PUNE, INDIA

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 8, 2014, REVISED SEPT 14

ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

PROPOSAL TO ADD DIRECT-CREDIT STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Alliance for Global Education “Contemporary India”

Revised 9-14-14

Ruth Rogaski

The Asian Studies Program proposes the addition of a direct-credit study abroad program in Pune, India. Entitled “Contemporary India: Development, Economy, Society,” the proposed program is administered by the Alliance for Global Education (AGE), a division of the Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University (IFSA-Butler).

Given that India is the world’s second most-populous country, the world’s largest democracy, and a crucial part of the global economy, it is surprising that Vanderbilt currently has only one direct-credit study abroad option there (this is the SIT program on Health and Human Rights in New Delhi). The AGE Contemporary India program will give students an option to study in an entirely different region of India, with a broader curriculum that will offer our students a diverse introduction to India’s society and culture. It is of particular interest because of its internship component, and because it offers an option of producing a documentary film project in conjunction with faculty at the Film and Television Institute of India.

Rationale

Ten years ago, the College of Arts & Science had only one scholar working on India, and there were very few courses about South Asian society in the undergraduate curriculum. As interest in the region has grown, so has our faculty: currently there are scholars of South Asia in the departments of History, Political Science, and Religious Studies. A growing number of students have enrolled in classes to learn about India’s religious traditions, politics, history, and culture. Students and faculty in other disciplines are also developing connections to the region: Vanderbilt scientists and medical school staff conduct research on South Asia’s environment and public health, groups such as Project Pyramid draw interest in the India from the business, divinity, and law schools. Overall student interest in India and her neighbors has grown considerably, although there are still considerable gaps in our curriculum: for example, no South Asian languages are currently taught at Vanderbilt, although they have been part of the standard curriculum at our peer institutions for upwards of a decade.

In spite of this growing recognition of the importance of the region, there is currently only one study-abroad options in India available to Vanderbilt students: the SIT program on Health and Human Rights, located in New Delhi. Given that India is larger than Western Europe and has a population of over one billion people who speak dozens of mutually unintelligible languages, it goes without saying that one program in one city cannot represent India’s diversity.
More importantly, perhaps, is the need for a study abroad curriculum that coordinates with both the interests of our Vanderbilt South Asia faculty and the interests of our students. The SIT program, originally proposed by Peabody faculty, has begun to draw CAS students who have particular interest in the fields of medicine and education. The strengths of the CAS South Asia studies faculty, however, lie in history, media, politics, and religions. Students inspired by coursework at Vanderbilt to pursue a general interest in India’s cultures, languages, and society have few direct-credit options.

In the fall of 2013, the Asian Studies Study Abroad Committee (consisting of Bryan Lowe [Japanese Religious Studies] and Samira Sheikh [Indian History] surveyed Vanderbilt’s current offerings in Asia and reviewed potential additional programs. The committee recognized a particular dearth of programs in South Asia. Of possible programs in India, the committee selected the AGE program, with its flexible curriculum, research/internship components, and highly-regarded administration, as the first program recommended for adoption.

**Program Provider: The Alliance for Global Education (AGE)**

The Contemporary India program is administered by the Alliance for Global Education (AGE). AGE is a division of the Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University (IFSA-Butler). Vanderbilt University has a solid history of working with IFSA-Butler, and already partners with them for multiple programs in Ireland, Scotland, England, and Australia. IFSA’s AGE division was formed with the specific goal of providing programs for the growing number of US undergraduates interested in study abroad in China and India. Recognizing that China and India can present certain challenges, AGE has developed programs tailored to these countries that provide strong student services and careful health and safety measures. Since its founding in 2007, AGE programs have enrolled over 2,300 undergraduate students from 300 U.S. colleges and universities.

