

hyderabad

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cīee

program handbook

CIEE Study Center at University of Hyderabad: Hyderabad, India

Part I: The CIEE Program in Hyderabad	4
WELCOME TO YOUR LIFE AS A STUDENT IN INDIA	4
Hyderabad	4
YOUR HOST: UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD	4
Academic Program	5
Academic Culture	5
Teaching Style (Direct Enrollment Courses)	6
Nature of Classes	6
Class Schedule	6
Class Locations	7
Grading System	7
Program Requirements	7
Credit	8
Faculty	8
Peer Tutors	8
Cultural Activities and Field Trips	8
THE CIEE PROGRAM	8
Departure and Arrival	8
What happens when I arrive?	8
Early Arrivals	8
What should I know before I reserve my airfare?	9
Discount on Airfare	9
How do I get there?	10
Online Pre-Departure Orientation (OPDO)	10
Orientation	10
CIEE Program Staff	11
Program Mailing Address	11
Tagore International House	11
Important Housing Policies	12
Internet	12
Laundry	12
Part II: Before You Leave Home	13
A LOT TO LEARN	13
Get a Good Guidebook	13
Tap Other Resources	13
Check Travel Advisories	13
Be Informed about Home, too	14
ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS	14
Passports	14
Where and how do I apply for a passport?	14
Visas	14
DOCUMENTS FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS	15
HEALTH	15
What health-related steps should I take before I leave?	15
What medical supplies should I take with me?	15
What other precautions should I take?	15
Malaria	16
AIDS	16
Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy	17
Motor driving Policy	17
CDC Recommendations	17
INSURANCE	17
CIEE Accident and Sickness Insurance	17
Primary Insurance Plan Brokers	17
Paying medical bills up front	17

PERSONAL FINANCES.....	17
Cost of Living.....	17
What costs are covered by my CIEE fee?.....	18
What expenses should I budget for?.....	18
Program and Estimated Additional Costs.....	18
Financial Arrangements.....	18
PACKING AND BAGGAGE.....	18
What are the baggage limits?.....	18
What should I pack?.....	18
Climate.....	18
Clothing.....	18
Electrical Appliances.....	19
Voice recorder.....	19
Mementos from home.....	19
Gifts.....	19
What if I want to have things mailed to me abroad?.....	19
PREPARING FOR CULTURAL ADAPTATION.....	19
Part III: Living in Hyderabad.....	19
MEETING INDIANS.....	20
Special Note to Female Students.....	20
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.....	21
COMMUNICATIONS AND MAIL.....	21
Telephone.....	21
Fax.....	21
Anti-Theft Software.....	21
Internet and Computers.....	22
Mail Service.....	22
Packages.....	22
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION.....	22
MONEY AND BANKING.....	22
Money.....	22
ATM/Cards.....	22
Traveler's Checks.....	22
Credit Cards.....	23
MEDICAL FACILITIES.....	23
GETTING AROUND.....	23
Independent Travel.....	23
CIEE's rules for independent travel:.....	23
VOTING WHILE ABROAD.....	24
Income Tax.....	24
Part IV: Policies and Procedures.....	24
A NOTE FROM CIEE.....	25
Credits and Grades.....	25
CONCLUSION: THE CHALLENGE IS UP TO YOU.....	26
Part V: Additional Resources.....	27
SUGGESTED READING LIST.....	27
WEBSITES.....	29
SUGGESTED PACKING CHECKLIST.....	30

Part I: The CIEE Program in Hyderabad

WELCOME TO YOUR LIFE AS A STUDENT IN INDIA

India is a land of diversity—culturally, geographically and religiously. Each region of India has qualities that make it drastically different from the others. India will be an experience that may be difficult at times, yet will be a place you will never forget.

India is roughly a triangle, with Pakistan to the northwest, Nepal, Bhutan and China to the north and Bangladesh to the northeast. Sri Lanka stands alone at the southern tip of India. India's varied landscape changes suddenly, ranging from the great Himalayan Mountains in the north, to flat plains, stretching east to west with the holy Ganges River, to the plateaus and rolling hills of the central and southern regions.

