the driver before getting in.

Unlike auto rickshaws and bicycle rickshaws, Delhi taxies cannot generally be hailed from the streets. They are found at taxi stands at markets and other places throughout the city, and many can be summoned by telephone. Get the phone number of a reliable taxi service near your apartment for traveling at night.

Delhi Bus Caution

The most inexpensive mode of local public transportation is Delhi’s elaborate system of public and private bus lines (DTC). Be aware, however, that most buses are crowded and can be extremely uncomfortable. In particular, women should be aware that they may be subject to unwelcome touching or groping on crowded buses. Be careful to guard personal property from pickpockets who may take advantage of the close quarters.

Hyderabad

You can take advantage of the free bus service from the campus to the downtown area. There is also regular, inexpensive public transportation to the downtown area and a station located conveniently on campus.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances
Understanding your finances before, during, and after EAP is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to EAP
- EAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while on EAP (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account
Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your home campus Financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. The fees that you owe UCEAP are posted to your account, and you can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). Fees will be applied after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP.

EAP Student Budget
Carefully review your UCEAP Student Budget.
Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. The fees due to UCEAP will be posted to your MyEAP Student Account after your program predeparture withdrawal date. Program fees are subject to change. View your EAP Student Budget frequently.

Instructions
- Download and print your EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your EAP bills. Sign them up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you are on financial aid, see also the EAP Financial Information web page.
Handling Money Abroad

The official currency unit in India is the rupee (abbreviated Re or INR).

Before you leave the U.S., exchange $50 or $100 into rupees. You will need the funds for snacks, tips, and unexpected purchases when you arrive. Most U.S. banks can arrange to obtain the rupees, although the process may take a few days. It is also possible to exchange money at the foreign exchange counter at the airport in India; however, be aware that the office may not be open at odd hours of the day or night. Higher denomination bills earn a better exchange rate than lower denominations. Shops will accept only Indian currency or rupee travelers checks, but most (even fairly small shops) will now take major credit cards as well.

ATMs are widely available in all Indian cities, and you can withdraw up to 20,000 rupees per day from many of them. There is an ATM on the Hyderabad campus and others nearby. There are at least two ATMs within a five-minute walk of the Study Center in Delhi.

Most large bank branches will have foreign exchange counters that will change currency and travelers checks with proper identification (passport). When exchanging money, it is important to keep the receipts. Rupees can be changed back into dollars within a 90-day period only with receipts that show the rupees were changed from travelers checks or cash. This can be done only upon departure from India at the airport.

International money orders can be cashed for rupees. Use this method only if you plan to spend all the funds you receive in India. Once the money is converted to rupees, it cannot usually be exchanged for U.S. dollars.

Personal bank checks written on an account in the U.S. should not be sent to you. Two-party checks are difficult to cash in India and can take up to 60 days. Cash should never be sent through the mail.
COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

Phones

Delhi
You can receive important or urgent phone calls on the Delhi Study Center phone. The Study Center will also accept faxes for you. You are not permitted to make outgoing toll calls from the Study Center phone, but commercial phone booths (prominently labeled ISD-STD or PCO) are available throughout Indian cities. It is highly recommended that you purchase a prepaid mobile phone, widely available in India.

Hyderabad
You will have limited access to international phone connections. UH may offer phone service to you by contractual agreement. There are several ISD-STD and PCO commercial phone booths on the campus. It is highly recommended that you purchase a prepaid mobile phone, widely available in India.

Calling the U.S.
Keep in mind that Indian Standard Time (uniform for all of India) is 13.5 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time and 12.5 hours ahead of Pacific Daylight Time.

Skype
Many students use Skype for long-distance calls. Family and friends in the U.S. can call you, at low rates, using Skype from their computers. You can Skype family and friends from any computer with Internet access. Computer-to-computer Skype calls are free. You will need a headset or a microphone.

