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PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

PASSPORT & VISAS

Passport: All off-campus program participants are required to have a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the dates of a trip and that has at least two blank pages in the book. Keep a photocopy of the front page of a passport at home as well as with you at all times. The photocopy will expedite replacement of a lost passport.

Visas: Visas are required for all U.S. travelers to India. Student visas will be required for this trip. The University of Hyderabad's Study in India Program will provide letters of admission in order for you to secure your student visa. Directions on completing your student visa application can be found at the Travisa Outsourcing India Visa Center website: https://indiavisa.travisaoutsourcing.com/homepage

Bring at least 4 copies of your passport photo page and VISA page as they will be needed throughout your stay. A scanned copy of your PASSPORT PHOTO PAGE and your STUDENT VISA PAGE MUST be sent to Professor Fluri and Off Campus Programs BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR INDIA.

PHONES

If you have an unlocked European phone, you should bring this with you as you can use this type of phone with an Indian SIM card (and therefore will not need to purchase phone). You will be required to purchase a phone/Indian Sim Card, and keep a minimum of 100 Indian Rupees (appx. $2.50) credit on your phone at all times. U.S. cell phones will NOT work in India, however, some smart phones will work, depending on your plan. You should consult your mobile phone company to find out your options and rates BEFORE leaving for India.

COMPUTER

If you have a lap-top or equivalent, you should bring this with you. Most dorm rooms in the Tagore International House (TIH) have access to the Internet by way of Ethernet cable. The common room in the TIH provides wireless access to the Internet. There is also wireless access within the campus library. There will be a shared printer for you to use at TIH.

ELECTRONICS

Check the back of your laptop (or the accompanying literature) to see if your laptop is designed to be used for both 110 (America) and 220 (India) volts. You can call the customer service for your computer if you are not sure. If it is compatible with both systems, then all you need is an adapter - a small device that allows the cord to be plugged into an Indian socket. You will need an adapter for all other electronics and a convertor for certain electronics.

If you want to bring a small appliance of some sort, like a hair dryer, electric razor, or iron, then you need a converter (i.e. something that converts to the required voltage in India 110 to 220 volts). You can bring adapters and convertors from the U.S. or purchase them in India.
GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Be patient and courteous. Many aspects of daily life are done differently or take longer than you expect, for example, bank transactions or mailing a letter. Be intelligent and keep your sense of humor. Do not presume ill will or do not presume that ill will is directed only at you. Do not assume that people are trying to take advantage of you. Be responsible. Have proper identification. **Do not expect the rules to be bent or changed for you.**

In view of world events, it would be wise to avoid drawing attention to yourselves as Americans. In practice this means: 1) **wear unmarked clothing, rather than printed shirts with logos from Dartmouth or elsewhere in the States,** 2) **avoid loud and boisterous talk,** 3) **avoid wearing ear-phones and not hearing what is happening around you,** and 4) **be discreet when you must show your passport and money.**

While the people in Hyderabad are quite friendly, it is advisable to go off-campus in groups of 2 or more. Please apply your judgment and discretion. Use of a camera is prohibited in most religious places.

While traveling as part of the India FSP, you are representing Dartmouth College, your country, and your family. Out of respect for all of the above, your fellow travelers, and to the local community, **wear neat, clean, and appropriate clothes when traveling with the group in India,** and on the flights to and from Hyderabad.

CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS

As we suggest for all our programs abroad, it is best not to call attention to yourself as an American by wearing Dartmouth insignia clothing. In addition, if you like to jog, we would suggest that women especially be much more covered than they would tend to be in the United States. A loose tee shirt and loose-fitting running pants would be most appropriate.

**Women:**
It is best to dress relatively conservative in India, especially while in public spaces. While you are on campus, as well as outside of the University of Hyderabad campus, we suggest wearing long pants, long dresses or skirts, and loose fitting shirts. It is best to avoid shorts, mini-skirts, tank tops, tight-fitting clothing, and low-cut tops.

**Men:**
Long Pants, and short (or long) sleeved shirts, that cover the body below the waist are recommended. Men, similar to women, should NOT wearing clothing that exposes their midriff.

**You may choose to pack light and purchase some clothes while in India. There are several inexpensive options for clothing FOR BOTH MEN & WOMEN, which is more suited to the climate and local styles.** Remember you will be in Hyderabad during the dry season and it will get increasingly warmer as the term progresses.
WHAT TO PACK

☐ DOCUMENTS

Keep ALL important documents with you at all times. Make multiple copies of your passport and visa – It is imperative that you provide Off Campus Program with a scan/pdf of your Passport photo page and your Student Visa page, prior to leaving the country. You should also bring multiple copies of both pages with you to India (this will help to streamline many of the paperwork requirements you will experience while living and traveling in India.)