**Program Location**

The AGE Contemporary India program is located in Pune (also known as Poona). Pune is India’s seventh-largest city, with a population of 3.5 million people. Located 150 miles southeast of Mumbai, Pune has long been considered one of India’s centers for education and the arts, and is home to many of India’s most prestigious academic institutions (Nehru once dubbed it “the Oxford of the East” due to its large number of colleges). In great part because of its universities and research institutes, and the resultant concentration of highly educated individuals, Pune has become a center of development in the technology and international business sectors. Pune is thus well-positioned to host an academically serious study abroad program. Located in a region close to Mumbai (but without many of Mumbai’s issues), it offers an excellent alternative to SIT’s location in the capital, New Delhi, which is 1,000 miles to the north, in an entirely different region culturally and linguistically.
Program Host Institution

The program is based at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, one of the oldest institutes for social sciences in India. Founded in 1930 by Gandhi’s economic advisor and mentor, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the Gokhale Institute occupies a small but attractive campus in the Deccan Gymkhana neighborhood, an area known for its cafes, theaters, and greenery.

The AGE program maintains its own space on the campus of the Gokhale Institute. All program courses are held on campus in modern classrooms. AGE works with the Gokhale Institute to provide joint activities that bring AGE and Gokhale students together for cultural and intellectual exchange. In addition, students from Gokhale and other nearby institutions are selected to serve as student “buddies” for AGE students throughout the semester.

Program Structure

The Contemporary India Program courses are 3 credit hours, with each class requiring a minimum of 44 contact hours. The semester-long program awards a total of 15 credit hours. It is built around two required courses: 1) a sociology course on Contemporary India (3 credit hours; and 2) a capstone project of either an internship, a documentary film, or directed research (3 credit hours). Students may choose elective courses from a wide range of topics, including environmental issues, economics, gender, social justice, and public health. In addition, students may take courses in Hindi at the beginning or intermediate level. Outside of the Hindi courses, the general language of instruction is English.

The Asian Studies study abroad committee was impressed by the rigor of the “capstone” project opportunity. The internship/directed research/documentary film component involves a minimum of 155 contact hours, roughly broken down as follows:

- 96 hours (minimum) – hands-on work in the organization, library, or field
- 6-8 hours preparatory workshops
- 38 hours – meetings with Internship/Directed Research/Film Faculty (both group and individual) and faculty guides, as well as familiarization meetings with the organization, interpreters, and other key contacts prior to commencement.
- 15 hours – attendance at final presentations and oral evaluation

We are particularly enthusiastic about the documentary film option, in which students produce a short film on their selected subject area under the guidance of faculty from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). This is a unique opportunity, and if properly marketed, can certainly attract students from Vanderbilt’s Cinema and Media Arts program.

The semester term concludes with a two-day seminar where students present and discuss their research/projects/documentaries.

For a list of courses and links to syllabi, see http://allianceglobaled.org/india/pune/contemporary-india#131
All courses have been reviewed and approved by Butler University’s Undergraduate Academic Programs Committee. Butler University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

**Grading Scale**

Students receive letter grades for each course according to the following structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>63-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60-62%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further information about credits, grades, and transcripts may be found online at http://allianceglobaled.org/india/pune/contemporary-india#104.

**Excursions/Extracurriculars**

The academic component of the program is augmented by extracurricular programming. Students may take non-credit classes in classical Indian singing or dance, tabla or other musical instruments, Indian painting or other visual art forms.

Two long weekends are built into the calendar for a trip to Mumbai and a visit to a rural village. In addition, there are several planned excursions for visits to NGO offices, hospitals, and development projects in and around Pune, as well as trips to nearby sites of cultural, historical, and religious significance. One week of independent travel is factored into the semester-long program.

**Faculty**

The Contemporary India Program faculty are drawn from Pune’s academic institutions and NGOs. For example, the program’s course on India’s environment is taught by Pooja Bhale, a graduate of the University College of London and founder of the Pune NGO Protecterra Ecological Foundation. The documentary film course is taught by Indranil Bhattracharya, professor of film and TV production at the Film and Television Institute of India.

CVs of current program faculty may be found online at http://allianceglobaled.org/india/pune/contemporary-india#128
Pune-Based Administrative Staff

The Contemporary India on-site staff include:

- Uttaraa Jadhav, Director of India Programs and Resident Director, Pune: oversees all programs in India and the logistics of programs in Pune
- Abhishek Bhagwat, Assistant Resident Director: supports the daily operations of the Pune program and connects Alliance students to countless opportunities for local engagement
- Prof. Indranil Bhattacharya, Documentary Film Instructor: trains students in the art and technique of documentary filmmaking; oversees film projects
- Prof. Archana Vidwans, Academic Advisor: designated faculty member who oversees internships and directed research projects; also serves as a liaison between students and faculty

See http://www.allianceglobaled.org/about-us/who-we-are/staff/india-based-staff for further details about all members of the AGE local staff.