Mail

Delhi
You can use the Study Center address for all incoming mail. Mail usually arrives at noon. The address is:

[Student’s Name]
Study Center of the University of California
8 Sri Ram Road, Flat 17
Civil Lines, Delhi 110-054
INDIA

Hyderabad
Until you are settled into your Hyderabad accommodations, the following general address can be used:

[Student’s Name]
c/o University of Hyderabad Center for Distance Education
Central University PO
Hyderabad 500-046
INDIA
Shipping
Do not have items shipped to India via UPS. Such shipments are subject to high duties, even on used personal belongings, and new items are always subject to expensive duty charges. If you must ship something to India write “No commercial value” on the box and on the accompanying shipping form (unless items are brand new).

Computer Access and Use
Internet Access
Delhi
Internet access is provided by the Study Center, which has four modern PCs with high-speed broadband connectivity and a high-speed laser printer. The connections can also be used for laptops. The computers are usually available during regular Study Center hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Toward the end of the semester, the computers are available 24 hours a day. Small commercial Internet providers and cyber cafés are available almost everywhere in the city.

Hyderabad
You will have access to the well equipped Computer Centre, which is connected to all schools and departments on campus and to the library. There are a number of stations on campus. 24-hour access to Internet and e-mail will be available. The Study India Program office also has a computer room with broadband Internet connections for several desktop computers, which EAP and other SIP students may use.

Laptops
You may consider the possibility of taking a laptop with you. These can be easily configured for use with the Delhi Study Center Internet connections and, if you wish, to a private cable or DSL service that you can secure at your residence. Connectivity elsewhere may vary depending on the available facilities. As with any personal items of value, be vigilant regarding the possibility of theft. It is advisable to have a locking cable to minimize the likelihood of casual theft.

The great majority of computers used in India are PCs. There are a few facilities in Delhi and other major cities for service on Macs, but familiarity with the Mac platform is not generally widespread. While it is possible to configure Mac laptops for Internet access, there is little in the way of knowledge or support for Mac users.
**Housing & Meals**

**Where Will I Live?**

**Arrival and ILP Housing**
Temporary housing is provided for you for the first few days in Delhi and for the duration of the ILP in Mussoorie. After arriving in Delhi and before departing for the ILP in Mussoorie, you will stay at the YWCA International Guest House. The cost of these accommodations, housing for the ILP, and transportation to and from Mussoorie is included in your EAP fees.

**Delhi Housing**
Most students in the Delhi program share rented apartments near the university. EAP Study Center staff will help locate apartments and negotiate with landlords. Women have the option of living in the university’s International Woman’s Hostel, a choice that a number of students have found highly satisfactory. You will have the final responsibility for your housing choice, lease agreement, rent, and utilities.

Apartments are usually unfurnished and do not have appliances. These items are relatively inexpensive and can be rented.

**Hyderabad Housing**
There are two options for housing during the semester in Hyderabad:

- **Tagore International House (TIH):** A new housing facility located on the south campus of the University of Hyderabad. TIH caters to the boarding and lodging requirements of foreign students, visitors, and Indian guests. There is furnished accommodation in the facility, a common dining room, and a small computer facility. The semester rate is currently U.S. $1,800 for a single room and $1,600 for a double room. Meals are included. You will be asked to pay the total cost of your room fees at the beginning of the semester (after arrival); however, meals are paid by the month. TIH is close to the SIP office and other administrative offices. The campus is very spread out, but you will be able to rent a bicycle to get to and from classes.

- **Private rentals:** Some students may prefer to rent or share an apartment off campus. If you seek private accommodation during the semester, you will need to arrange transportation to and from the campus and provide your own meals.

**Housing Payments**
You must make your own payments for semester housing in either Delhi or Hyderabad. Semester housing costs are not included in your EAP program fees. Make payments directly to the landlord or to the university housing facility. Be aware that you are responsible for the cost of your housing, even if you are on full financial aid.

