

Global Encounter-India

MSU Student Study and Travel in India

Individual Written Responses to Questions Related to the Topic

Procedure used to generate this document:

Participants self-selected their group. Individuals were asked to write responses to selected questions before any group discussion. All responses are included and are typed verbatim with some explanation of acronyms or terms. There is no significance in the ordering of the comments as presented in this summary.

A. What opportunities exist for MSU in relation to student travel and study in India in our current efforts and future possibilities in India?

1.
 - New Study Abroads?
 - Ecology and Conservation in South India?
 - NE India?
 - Field work in NE India on avian diversity

2.
 - Study abroad programs in different regions in South Asian including India. We have generated interest and linkages with several faculty in different universities in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Faculty with an interest in South Asia are also planning on developing student exchange programs.

3.
 - Faculty interest in arranging more study abroads in India
 - Connections with universities in different parts of India
 - Students now studying Hindi
 - Help provided by Study Abroad Office in arranging study abroads
 - Not expensive to be in India

4.
 - Faculty with different interests and specialties
 - Residents – Indian community (tap them before students go)
 - Institutions interested in India (governmental, educational and NGOs)
 - LATTICE
 - Museum
 - Community organizations of India
 - A climate in India where there is an emphasis on collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts

5. Current:
 - Study Abroad for veterinary students in IndiaFuture:
 - Start externship rotations in specialized areas
 - equine medicine
 - tropical veterinary medicine, etc.
 - Exchange of students/faculty for research, clinical experience
6.
 - My area is Women in India- there are some well-established women studies organizations/NGOs/universities.
 - Sister relations can be established in order to provide sources and institutions to do fieldwork and collect material for their studies.
 - Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers scholarships for a stay for 3-6 months in India if early in the study. See <www.iccrindia.org/scholarships.htm>.
7.
 - MSU has established programs in some disciplines/colleges but there is potential to develop more.
 - Community relations between Indian residents and MSU- programmatic initiatives could be more.
 - Indian Diaspora dialogue →great potential for research/cultural education on campus
8.
 - I am involved in two study abroad programs
 - We could expand these programs to other times of the year or other parts of India.
 - There are many opportunities for a diverse set of opportunities, especially internships and service learning.
9.
 - Develop a course on India that looks at history, culture, economic, policy and social issues. International relations
 - Why India is important to the U.S.
 - Challenges of Nukes and Terrorism in the region
 - Develop programs with NSF to facilitate India research.
10.
 - We can take MSU students to India to different universities at different locations.
 - Different cultures in India besides knowledge in different fields

B. What challenges exist for MSU in relation to your area of consideration in our current efforts and future possibilities in this region?

1.
 - Start-up for study abroad
 - funding
 - permissions
 - time
2.
 - To initiate any new programs need seed money before it becomes self sustainable. Therefore, there is a need for program development grant in the region.
3.
 - New enthused faculty must concentrate on research to get tenure.
 - Perceived difficulties of travel in India
 - Lack of financial support for faculty to arrange new study abroads
4.
 - Not enough information- pointed, focused (who, what, where?) For example, alumni efforts
 - Language courses
 - Different levels of courses on India
 - Introductory course on India
 - Internships to learn individually
5.
 - Lack of scholarships to support MSU students in study abroad, externships and exchanges in India
 - Advertising- We could do it but we don't.
 - Man-power - need more help running the programs in India
 - Teaching Assistants can help with the program, on-site.
 - Administrative staff can help students with visas, shots, pre-departmental concerns.
 - Help faculty with budgets, obtaining funding through grants
6.
 - It's important that students going to India are affiliated with an institution/university in India and not go there and be on their own,
7.
 - Costs of doing programs in India are expensive compared to other regions
 - Asian Studies Center- could be more prominent in its communication/role on campus. Students do not always get timely information about opportunities in India.
8.
 - We need faculty willing to be involved.
 - Need to watch out for Indian programs that are profit making to the extreme

9. ●Development of structures, communication systems, contacts, etc.
10. ●Students from MSU to Indian Universities – Challenges include cultural, language barriers, etc.
 - Students from Indian Universities to MSU – most of the top notch students (top ranked) cannot come to MSU without financial assistance, especially for their first year here in the U.S., hence, we need to give such students:
 - scholarship funds
 - assistantship
 - in-state tuition
 - a permit for part-time work

C. What advice concerning this region and this area of consideration would you like to pass along to future groups following through on these ideas?

1. ****NO RESPONSE****
2. ●Develop and assure a sustainable program in partnership with regional institutions.
 - The programs should be in partnership (two-way).
 - The courses developed for the MSU students to take in the region should be available to other students in the region.
 - Multi-disciplinary programs are the ones with a higher rate of success.
3. ●We need a language study abroad program focused on Hindi to enhance our language program.
 - We need to provide cultural study abroad programs to improve and enhance the University's dismal program of courses in teaching about India.
 - We need to provide incentives to faculty to develop and lead such programs.
 - We need to provide programs for middle and high school teachers as part of our "outreach" to have first hand experience of India.
4. ●Know-how of how to organize a Study Abroad
5. ●Provide for scholarships to students from endowments, private contributions.
 - Sustained support of an office for international programs in individual colleges
 - If the India initiatives have to be through the central international program, have a separate office for India-related programs; do not blanket under Asian Studies.
 - Website offering information, pre-departure advice for MSU students on India
 - Increase faculty interest in running study abroad programs:
 - include in annual evaluations
 - make a requirement for tenure

6. ●Research on women and religion especially Islam that should be concerned with the sociology of religions rather than with the philosophy and theology of Islam/Hinduism
7. ●India presents/has a vast variety of opportunities for MSU faculty and students to travel/study/research.
●We need to publish more of our research and work in India.
8. ●We could host workshops annually at MSU about Indian possibilities for new programs.
●We have some good contacts in India that could to be used to develop new experiences.
9. ●Talk and exchange ideas with Indian origin faculty and students.
●Use available resources on-and off-campus.
10. ●I interviewed 90 students from Kerala Agricultural University (KAU). Twenty-five percent of the top ranked students would like to come to MSU but need financial support from the first year.
●We at MSU should set aside special funds to recruit top notch students, especially from top universities such as Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) which now has an agreement of linkage with MSU.
●We should provide funds for short-term visiting faculty from Kerala Agricultural University.

D. Additional Comments?

1. ●I would like to be in touch with others in the University interested in ecological research in South Asia.
2. **No Response**
3. ●While MSU has many study abroad programs, we have limited ones to non-Western cultures.
●India is a great place to take students as English is widely spoken.
4. **No Response**
5. **No Response**
6. **No Response**
7. **No Response**

8.
 - I would be willing to help develop a list of internship possibilities and provide orientation to intern hosts in India.
 - We could have:
 - an official MSU travel agency in India
 - a contact person (MSU Alum) in each region or state
 - a webpage of linkages
 - an MSU coordinator for internships
9. ****No Response****
10. ****No Response****

This material was generated from Global Encounter-India, <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/india>>, held at Michigan State University on September 22, 2006. This interactive and participatory event was designed to obtain input and to elaborate in a country-specific forum on relevant themes, opportunities, issues, and opportunities affecting MSU's current and future engagement in India and to a lesser degree southeast Asia.