U.S.-Based Staff

The Contemporary India program is supported by AGE’s team of U.S.-based professionals, including:

- Shannon Cates, Executive Director: oversees all aspects of the Alliance’s operations
- Andrea Custodi, PhD, Director of Academic Affairs: advises on curriculum issues; oversees health and safety as well as academic policy implementation
- Jonathan Ferguson, Director of International Operations: oversees and manages the day-to-day operations of Alliance programs in China and India
- Teresa Bellono, Assistant Director for Outreach: serves as team lead throughout the program approval process and develops customized recruiting materials for Vanderbilt students
- Anna Stewart, Student Services Manager: provides pre-departure advising for students

Housing and Meals

The Contemporary India program features homestay accommodations with local families in Pune. Students are matched with housing according to stated preference and availability, and may likely share a room with another program student. Details on the vetting process for host families, orientation programs, and on-site safety and security precautions are outlined in Appendix A: Homestay Safety and Security in Pune, India.

Weekday breakfasts and most dinners are included in the program fee. Breakfast is provided on weekdays at the Alliance program center, and dinner and weekend meals are generally provided by the homestay family. Students typically eat lunch at privately-owned eateries near campus.

Homestay with an Indian family represents a wonderful opportunity for cross-cultural learning; at the same time, it may be a challenge for some students because of the necessary lifestyle adjustment. Given Pune’s reputation as a college town, families who open their homes to American students will most likely
be rather cosmopolitan; nevertheless, AGE materials emphasize that students need to be prepared to follow culturally-appropriate forms of behavior and to be respectful of their hosts.

**Calendar**

Program dates roughly follow the U.S. academic calendar: the spring term begins in mid-January and concludes in mid-May, whereas the fall term begins in mid-August and concludes in mid-December.

Spring Term  January 19, 2015 – May 12, 2015 (approximately)

Fall Term  August 24, 2015 – December 15, 2015 (approximately)

**Application Process**

Vanderbilt students who apply for the program must have a minimum 3.0 GPA or share evidence of extenuating circumstances. Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at an accredited U.S. institution and obtain permission from the home institution to study abroad. While no minimum class standing is required by the program, Vanderbilt requires that students have achieved sophomore study in order to study abroad.

AGE’s Student Services Manager for India programs admits students to the program based on eligibility and submission requirements, in consultation with other U.S.- and India-based AGE staff. The Gokhale Institute is not involved in the selection of the program’s students.

Application Deadlines are March 1 for Summer Programs, April 15\(^{th}\) for fall semester, and November 1 for the spring semester.

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Alliance for Global Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual or affectional orientation, religion, age, or disability in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment practices as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other applicable statutes.

**Orientation**

The program begins with a 3-4 day off-site orientation in Durshet, a forested retreat near Pune. The orientation introduces American students to life in India. In addition to sessions on health and safety, academics, and cultural adjustment, students are introduced to rural Indian village life, Indian religions, and temple-visit etiquette.
Safety and Security

Orientation includes an extensive health and safety component. All local staff members are trained in emergency response and are on call 24-7 for student emergencies. AGE maintains a communication protocol for handling student medical or criminal emergencies and for contacting parents and home institutions where appropriate.

AGE’s US headquarters monitors daily U.S. State Department security announcements and other security-related news outlets. On-site staff ensure students are properly registered with their respective embassy or consulate upon arriving in India.

While the Program has identified the best hospitals and physicians in the area, medical evacuation insurance is provided for all students through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI).

Students and parents can find security and safety information about particular study abroad locations at the following websites, and, based on the information provided therein, students and parents can make informed decisions about whether to participate in a study abroad program.