**EAP Students Say...About Food**
It's fine to eat chicken or fish (during certain seasons). Don’t eat unrefrigerated food or leftovers. Amul cheese or cheese out of cans (cottage cheese) is fine.

Noodle packages are available and are great for meals. Be particularly careful when you’re first in India and your body is adjusting.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Like everyone, I spent a lot of time traveling outside Delhi. Later I discovered that Delhi itself has a wealth of history, and I explored the city thoroughly and found many fascinating sights. There were dance performances and music shows, which I never missed. I also practiced yoga and played an Indian instrument.

Social events at university hostels were a lot of fun and a great way to meet students.

I enjoyed taking classical dance lessons and forming a relationship with my teacher.

When traveling to the villages, remember that people think all Americans are rich, so be aware of people who may want to use you.

The best way to get to know the provinces is with a native.

Plan your travel only during university vacations, long weekends, or the break after the program. Missing classes to travel is not an option.

Please remember that the EAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Get Involved

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while on EAP is an excellent way to meet people, improve your language skills, and integrate more fully into the community.

Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad.

EAP subsidizes a percentage of the cost of tours and other visits to museums, monuments, performances, and theater and musical events, provided these are EAP group activities. Study Center staff will also provide tourist maps and brochures, and information on restaurants, sites, and local activities. Extracurricular programs arranged through the Study Center will offer firsthand insight into Indian art, music, and drama.

Delhi and Hyderabad offer a rich cultural environment, including dance, music, volunteer work, and many opportunities to experience and understand the arts. Each university offers a number of student organizations. In Delhi, the International Students House is a good place to learn about available activities and meet fellow students.

Travel throughout India

India has a vast and elaborate network of railways and interstate bus lines that provide economical, if often slow, travel throughout the country. Take care of your property during rail journeys. The country is also served by a national airline (Indian Airlines) and several excellent private air carriers. Air travel is fast but relatively expensive; however, in recent years, India has witnessed the introduction of budget carriers such as Air Deccan. The country has many travel agents to assist you with travel plans.

Many excellent travel books about India are available at local bookstores. EAP students have found Lonely Planet’s Travel Survival Kit for India to be particularly useful.

Although India presents many opportunities for enjoyable and educational travel, this is not to be done at the expense of the academic program. Excessive or unexcused absence from scheduled classes is unacceptable and grounds for disciplinary action or expulsion from the program.

If you travel outside your city of residence, you must notify the Study Center of your travel itinerary so that contact can be maintained in the event of an emergency (see the Travel Sign-out form in MyEAP). Keep in mind that some areas of India are off limits to foreigners or may be the object of U.S. Department of State advisories. Traveling to areas that are designated off limits to foreigners may result in legal consequences and disciplinary action by EAP, including expulsion from the program in accordance with the EAP Student Travel Policy. Travel to areas the U.S. Department of State or the EAP Study Center recommends avoiding is strongly discouraged.

While in India you will likely want to visit some of the beautiful temples. Be aware that “temple stampedes” sometimes occur in India when huge crowds of Hindu devotees gather to pray on holy days at complexes where roads and entrances are narrow. As this can present a dangerous hazard, we strongly encourage you to plan your visits outside holy days.
HEALTH

The quality of medical care in India varies considerably. Medical care that approaches and occasionally meets Western standards is available in the major population centers, but adequate medical care is usually very limited or unavailable in rural areas. The EAP Study Center has details of small but efficient hospitals offering a broad choice of health facilities. The UCEAP Insurance Plan will provide reimbursement, which is based on terms of benefits.

If you feel ill or have a medical emergency, contact the Study Center immediately. The Study Center can recommend a clinic to visit, provide the necessary medical insurance claim forms, and make arrangements with professors if extended absence from class is expected.

Food and Water Safety

Consider all fresh produce contaminated.

Serious infections caused by parasites, viruses, and bacteria are common in India. As in many developing countries, standards for hygiene and public health are not the same as those found in developed countries. Of particular concern are water- and food-borne diseases. The risk of contracting such ailments can be significantly reduced by observing some simple rules.