Hyderabad

Hyderabad, located in the state of Andhra Pradesh, is an interesting, bustling city with a mixed population that combines Muslim and Hindu cultures. It stands at a point of intersection between Northern and Southern India, between rural and urban India and between the past and the present. On the one hand, it has a rich tradition in art, poetry, calligraphy, dance and music, with roots firmly planted in the regional soil. On the other hand, it is at the center of the technological advances of the twenty-first century, with a thriving youth culture and many enterprising financial institutions. It is the fourth largest city in India and is at the heart of India's development strategies.

Hyderabad is developing rapidly as India continues to take on a larger role in the world economy. The city is full of contrast, construction and people. It is common to see a massive construction project happening in an area that looks undeveloped. Transitional housing communities are scattered all throughout the city, many of which are the temporary homes of the people who are actually building all of these buildings. This construction is also indicative of new jobs that require skilled workers, which India's education system is working to train.

Further, the city is expansive and can appear disjointed. While cities like New York City or Boston are condensed into a small and easily walked area, the city of Hyderabad is much

more spread out making public transportation and time a necessity for getting around.

The language of the state is Telugu, but in Hyderabad, Urdu is also widely spoken. Many educated people are comfortable with Hindi and English. The climate in Hyderabad is moderate to hot and dry in spring semester. Fall semester (AKA monsoon semester) starts out rainy and warm but ends pleasant and dry.

To learn more about the city of Hyderabad, make sure to take some time to research more about it. Searching through image banks like Google and reading through even the basic sites like Wikipedia can help give you a truer impression of what to expect of the city. It is also highly beneficial to look through websites that feature the latest happenings and news from the city. While doing your research, keep in mind that the University of Hyderabad is located in the suburbs and outside of the excitement and stress of the big city.

YOUR HOST: UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD

The University of Hyderabad is a prestigious federal institution with more than 5,000 students from all over India on its large and relatively well-equipped campus. The university also hosts important conferences and talks on a range of topics from Science and Engineering to the Humanities to Public Health and Social Sciences. There are over 50 graduate level departments and 12 centres for specialized study such as Folk Culture and Women's Studies. In addition to its main focus on graduate study, the university also has a growing Integrated Studies program, which offer 5-year combined Bachelor and Master's degree programs. Although mainly it is a graduate level institution, the university offers a number of courses appropriate for juniors and seniors from the U.S.

In 1998, the university established a Study in India Program (S.I.P.), which offers additional courses for foreign students. S.I.P. faculty and administration have, in many cases, studied in the USA, know the U.S. system, and have a good understanding of the emotional and academic needs of American undergraduates.

The main campus is 3200 acres of full green space, academic buildings, residence halls, lakes, and wild life. It is a very peaceful and

calm environment, which can be a nice contrast to the bustling city.

Students at the university come from all classes and all regions of India. Many of them are passionate about social issues, and treasure the natural beauty of the campus environment. These types of students are often eager to share these interests with CIEE students, who they see as allies of their more progressive interests.

The university is located on the outskirts of Hyderabad, which affords students a more tranquil environment outside of the city center to learn about student life in Andhra Pradesh. Given the large size of the campus and its proximity to the city (travel time to various areas of the city can take between 30 and 90 minutes), most local students prefer to spend the majority of their time on or close to campus.

To get a clear idea of where the University is located in relation to Hyderabad, please check out this Google Earth map: <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=University+of+Hyderabad&sl=37.0625,-5.677068&sspn=45.8712,78.75&ie=UTF8&ll=17.439751,78.500061&spn=0.434318,0.615234&t=h&z=11&iwloc=addr>.

Due to its size Hyderabad has multiple city centers (with no central downtown), but most people do see Hussain Sagar (the lake next to Secunderabad) as a central point geographically.