GEO travel warnings and alerts:

Information for parents of students planning to study abroad:

Student International Travel Policy:
http://vanderbilt.edu/vio/travel/student---travel---policy.php

Insurance

The Alliance for Global Education enrolls all student participants in a health and accident insurance plan through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) and underwritten by ACE American Insurance Company. The insurance is included in program fees and is mandatory for every student. The plan is effective throughout the duration of the participant’s program. There is no deductible per injury or illness, and the maximum medical expenses of the policy for accident or sickness is $500,000.

In addition, AGE maintains a general liability policy with a $3,000,000 occurrence limit and $3,000,000 aggregate.
Tuition and Fees

For reference, the total cost of tuition and fees for the Summer 2014 term is $6,680; the total cost of tuition and fees for the Fall 2014 term is $17,500.

Program fee breakdowns and estimated additional expenses may be found online at http://allianceglobaled.org/india/pune/contemporary-india#134.

Tuition includes pre-departure assistance and advising, group airport pick-up and drop-off, orientation, homestay housing while in Pune and hotel housing while on trips, breakfast and dinners, student cell phones, trips and excursions, insurance (medical, travel, and evacuation), 24/7 advising and emergency services from program staff, and, of course, tuition for program classes.

The tuition does not cover personal expenses, lunches and additional meals, airfare, visa, textbooks, and Vanderbilt tuition fees.
Appendix A

Homestay Safety and Security in Pune, India
Contemporary India Program Proposal for Vanderbilt University

Host Family Criteria

Host families in Pune are identified through Alliance staff’s personal networks and references from other host families. In India, the value of personal networks cannot be under-estimated, and constitutes a foundational safety precaution: all families are known, related to the program in some way, and invested ensuring a safe and positive student experience.

Host families are evaluated based on their prior experience hosting American students and their standing in the community. In India, community standing and prior experience are valuable metrics for working with host families. The social structure of Pune reinforces a community standard of safety and security for foreigners. The extended families and neighbours of our host families form a network that is constantly looking out for Alliance students.

Students are placed in safe, well-established neighborhoods within a reasonable distance to the program center, in houses that meet baseline standards for comfort, cleanliness, and safety. Buildings must be in good repair, and the family home must offer students a separate room with a door and a private, locking cupboard for personal belongings. All host families must have regular electricity and water supply. (Municipal power cuts and water shortages affect all households in Pune.) Students should not expect air conditioning, but houses will be well-ventilated and have fans for the hot season.

Pre-Departure and Orientation

After students are accepted, they complete a housing preference form on which they share details about themselves and their housing preferences. The Resident Director uses this information to match students with a suitable family. If students have questions before departure, our Student Services Manager is available to counsel them.

Safety and security measures are addressed in student handbooks distributed pre-departure, and students are briefed at orientation about their personal safety and security, their future homestay placements, and cultural issues related to living in India. Students meet one-on-one with their Resident Director, who shares details about their host family and answers any questions they may have at this time. Combined, these measures foster students’ awareness about cultural practices and personal behaviors that may be different in Indian host families, and prepare them for the adjustment process.
Host Family Orientation

Prior to the beginning of the term, all host families meet with the Resident Director individually and as a group. Established host families serve as additional trainers at the pre-semester meeting, offering valuable first-person advice and perspectives on challenges and tips for hosting American students. In this meeting, Alliance staff also set host families’ expectations regarding student behavior and the academic nature of the program, train them on safe preparation of foods and ensuring a safe drinking water supply, and brief them on how to handle recurring student reactions such as culture shock, illness, and/or homesickness.

Onsite Safety and Security Precautions

Families are encouraged to communicate their expectations for house norms, such as curfew, directly with students at the beginning of the semester, but are also encouraged to turn to staff as mediators and facilitators if any issues arise. Families are also required to explain to their students how to lock up after themselves, and to describe how the safety precautions taken by the family as a whole also serve to protect our students during their homestay.

Additionally, there is a layer of governmental reporting that is part of the student visa registration process and involves students’ homestay placements. This creates a security framework for our students as the local police register their local addresses and passport information. In brief:

1. The host families register as hosts to foreign students at the police commissioner’s office.
2. Students also register separately at the police commissioner’s office.
3. Additional registration at the neighbourhood police station is also required.
4. An officer from the neighbourhood police station pays a visit to the host family to verify that the student is staying there.
5. A report confirming this is then sent to the police commissioner’s office.
6. Student passports, visas, and verification reports are scanned at the police commissioner’s office along with the host family reference.
7. A residential permit is then issued to the student.