The quality of water in India is poor. Sewage and hazardous waste have been found to be polluting the water supply in most areas. Laws enacted to prevent water pollution are not enforced and there is little or no oversight over companies or industries responsible for the pollution. Drink only bottled water; it is cheap and readily available. Hot drinks such as tea and coffee are generally safe, as are most bottled soft drinks. Be careful, however, about ice cubes in any cold beverages such as juice or soft drinks. The cubes may be made from unfiltered tap water. For residential use, high quality water purifiers such as the Aquaguard system can be purchased and installed. Exercise caution when buying food or water while traveling by train. Some vendors at railway stations have been known to sell contaminated water in bottles. Do not buy cheap bottled water; try to buy well recognized brands like Evian or Aquaflina.

India’s numerous fresh fruit juice stands are appealing but, like all raw foods taken from street vendors, they are subject to contamination and may be dangerous to your health.

All raw fruits and vegetables should be peeled, cooked, or thoroughly cleaned and soaked for 15 minutes in disinfectant solution before eating. All foods should be thoroughly cooked. Try to eat in establishments that use safe procedures during food preparation. Restaurants and other food handlers are not subject to health regulations. Meat is often not refrigerated and may cause illness despite cooking.
**Prescription Medications**

If you take prescription medication, carry an adequate supply to last through your stay. Do not mail medication to India.

A wide range of prescription and over-the-counter medications are available from chemist shops (i.e., drug stores) in India. In some cases, however, the quality and reliability of the medications may be questionable. If you are on any prescription medication, secure a supply in advance of your trip.

The laws governing the sale of prescription medications in India are as strict as in the United States. However, observance of these laws is sporadic at best. If you are in need of a medication for which you have a legitimate prescription from home, you can probably get an inexpensive version of it at most chemists in India. However, improper use of drugs for which you have no prescription or legitimate medical need will be considered equivalent to the use of illegal drugs and will have similar consequences.

**Health Risks**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a reference manual to advise international travelers of health risks. Before departure, review the CDC Travelers’ Health website.

**HIV/AIDS**

AIDS represents the late clinical stage of HIV infection. The four ways you can contract HIV are through direct contact with the blood, breast milk, semen, or vaginal fluid of infected persons. In India, many people may be infected yet unaware of their status. Avoid unprotected sexual contact with persons whose HIV infection status is unknown. Be aware of the risks and take all proper precautions.

**Insect-borne Diseases**

Malaria remains a major health risk in India as in other parts of the developing world. There are various antimalarial drugs on the market. You are strongly urged to consult with your physician or UC student health services before departure about which one to choose.

Another serious mosquito-borne disease, dengue fever, is prevalent in some parts of the country during certain seasons. There is currently no vaccine or other preventive medication for this disease, and the best protection against this and other insect-borne diseases is to use personal protective measures to prevent mosquito bites.

**Monkey Bites**

Monkey bites have occurred and can transmit rabies and herpes B among other diseases to human victims. Avoid feeding monkeys. If bitten, immediately soak and scrub the bite for at least 15 minutes and seek urgent medical attention.

**Air Pollution**

Excessive air pollution is caused by industrial and transportation emissions, and is at its worst during the winter months.

If you have asthma, other respiratory illnesses, or heart disease, consult a health care provider prior to travel and carry sufficient medications.
SAFETY

Your safety and security is one of UCEAP’s top priorities; however, you and your family have a role to play in minimizing potential dangers. UCEAP cannot monitor your daily personal decisions, choices, or activities any more than is the case on the UC campus. Therefore, you are expected to participate actively in minimizing your risks while in India.

Travel Alerts

➤ You are required to submit all travel plans to the Study Center ahead of time. Travel to certain areas may be restricted or unadvisable. Talk to the Resident Program Director about these areas.