Academic Program

The academic program is offered in collaboration with the Study in India Program (SIP) at the University of Hyderabad. The Study in India Program (SIP) aims to provide international students the opportunity to study various aspects of Indian society, history and culture and to create an international environment on campus. SIP is nationally recognized by the Ministry of Education in India for its international education model. The CIEE program offers students a combination of specially designed courses organized by SIP and regular university courses in such fields as history, literature, philosophy, sociology, communications, management studies, anthropology, dance, art history, cinema, political science, economics, natural sciences, Fine Arts course in Studio, Yoga, Ayurveda and Hindi, Telugu, Urdu and Sanskrit languages. Many faculty members have experience

teaching American students, either in the United States or in India.

Although there is no language prerequisite for participation in the program, all students are required to take a for-credit language class in either Beginner level Hindi, Telugu, Sanskrit, or Urdu. Those who have taken Hindi previously have the option of taking an intermediate or advanced course in Hindi. In addition to the language study requirement, students must take an additional three classes, which can be any combination of SIP elective courses and direct enrollment (classes with Indian students). You may contact your CIEE Study Abroad advisor for a list of historical SIP and departmental offerings, but the final course offering will not be available until you arrive on site. Students therefore need to be flexible about course selection once they reach Hyderabad.

Although students are generally free to choose from any department on campus, it should be noted that some departments have higher expectations for both pre-requisite coursework and time commitment. STEM departments, fine arts and theatre, Business, and classes at the sciences and Centre for Health Psychology tend to fall into this category. Most CIEE students tend to take a combination of SIP and Social Sciences or Humanities classes and rarely have any trouble meeting expectations.

Once students finalize their academic courses onsite, it is advised to immediately seek approval of the courses from their respective home institutions. It is solely students responsibility to get approval of the courses including language course, independent study (if any) from their respective schools before the final course registration date on-site. Student's request for course change is not permitted after the course registration add/drop period.

Participants say...

The University is really an hour commute from downtown, but it was easy to find a cab or bus.

Academic Culture

The University of Hyderabad is a graduate-level Indian university. Since the B.A. degree in India is three years long, M.A. students in their first year of study are roughly at the equivalent level to a senior at a U.S. university. As the University of Hyderabad primarily provides graduate education, CIEE students should expect a good deal of independent work in each class,

including but not limited to, reading all the books and articles in the suggested readings list for each course. As the academic classroom environment in all direct enroll courses at the university is vastly different from classes in the U.S., students in direct enroll courses should have an open mind and be prepared for minimal classroom discussion and in-depth lectures from their professors. Classes are relatively small and are primarily taught through lectures. Students should also be prepared that they will likely do most of their research by accessing their home institution library database on-line due to regulations and limited resources in the university library.

As no scheduled academic break exists in the University calendar, semester-only students are encouraged to travel following the program end date. Academic year students will have a three-week break in December from the program end date.

Teaching Style (Direct Enrollment Courses)

Should you choose to take direct enroll courses, it will be important to keep in mind that the courses are not designed for U.S. students. They are designed for Indian graduate students who have had a very different educational and cultural background, having attended schools in India their entire lives.

Direct enroll courses are often taught very differently than in the U.S. Courses are usually taught in a lecture style where the professor will spend the majority of the class time, if not all, speaking to the class. Little, if any, time is offered for discussions or student participation. The academic culture in India puts the professor on a higher level than the student and CIEE students must adhere to cultural norms and treat faculty with the utmost respect. You will notice Indian students never refer to professor's by their first name or without a proper title, and the professor is considered to be the person with the most thorough knowledge of the subject matter. As such, many professors may not be used to students asking questions in class and they can misconstrue this as an act of disrespect or perceive this behavior as questioning their knowledge on subject matter. It can be best to gauge a professor's comfort level by approaching them on a more personal level prior to asking questions in front of a whole class.

Further, classes are not typically as structured as in the U.S. It is not uncommon for a class to

be rescheduled or cancelled at a moment's notice. Often times a professor learns of the changes at the same time as the students and they will seem unfazed as this is common practice. Additionally, readings recommended to students outside of class by their professors are often not available at the local library. For U.S. students, these moments can be perceived as poorly planned and avoidable, but for both the administration and the professors, this will be seen as normal business.