☐ MONEY

Credit and debit cards from work well in India. There are easily accessible ATMs on campus and many locations throughout the city. However, remember that you will be charged an international transaction fee for each use. It’s best to check with your bank before you leave to avoid surprises.

We do not advise using traveler’s checks as they are difficult to cash in India beyond the airport.

☐ LAPTOPS AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

We recommend you bring a lap-top. You are NOT allowed to bring your lap-tops to ANY of your classes.

You will also be required to purchase an Indian mobile phone, and always keep a minimum of 100 Rs (approx. $2.50) balance on your phone in order to receive calls & text messages. You may choose to use a smart phone as well, please check your plans to see what is covered and the costs for using your phone in India. If you have an Unlocked European Cell Phone, you can use this phone and only need to purchase and India SIM Card.

ELECTRONICS

Check the back of your laptop (or the accompanying literature) to see if your laptop is designed to be used for both 110 (America) and 220 (India) volts. You can call the customer service for your computer if you’re not sure. If it is compatible with both systems - which it probably will be - then all you need is an adapter - a small device that allows the cord to be plugged into an Indian socket. You can bring adapters and convertors from the U.S. or purchase them in India.

FOOD AND WATER

Bottled water is available quite easily on campus. The dorm where you will be staying only serves bottled water. And the Study India building (where most of your classes will be held) provides distilled water as well.
☐ PACK A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE!
☐ PACK HAND SANitizer!

MEDICATIONS AND FIRST AID

First Aid Items To Bring

☐ Insect repellent
☐ After bite spray/ointment
☐ Sunscreen and after sun treatments (such as aloe)
☐ Antibiotic cream (such as Neosporin)
☐ Antibiotic hand sanitizer

Medications To Bring

☐ Any prescription medication you are taking (including birth control)

Other medications that may be helpful

☐ Headache/pain medication (such as aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen)
☐ Chewable Imodium and Pepto-Bismol
☐ Allergy medications
☐ Cold medications

TOILETRIES

☐ Popular Indian and multinational brands of soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. are all available in Indian stores. If you are allergic to certain products or are particular about a specific brand, then bring your own!

You will need to provide your own soap for washing your hands in the dorm bathrooms.

There is no real need to load up your suitcase with toiletries.

TISSUES/TOILET PAPER

☐ These WILL be available in the dorm, however, when traveling you may not always have access to toilet paper. You will be able to purchase tissues and toilet paper in India. It is advisable to bring tissues and/or toilet paper with you when traveling. Also hand-sanitizer.

CLOTHES/SHOES

☐ BRING AN EXTRA SET OF CLOTHES IN YOUR HAND LUGGAGE!
Unfortunately, lost luggage or delayed luggage may occur, therefore it is important to carry at least one extra set of clothes in your hand luggage.
The weather will be cool when you arrive, and will get progressively warmer throughout the term.

CLOTHING

• It is appropriate to wear loose fitting clothing (long pants and long shirts), which cover the body. Long shirts that fall below the waist are highly recommended for BOTH MEN & WOMEN! Wearing shorts and t-shirts is acceptable in the dorm, while it is NOT acceptable to wear in class and other parts of campus, and especially off campus. Loose fitting pants (and long shirts for women) and long shirts (with either long or short sleeves, NO strappy or strapless shirts).

• As visitors to India and out of respect for these corporeal expectations, we also expect you to adhere to local dress codes. You may choose to purchase some local clothing items in India (if so, please include this in your spending budget). It is also better to cover your body to keep your skin from over exposure to the sun, dryness, and air pollution.

☐ Bathing suit: The Ellora and Ajanta trip includes staying at a hotel with a pool, so do not forget your suit if you plan to swim. It may also be something you want to have if your personal travel plans include Indian beaches.

☐ Shoes:
  o Sandals/comfortable for walking
  o Shower shoes
  o Sneakers or other shoes for hiking or walking on difficult terrain

TOWELS AND BEDDING

• You will be provided with towels, blankets and bedding for use in your rooms. The sheets and towels will be different than you are used to in the U.S., therefore you may wish to pack your own sheets and towels. Top sheets are not common and therefore expensive in India. Towels are relatively inexpensive (depending on the quality, etc.) and can be purchased at one of the local malls. If you plan to travel outside Hyderabad, you should pack a sheet and towel of your own.

Suggestions

☐ Bath and Hand Towel
☐ Top Sheet
☐ Pillow and pillow case (if you are particular about your pillow)