Although travel in many parts of India is relatively safe, there are areas considered dangerous by the U.S. Department of State. The Department of State strongly recommends that you avoid travel to Jammu & Kashmir because of the potential for terrorist incidents and violent public unrest. U.S. government officials are prohibited from traveling to the state of Jammu & Kashmir without permission, which is only granted by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi in exceptional circumstances.

Always consult the EAP Resident Program Director and regularly monitor travel information available from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. Before departure, register online with the U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). You will need your passport to register.

Restricted Travel Areas by the Indian Government

Certain parts of India are designated as “restricted areas” by the Indian government and require special advance permission to visit. Avoid these areas, which currently include:

- The state of Mizoram
- The state of Manipur
- The state of Arunachal Pradesh
- The state of Nagaland
- The state of Sikkim
- Portions of the state of Himachal Pradesh near the Chinese border
- Portions of the state of Uttarakhand (Uttaranchal) near the Chinese border
- Portions of the state of Rajasthan near the Pakistani border
- Portions of the state of Jammu & Kashmir near the Line of Control with Pakistan and certain portions of Ladakh
- The Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- The Union Territory of the Laccadives Islands (Lakshadweep)
- The Tibetan colony in Mundgod, Karnataka

UCEAP Travel Advisory to Kashmir

For your safety, and to avoid incidents that would affect relations between UC and the host institution, UCEAP strongly discourages travel to the Kashmir Valley area of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan, and conflict between Indian and local guerilla groups, have made Kashmir a highly unstable area. In recent years, foreigners visiting Kashmir have
Do not travel alone late at night, especially if you are a woman.
Always have a travel partner between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

been seriously harmed. In accordance with the EAP Student Travel Policy, you are expected to fully comply with this directive and any other travel advisories generated by the Study Center or the U.S. Department of State.

Travel to India-Pakistan Border
The U.S. State Department recommends that you avoid travel to areas within ten kilometers of the border between India and Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan maintain a strong military presence on both sides of the border.

Crime
Petty Theft
Petty crime is common, especially theft of personal property. Pickpockets can be very adept and have been known to cut women’s purse straps or slit the bottom of purses without their knowledge. Maintaining awareness of your surroundings and practicing good personal security is important.

Theft of U.S. passports is quite common, particularly in major tourist areas, on overnight trains, and at airports and train stations. Train travelers are urged to lock their sleeping compartments and take valuables with them when leaving their berths. Air travelers are advised to carefully watch their bags in the arrival and departure areas outside of airports. Violent crime, especially directed against foreigners, has traditionally been uncommon; however, in recent years there has been a modest increase. As U.S. citizens’ purchasing power is comparatively large, travelers also should exercise modesty and caution in their financial dealings in India to reduce the chance of being a target for robbery or other crime. Gangs and criminal elements operate in major cities and have sometimes targeted unsuspecting businessmen and their family members for kidnapping.

Safety for Women
Do not travel alone in India. Western women continue to report frightening incidents of physical harassment by groups of men (known as “Eve-teasing”). While India is generally safe for foreign visitors, rape is the country’s fastest growing crime according to Indian authorities. Although most victims have been local residents, recent sexual attacks against female visitors in tourist areas underscore the fact that foreign women are also at risk and should exercise vigilance.

Observe stringent security precautions:

- Avoid using public transport after dark without the company of known and trustworthy companions.
- Restrict evening entertainment to well-known venues.
- Avoid walking in isolated areas alone at any time of day.
- Ensure hotel room numbers remain confidential and insist the doors of hotel rooms have chains, deadlocks, and spy-holes.
- Hire reliable cars and drivers and avoid traveling alone in hired taxis, especially after dark. It is preferable to obtain taxis from hotels rather than hailing them on the street.
- Call 100 for police assistance if you face a threatening situation.
Scams
Scam artists often prey on visitors in major airports, train stations, and tourist sites by creating a distraction. Taxi drivers and others, including train porters, may solicit travelers with offers of cheap transportation and/or hotels. Once travelers accept the initial deal, scam artists may disclose “necessary” transfers to the domestic airport, disproportionately expensive hotel rooms, unwanted “tours,” and unwelcome “purchases,” and may even threaten travelers when they refuse to pay.