In spite of these challenges, direct enrollment classes are an important chance to experience a different educational system, and to connect with Indian classmates. Indian students are completely dependent on one another to stay aware of assignments and exams, and CIEE students have found this offers a perfect opportunity for establishing connections with local students.

Students are given ample time (1-2 weeks) at the beginning of the semester to sit in on different courses and decide whether they like the professor, understand the accent, and are interested in the course content. CIEE staff are also a critical resource at this time. The program has been in operation for more than 10 years and we have a large bank of feedback from past students about university courses.

Nature of Classes

Participants take SIP courses with CIEE and international students and enroll directly in host university courses alongside Indian students. Students should understand that teaching styles in India may be different from what they are used to and are not good or bad. Adapting to the 'new' classroom is part of the intercultural learning experience.

You will notice that many courses will start slow in terms of content and workflow, but do not be deceived. About midway through the semester, the workload will pick up, and be quite high at the time of final examinations.

Class Schedule

The CIEE Study Center follows a semester calendar and includes an additional period of orientation at the beginning of each semester. The Indian academic year runs from late mid-July through late-November, and early January through late April of the following year. Classes generally meet for 4 hours per week, which can be broken into anywhere from 2 to 4 class meetings per week. Courses in fine arts, theatre, science and math require several additional

hours of class meeting time per week, but will still offer a maximum of 4 credits.

It is important to keep in mind that University of Hyderabad is a residential campus, and professors expect students to be available at all times while class is in session. Rescheduling classes or periodic assessment dates a professor missed during the week to a Saturday or Sunday or any holiday is perfectly acceptable. As such, students should not plan any long independent travels, and be ready to cancel personal plans at late notice if they conflict with academic commitments at any point. It is completely inappropriate to ask a professor to reschedule a class or an exam to suit a student's personal travel plans. It is the responsibility of the student to be on site and complete all the final examination before leaving either for an independent travel or for leaving to back home. Long trips should wait until the end of the semester. Most students will have as much as a week to spare after completing final exams; Academic year students have a three-week break in December.

Class Locations

All direct enrolment course classes are located on the main campus and most of the SIP courses are held in the SIP building on the South campus. Options for commuting between the two are walking (30 min.), cycling (15 min.), or catching a campus shuttle. Home stay students are not allowed to take the CIEE given bikes out of campus and can park their bikes at the main gate and use them for campus only.

Grading System

Grading is normally on a percentage basis, with 40 percent of the grade based on assignments and tests, and 60 percent of the grade based on the final exam. Students will receive U.S. letter grade equivalents. The highest grade you can achieve is an A (there is no A+).

Since each professor devises their own grading system, it is important for students to communicate with the professor and fellow students to know the grading scale, and to get a clear idea of expectations.

Please note that consistent grading system is not followed as at the University of Hyderabad follows different grading system School wise.

Attendance and Examination Policy:

Students must achieve at least 75 % attendance out of total conducted classes to be allowed to take the final examination. Students who fail to fulfill the required attendance in each course they attend, as per University of Hyderabad policy, will not be permitted to take the final examination, which will result in a failing grade.

Assessment

Students are required to attend all classes and participate to the satisfaction of the professor. The assessment system is designed to systematically test the student's progress in class, laboratory, and fieldwork through periodic evaluation. Students are given tests, quizzes, homework, presentations, tutorials, and term papers, in addition to the three hour final examination which carries the maximum weightage and will be conducted at the end of each semester. The final exam is usually an assessment of how well a student has memorized the course material. The final result in each course is calculated on the basis of these periodic assessments.

Program Requirements

A mandatory course load for one semester is 16 credits (four courses worth four credits each). Students are required to take one language course from these choices: Conversational Hindi, Basic Hindi, Basic Telugu, Basic Urdu and Basic Sanskrit, Intermediate Hindi, or Advanced Hindi. Three additional courses can be selected from Study in India Program (SIP) class offerings or by directly enrolling in regular university courses. For the past several semesters, SIP has offered a limited selection of elective courses including Yoga Theory & Practice, Principles of Ayurveda, and Kuchipudi Dance. This list changes from semester to semester, and is only known after students arrive on site.

