

MOUNT ALLISON SUMMER STUDIES IN INDIA PROGRAM SUMMER 2012 (JUNE-JULY 2012) *www.mta.ca/international*

Overview:

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and Mount Allison University are pleased to offer the Summer Studies in India Program. This unique program will provide students from Mount Allison University and other universities across Canada an opportunity to participate in a cultural and educational immersion in an Indian environment over the course of eight weeks from June until the end of July. Students will reside at the Vivekananda Institute for India Studies (VIIS), which is located in the historic South Indian city of Mysore.

Mysore is a city of a million people and is home to a number of Universities, heritage buildings and institutions that make it the cultural capital of the state of Karnataka. The moderate summer weather—it never exceeds 30 degrees Celsius in June and July—coupled with the city's tree lined boulevards and nature parks offer a pleasant setting for visiting students. Mysore is three hours by road from the state capital of Bangalore, famous for its own thriving international IT industry and home to an international airport with daily flights to Europe and North America.

The Center is situated on a compact campus and hosts a number of student groups from North America, visiting on similar programs at different times of the year. Its facilities include an up to date computer lab, well equipped classrooms and residence facilities, dining and laundry facilities and security. The Center is affiliated with an excellent faculty, who will serve as instructors for courses taken as University credit.



Courses offered:

- * Culture and Civilization
- * Indian Women: Tradition and Change
- * Science, Technology and Sustainable Development
- * Language Training in Hindi or Sanskrit.

A minimum of nine credits and a maximum of twelve credits may be taken. Students also have the opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities such as music and yoga. Field trips include visits to local museums, the Mysore Palace, the religious architecture of Belur and Bijaipur and the Vijayanagara monuments at Hampi (a UNESCO World Heritage site).

Excursions:

Students will go on several excursions that directly or indirectly complement the academic aspects of the program. These include:

1. A day of sightseeing in Mysore and its vicinity in your first week there, to give students a sense of the place where they will be staying for two months.
2. A long weekend trip to the Nilgiri hills for an animal safari, trekking and bird-watching (<http://www.jungleretreat.com/>).
3. A day trip to see a hospital that combines both allopathic and tribal medicine and serves a tribal community. You will also visit the school for tribal children set up by the same organization some distance from the hospital. For more details on the hospital, school and organization, please see <http://www.svym.org>. Internship opportunities are also available here.
4. A weekend trip to the world famous temples of Belur and Halebid, and to visit the monolithic statue of Gomateshvara (one of the tallest in the world) at Sharvanabelagola. (For more on these sites, please see <http://www.indiantemples.com/karnataka.html>.)
5. A half day trip to see an organic farm just outside of Mysore.
6. A half day trip to see how a women's self-help organization called Shaktidhama.
7. A day trip to visit one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist settlements and monasteries outside of Tibet (in Bylekuppe).
8. A 10-DAY trip to Northern Karnataka where we visited various archaeological sites including those at Badami, Aihole, Patadakal, Bijapur and the UNESCO world heritage city of Hampi. (For more on these sites, please see <http://www.indiantemples.com/karnataka.html> and <http://www.hampi.in/monuments.htm>.)

In addition, students participate in several optional extracurricular activities such as early morning yoga, tabla (Indian drum) classes, Indian cooking, Bharatnatyam dance classes, and an intensive weekend retreat on meditation and spirituality.

Dates & Eligibility Info

- The program takes place over eight weeks from the beginning of June.
- Eligibility Requirements: Ideally, students who have completed 2 years of undergraduate study and have completed a substantial component of India Studies coursework or have a particular academic interest in India Studies.
- Students MUST have a 2.5 CGPA in order to apply

Application Requirements (Application deadline is January 13th, 2012):

- * A completed application form
- * A statement of purpose outlining how this program will benefit the student's studies
- * Official transcripts of all post secondary studies

Selection will be based on the merit of the student's application and the relevance of their coursework and academic training to India Studies. **Cost:** The approximate total cost of the Program is approximately \$6500 (CDN) which includes the application fees, tuition, airfare, room and board, materials, and field trip costs. Exact figures will be available in March once we have better sense of how many students will be going, and what the costs in India will be at the new location for the program.