Some vendors sell rugs or other expensive items that may not be of the quality promised. Travelers should deal only with reputable businesses and should not relinquish credit cards or money unless they are certain that goods being shipped to them are the goods they purchased. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it is best avoided. Most Indian states have official tourism bureaus to handle traveler complaints.

Be aware of a number of other scams that have been perpetrated against foreign travelers, particularly in Goa, Jaipur, and Agra. The scams generally target younger travelers with deals to make money by privately transporting gems or gold (both of which can result in arrest) or by delivering expensive carpets abroad, supposedly while avoiding customs duties. The scam artists describe profits that can be made upon delivery of the goods, and require the traveler to pay a “deposit” as part of the transaction.

Criminal Penalties
While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country’s laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Indian laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.

For example, certain comments or gestures towards women, Indian national symbols, or religion that are legal in the United States may be considered a criminal violation in India, subjecting the accused to possible fines or imprisonment. Furthermore, since the police may arrest anyone who is accused of committing a crime (even if the allegation is frivolous in nature), the Indian criminal justice system is often used to escalate personal disagreements into criminal charges. This practice has been increasingly exploited by dissatisfied business partners, contractors, estranged spouses, or other persons with whom the U.S. citizen has a disagreement, occasionally resulting in the incarceration of U.S. citizens pending resolution of their disputes. At the very least, such circumstances can delay the U.S. citizen’s timely departure from India, and may result in an unintended long-term stay in the country.

Police Response
Report the loss or theft of your U.S. passport immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Likewise, if you are the victim of a crime while abroad, report to local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for assistance. The embassy/consulate staff can assist you in finding appropriate medical care, contacting family members or friends, and explaining how to obtain funds. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and find an attorney if needed.
Victims of a crime, including loss or theft of a passport, should obtain a copy of the police report (called an “FIR” or “First Information Report”) from local police when they report the incident. A copy of this report is helpful for insurance purposes in replacing lost valuables. The Indian government requires the FIR in order to obtain an exit visa to leave India when passports are lost or stolen. Local authorities generally are unable to take any meaningful action without the filing of a police report.

The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line in India is 100. An additional emergency number, 112, can be accessed from mobile phones.

**Contact Information:**

U.S. Embassy
New Delhi, India
Phone: 011-2419-8000

### Political Violence and Terrorism

Terrorism is a global threat and is a significant concern for authorities in India. Separatist militants, Maoist rebels, and Islamist extremists are responsible for violence in various parts of the country.

The perceived threat to foreigners is low. Typical terror targets include markets, trains, train stations, religious sites, and other busy locations. Many groups use high explosives, meaning that casualties are often very high when bombs explode in crowded areas.

Communal tensions, increased militancy, and warnings about potential attacks often increase just before key national holidays, major religious observances, and significant anniversary dates. Major terrorist attacks typically lead to subsequent security crackdowns that can exacerbate communal tensions and encourage civil unrest. The government might also issue non-specific warnings about additional attacks and increase the alert status of security forces in various parts of the country after major bombings. Numerous, disruptive bomb threats may follow high-profile attacks.

### Caste Tensions

Caste conflict is another longstanding problem that can generate significant unrest. India’s complex caste system of social hierarchy has contributed to historical discrimination, although post-independence laws are designed to prevent it. In recent years, specific groups have staged regional shutdowns to press demands for caste status that would grant them more civil service jobs and reserved positions at higher education institutions. These agitations typically involve only one group, but they invariably cause tensions with other castes, especially those that already enjoy reservation status.