Independent/Directed study courses, where a faculty member supervises readings, field study and/or research focused on a topic, are also available to highly motivated students. Students interested in this option will need to provide e-mail confirmation from their study abroad advisor during the on-site registration process, and request for Independent Studies are subject to faculty availability and interest.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is only 16 semester/24 quarter hours and 32 semester/48 quarter hours for the academic year.

The course load is 4 classes, for a total of 16 credits. Students are not permitted to take more or less than 16 credits.

Faculty

Except language courses, the required courses are taught in English by the highly qualified faculty at the University of Hyderabad.

Peer Tutors

Program participants are paired with University of Hyderabad senior students for twice-weekly one-on-one language tutorials.

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

During orientation, students learn about Indian culture and society through activities, talks, and site visits like Charminar, Golconda Fort, Chowmahalla Palace, Quthubshahi Tombs, and historical mosques in Hyderabad. Students are also given the opportunity to adjust to life in Hyderabad and develop skills to get around, communicate, and behave appropriately in this new cultural context. Highlights of these experiences include a scavenger hunt called Khojo Hyderabad ("Khojo" is the Hindi word for "search".), and visits to NGO's to get a comprehensive view of the development process in Andhra Pradesh.

To further acquaint the student with parts of South India and to foster self-reflection, visits are taken on overnight field trip during the Spring semester to Mysore, Melkote and/or Bylakuppe: Maharaja's palace, or Tipu Sultan's kingdom, monastery and temples and saree weavers/handicrafts (entrepreneurs) and for fall semester to Hampi, Anegundi or Badami, Hindu & Jain temples, Hampi bazaar and saree weavers/handicrafts of today. Students are exposed to Christian, Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu temples in Andhra Pradesh and in Karnataka.

Cooking lessons with Indian recipes are conducted.

Note: It is mandatory that students participate in all CIEE organized orientation, day and out station field trips, organized lectures, activities, language peer tutoring sessions etc. If student fail to do so immediately notified/informed to their respective schools. Students must give priority to organized field trips over their individual plans.

Students interested in undertaking daily yoga practice may do so at the Yoga Center located on campus. Non-credit opportunities are also available for highly motivated students to study Indian arts like Kathak and Bollywood dance, sitar, tabla and Henna designs (Mahendi).

Part-time volunteer projects can be organized for highly motivated students.

THE CIEE PROGRAM

Departure and Arrival

What happens when I arrive?

Upon arrival, Kavitha G.V. (The Resident Director), Kate Shalvoy (Community & Student Engagement Coordinator), Kalyan (the Office Manager), Madhuri (Coordinator), or a CIEE peer tutor will meet you at the airport. Look for a sign saying CIEE.

When you reach Hyderabad, please call your parents to let them know you had a safe flight and that everything is going well. A brief phone call will relieve them of their worries. At this time you can also pass along exact information on how they may reach you.

The first day of the program will be very low key with some optional activities designed to help you get to know one another and explore the vast campus environment. The following day is when orientation goes into full swing, and you will be heavily occupied for the better part of the first month of the program with a combination of structured and unstructured time to help you learn about Indian culture, get to know your new city, and get registered for classes. Be advised course registration is extremely different from what you are accustomed, and will take about 3 weeks to finalize.

Early Arrivals

Early arrivals of one day are allowed, however airport pickup is only included for students who arrive on the program start date. In most cases CIEE staff can help you reserve on campus accommodation and book a taxi for your travel from the airport to campus, however these costs are not included in the program fee. If on campus accommodation for early arrivals is not

possible, you are responsible for your booking and paying for your accommodation for the additional night.

Early arrivals of more than 1 day in advance of the official program arrival date are not allowed.

Late arrival to the program is not allowed.

It is important that students inform the Resident Director of any late arrivals to program site.

Note: Before arrival to the program site, you may receive communications from both CIEE and SIP (aka University of Hyderabad). If this happens, please revert to the information from CIEE, and also direct any questions about the program to CIEE.