Though this process is complicated and laborious, Alliance staff work closely with local police station and the police commissioner’s office to ensure that our students are on their radar. In the event of a local disturbance, a crime against a student, or any other safety or security-related incident, this relationship would serve our students well.
Dear Martin,

The faculty of Asian Studies has voted to approve the proposed Pune program. The vote (if you need to know it) was 16 in favor, none opposed, one not voting.

Thanks,

Rob Campany

Rob Campany, Ph.D.
Professor, Asian Studies and Religious Studies
Professor, Graduate Department of Religion
Director, Asian Studies Program

Vanderbilt University
STUDY ABROAD COMMITTEE VOTE

From: <Fowler>, William R <william.r.fowler@Vanderbilt.Edu>
Date: Friday, December 5, 2014 at 8:56 AM
To: Martin Rapisarda <martin.rapisarda@vanderbilt.edu>
Subject: RE: Notes from SA Chair

Prof. Brian Bachman
Faculty Chair, CEP

Dear Prof. Bachman:

_The Study Abroad Committee met on 27 October 2014 to consider revised versions of proposals for programs at Pune, India, and in New Zealand._

Six of the seven members of the Committee were present: Professors Fowler (chair), Gualda, Modena, Scott, Werner, and Zamora. Professor Rife sent regrets. Also present were ex-officio members Dean Rapisarda and Dr. Bogenschild.

_The Pune proposal was approved by the Committee with six votes in favor, none against, no abstentions._

The New Zealand proposal was approved by the Committee with six votes in favor, none against, no abstentions.

Sincerely,

William R. Fowler

William R. Fowler
Associate Professor

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Anthropology
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37235
615-343-9505
FACIE – Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/17/14
Time: 2:00-3:00pm
Location: Furman Hall 003
Attendees: Bart Quinet, Carol Dunne, Aimee Leavitt (from OUR); Joy Calico, Martin Rapisarda, Melissa Rose, Craig Smith, Brian Heuser, Cynthia Paschal, Samira Sheikhh, Elizabeth Zechmeister, Isabelle Crist, Nabil Simaan, Guilherme Gualda, Virginia Scott, Timothy Novara

FACIE Additional Items (URO Departs)

- **PUNE – Contemporary India**
  - There were initial concerns with the homestay process, but the organization has come back with additional details that are satisfactory.
  - The location in Asia satisfies the university’s goal to expand in that geographic region.
  - **CONSENSUS:** Approved.

Several faculty on this committee are also on the Study Abroad committee. There were questions as to why FACIE is reviewing proposals they have already approved. What are we considering that the Study Abroad committee does not?
RE: Proposal to add direct-credit Study Abroad Program, Alliance for Global Education “Contemporary India”

Dear Professor Rogaski,

The Committee on Educational Programs convened on January 15th to review the proposal to add direct-credit Study Abroad Program, Alliance for Global Education “Contemporary India”. The catalog copy was approved (6 voting in favor) contingent upon these minor revisions:

a. The grading scale on page 4 needs to be modified; A&S does not recognize A+ grades. A+ grades will be converted to A.

b. Please recheck for typographical errors. E.g. page 3 “credit” hours and see attached document with additional typos highlighted.

c. In the calendar, there is reference to the summer term but there is not description elsewhere. Please clarify.

If these minor changes are acceptable, please incorporate them into your document and forward them to me. I will forward your corrected proposal to Faculty Council after which, pending their approval, your proposal will proceed to A&S Faculty vote. Please let me know if I may be of any assistance.

Best Regards,

Brian O. Bachmann

cc: Karen Campbell
Dear Jonathan,

Attached you will find the application materials for a Proposal to add direct-credit Study Abroad Program, Alliance for Global Education “Contemporary India”, approved by the Committee for Education Programs on January 15, 2015 and revised by Professor Rogaski as per request. We are recommending this for consideration by Faculty Council.

Best Regards,

Brian Bachmann