### Substance Abuse

#### Alcohol

The legal drinking age in Delhi and much of India is high by American standards, normally 25. Some states, such as Gujerat, are entirely dry. Although, as in many areas, carding and enforcement of the strict regulations on the purchase and consumption of alcohol may be lax, you can get into serious trouble if caught in violation of the laws. Public drunkenness or rowdiness is considered offensive and can result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the program.
Illegal Drugs
As with alcohol, the laws banning the use of illegal drugs are strict but enforcement may be lax. Do not take the apparent availability of illegal street drugs as an invitation to experiment with them. The medical and legal consequences for abuse can be severe; drugs can be impure and highly toxic, and the police are hard on foreigners who are caught in possession of banned drugs. Long jail sentences for drug violations are the norm. You do not want to run afoul of the Indian police and penal system.

Transportation and Road Safety
Travel by road in India is dangerous. India leads the world in traffic-related deaths. Take security precautions when using public transportation in India.

The use of public buses in North India is not recommended. Women should avoid using local buses at night due to an increase in rapes. Travel at night is particularly hazardous. Buses, patronized by hundreds of millions of Indians, are convenient in that they serve almost every city of any size. However, they are usually driven fast, recklessly, and without consideration for the rules of the road. Accidents are quite common. Trains are safer than buses, but train accidents still occur more frequently in India than in other countries.

Do not keep valuables in waist packs, as thieves will assume they contain cash or other valuables and may attempt to snatch them. Carry loose items, such as cameras, maps, snacks, and purses, in a securable bag, and hold it in front of you, not behind.

Exercise extreme caution when crossing streets—even in marked pedestrian areas—and try to use only cars that have seat belts. Seat belts are not common in taxis. Helmets should always be worn on motorcycles.

Natural Disasters and Threats
Parts of northern India are highly susceptible to earthquakes. Regions of highest risk, ranked 5 on a scale of 1 to 5, include areas around Srinagar, Himachal Pradesh, Rishikesh, and Dehra Dun; the northern parts of Punjab; northwest Gujarat; northern Bihar; and the entire northeast. Ranked 4 (high damage risk) is an area that sweeps along the north through Jammu and Kashmir, Eastern Punjab, Haryana, Northern Uttar Pradesh, central Bihar, and the northern parts of West Bengal. New Delhi is located in zone 4. Severe flooding is common in Bihar, Assam, and Orissa.

Ocean Undertows
Visitors should exercise caution when swimming in open waters along the Indian coastline, particularly during the monsoon season. Every year, several people in Goa, Mumbai, Puri (Orissa), and other areas drown due to the strong undertow. It is important for visitors to heed warnings posted or advised at beaches and avoid swimming in the ocean during the monsoon season. Trained lifeguards are rarely available along beaches.

Stampedes
Stampedes at public events in India are common as large numbers of people crowd into congested areas. Panic can spread quickly.
Emergency Contacts

What Constitutes an Emergency?
Emergencies are circumstances out of the ordinary, unplanned, or unexpected, which threaten the health, safety, and well-being of you and/or your fellow students. The following are considered true emergencies:

- Any situation that places a student or students at risk, including illness or harm, or other traumatic incidents that require immediate response
- A student who has been arrested
- Civil unrest or a natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency
Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.
- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact the Operations Specialist at the EAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad
Carry the local emergency contact information at all times. If you have a health or safety emergency, contact the EAP Resident Program Director, Viji Puliampet, at (011-91) 98-10-625377.

If necessary, call the U.S. Embassy in Delhi:
Embassy of United States in New Delhi, India
Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi - 110021
City: New Delhi

Phone: (011-91-11) 2419-8000
Fax: (011-91-11) 2419-0017
Web: newdelhi.usembassy.gov
E-mail: ndcentral@state.gov
Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 2–4 p.m.

There are also U.S. consulates in Chennia, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. See websites below:
- chennai.usconsulate.gov
- kolkata.usconsulate.gov
- hyderabad.usconsulate.gov
- mumbai.usconsulate.gov

If you do not have access to local or Study Center emergency contact information, call the EAP 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762.