Students should depart from the program site on the program end date indicated in the *Dates, Deadlines and Arrival Information* page on your task list in Polaris. Housing WILL NOT be provided for students after the scheduled departure date.

Students are responsible for arranging their own flights and transportation to the airport on the scheduled departure date.

For students traveling after the end date of the program: Please note that CIEE is only able to sponsor your visa for the duration of the program. If you choose to travel independently or stay in the country after the program end date, you will be responsible for organizing and funding your own travel plans including your visa, housing, transportation, meals, etc. The end date of the program is the date all CIEE sponsored accommodations will end; including visa sponsorship and housing. CIEE is an educational program and not equipped to advise students on personal travel plans or visa questions outside of the program requirements.

What should I know before I reserve my airfare?

When it comes to purchasing your airfare, the best advice anyone can give you is to do your research before purchasing your ticket. One website is not enough and oftentimes the cheapest ticket is not the one that is right for you.

Past participants have found great rates on non-refundable tickets with the following companies www.sidestep.com, www.kayak.com, www.travelocity.com, and www.orbitz.com. Do yourself a favor and set up a 'fare alert' or the

route you want so that you can let these sites do the work for you in terms of keeping any eye out for possible dips in the airfare prices.

Others have gotten creative when making their travel plans by purchasing their domestic tickets separately from their international tickets. It's possible that you can find a better rate at an international airport in a different part of the country. If you can find a deal on a domestic flight to that city, it can save you a significant amount of money.

Other participants have played around with the dates by arriving a day early, however be sure to balance the savings of arriving a day early with the cost (usually approximately \$40) of the extra night of accommodation and transit from the airport to campus. The key thing to remember is that you cannot arrive after the official program arrival date, even if it's going to save you a lot of money.

For students come to India for the full academic year, keep in mind that airlines typically will not let you make a reservation nine months in advance, so you will have to wait to book your return trip until you arrive on-site.

Additional tips: There are some student travel agencies that offer lower than usual fare change fees which can be as little as \$50 each time you wish to change any of the ticket dates. Although you may find an Internet travel agency who offers you a cheaper ticket, after reading the small print, you could discover that their change fees range anywhere from \$100 to the price of a new ticket. If you are unsure about your post semester travel plans, you may want to consider giving yourself this flexibility!

Discount on Airfare

As a part of your program fees you will receive an iNext (www.iNext.com) insurance card/student ID that allows a \$15.00 discount on flights costing \$100.01 to \$249.99 and a \$25.00 discount on flights costing \$250.00 or more when you purchase your airfare through Student Universe (www.studentuniverse.com). Simply type iNext in the Promo Code text box when you go to finalize your reservation. Student Universe is a travel agency that offers plane tickets at a reduced student rate. Aside from Student Universe's already discounted student fares and the iNext discount, most Student Universe tickets allow changes to the ticket for as little as \$50. If you have one of these tickets, you can make your plans to travel independently even after you have already arrived on-site. Your iNext card is valid for 365 days and the code can

be applied towards any two airfares purchased while you are covered by iNext.

Students who have registered with the FRRO (see visa section of this handbook) and wish to stay in India after the official program departure date will need to leave the country to apply for a tourist visa after the program ends to be able to re-enter India. Most students are successful in this, however it can be a challenging bureaucratic process and CIEE cannot advise you on it.

How do I get there?

The cost of transportation to and from the program is not included in the CIEE program fee. CIEE will pay for the transportation from Hyderabad airport to the accommodation and for site visits during orientation. Students should make their flight reservation to arrive on the date and time indicated in the link titled *Dates, Deadlines and Arrival Information* on your on-line checklist. Those students whose arrival coincides with the stated times will be greeted by the CIEE staff at the airport.

If there are any flight changes and/ or delays, students should follow the instructions on the final mailing and contact CIEE staff in Hyderabad through email or via phone.

If you arrange your own transportation, you must time your arrival so you can meet the other program participants at the orientation site.

Approximately 30-days prior to the program arrival date, all participants will receive an e-mail from their Enrollment Officer titled *CIEE ~ Hyderabad Final Mailing*. Specifics concerning orientation, directions to meet with the group and other important arrival details will be included in this e-mail.

Tip: Phone home

Upon your arrival, call your parents. A brief phone call telling them that you have arrived and are fine will relieve them of any worries. At this time you can also pass along exact information on how they may reach you.

Online Pre-Departure Orientation (OPDO)

Students begin their study abroad experience in Hyderabad before even leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask any questions before leaving home.

The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

To learn more about the OPDO and when it will occur, please review the supporting documents posted to your on-line checklist.

Orientation

All students must arrive on-site by the arrival date and before the start of orientation. Late arrival to the program is not permitted.

Students are required to attend all orientation activities and should not plan to arrive after the official program start date (as stated in the document titled *Program Dates, Details & Arrival information* located on your on-line checklist). If you are delayed en route to the orientation site, you must leave a message with the CIEE home office or the CIEE resident staff **as soon as you realize you will be late.**

The CIEE Study Center organizes a comprehensive orientation in Hyderabad that includes information on academic requirements, safety and security issues, a campus tour, an introduction to student facilities, academic conventions in India, and interactive workshops on cross-cultural issues. Gender issues are also discussed in a workshop to generate awareness. In addition, there are orientation sessions conducted at the University of Hyderabad which introduce students to the country, the culture, and the academic program, and give practical information about living in Hyderabad. Lectures by experts from different walks of life assist student in understanding the diversity of India and its traditional and contemporary relevance to the world. Cultural program and tours of the city and its vicinity provide an insight into the rich cultural heritage of the city.

As orientation is a busy time for our students and the main goal is to help our participants adjust to their new home, this is not the appropriate time for family and/or friends to visit the site. Past participants who arrived with family and/or friends have stated that the transition was more difficult because they felt that they had to

both entertain their visitors while fulfilling all of the orientation requirements. This added distraction made it more difficult to bond with their peers and to fully integrate themselves into the program.

The resident staff will give you a lot of practical information about living in Hyderabad, including a review of emergency procedures and detailed information on health, well-being and safety issues. You'll go on local tours to help you adjust. Note that individual orientation continues throughout the program.

CIEE Program Staff

The resident staff, appointed by CIEE in consultation with the academic consortium, supervises and administers the program. They can assist you with academic, administrative, and personal matters.

About the Resident Director

Ms. Kavitha Gooty Venkata was born and raised in Hyderabad. Kavitha is associated with CIEE ever since its inception in 2001 as a student counselor through the Study in India Program exclusively for CIEE study abroad students, Program Assistant from 2004 to 2008 and as Resident Director since 2009, CIEE Study Center at the University of Hyderabad .

Kavitha is working to complete her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Hyderabad. Her dissertation topic is Dalit Women in Engineering Education: A Study of Ranga Reddy District in Andhra Pradesh. It is a study of reservation policy (affirmative action) problems and prospects in engineering courses faced by Dalit women who hail from the most disadvantaged section of the Indian society.

About the Community & Student Engagement Coordinator

Ms. Kate Shalvoy joined the CIEE Study Center in Hyderabad in December of 2011 after working in the CIEE Head Office in Portland, Maine for three years. She studied abroad for a semester in Prague, Czech Republic as an undergraduate student of Psychology, and has worked in the field of international education for over six years. Kate's main goal is to provide as much support as you need to have a meaningful experience in India.

About the Office Manager

Mr. Kalyan Murthy, is originally from Hyderabad city. He received his M.Sc degree from Osmania University, Hyderabad and a Post Graduate

Diploma in Computer Applications from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu. Kalyan joined CIEE in 2007.

About the Coordinator

Ms.Madhuri Gunti, Coordinator, started her journey with CIEE, as a Hindi Language peer tutor in 2004 and later joined as Coordinator in Jan 2009. Madhuri hails from Andhra Pradesh.

Program Mailing Address

c/o Resident Director
CIEE Hyderabad 1st Floor, Study in India Program (SIP) Building, South Campus, University of Hyderabad, Gachibowli, Hyderabad 500046, INDIA

Housing and Meals

At the CIEE Study Center in Hyderabad, students have the choice of two housing options, noted below. Meals are included in both housing options. Although every attempt is made to grant each participant's preference, roommate and housing assignments are based upon availability and other factors. Therefore, although students usually get their first choice of housing, your housing preference cannot be guaranteed in advance. All housing assignments are announced on-site during orientation. This information is not available prior to the official program arrival date. **Once housing allotted on-site, under no circumstances can it be changed.**

Please note that the University of Hyderabad and CIEE housing is not located downtown. The city is in a suburban setting 15 miles outside of the city. While there is easy access to transportation to city, it can take about an hour to get downtown.

Remember that most Indians only eat with their right hand. Sometimes utensils will be available, but using your right hand is most common. Even if you are left-handed, you may want to practice using your right hand!

IMPORTANT NOTE: There is **no** kitchen access in the Tagore International House.

Tagore International House

Specially designed for study abroad students at the University of Hyderabad, the Tagore International House provides furnished, air conditioned, double occupancy rooms. Separate wings for boys and girls. Each wing has separate common-bathrooms for boys and girls

and a common area which is used by students for studying or other activities. The Tagore International House also includes a common dining room, computer room, TV room, games room (Table Tennis) and laundry facilities with washers. Food is of a very good standard with many vegetarian options. While most of the food is Indian, some western food items are also available.

Though Tagore International House is fully acquainted with facilities to cater the needs of the foreign students nevertheless there will be less interaction with the full-time students. Students have been successful in making Indian friends on campus, but a special effort is generally required.

Bed Linen is provided and students do not need to bring any additional sheets or pillows with them to India. SIP provides bikes to Tagore International residents by taking Rs.3500/- refundable deposit.

Students will be provided double occupancy room at Tagore, where student need to share room with another student usually a CIEE student. Single occupancy rooms are only given in cases of documented medical necessity.

Group and Individual Homestays—The homestay option is one of – if not the - best way to learn about Indian culture firsthand. We have a range of host families that host between 1 and 4 students each, every semester. Students who request a homestay will have an individual interview with CIEE staff after arrival to determine the best match in terms of personality, lifestyle, dietary habits, the student's goals, the family's needs/interests, etc. Facilities in each homestay vary, but all students can expect breakfast and dinner daily, an internet connection, and shared double room and bath.

Homestay families live anywhere from 3 km to 14 km from campus. Home stay students are paid a monthly stipend for lunch, laundry, transportation and renting bikes. On-site CIEE staff provides bikes to homestay students by taking Rs 4,000/- refundable deposit.

Depending on student interest, families often encourage students to join them in cooking, trips to a temple or market, attending a wedding or similar function, and in regular conversation in the language the student is studying. The level of involvement with the family will vary according to each family's lifestyle and the setup of their home. The on-site interviews are very helpful for

determining how much cultural immersion each student is interested/able to handle.

Most of our homestay families are vegetarians and are from traditional background

Bed Linen is provided and students do not need to bring any additional sheets or pillows with them to India.

Participants say...

My experience living in a home stay has been wonderful. Before arriving in India, I was worried that the new environment would be too overwhelming and that living with an Indian family would only make me feel more like an outsider in a foreign country, but I have had the opposite feeling with my host family. They are incredibly helpful and kind and I know I can talk to them whenever I am homesick or troubled. The facilities we have are more than I could ask for!

Important Housing Policies

Drugs, alcohol, smoking, unauthorized guests, and pets are strictly prohibited during the program, in either housing option. While students in Hyderabad during program students are not allowed to swap housing with other homestay or Tagore house students or stay anywhere other than their assigned housing even for a single night. It is important that student come back in the back to their housing by night.

Students must adhere with the CIEE, University of Hyderabad, Study in India Program policies related to academics, drug and alcohol etc. otherwise any untoward incident happen, depending upon the incident and case, severe action will be taken and likely student will be deported back to home.

Internet

Students have Internet access in the rooms & common areas at the Tagore International House along with a special computer room attached to house and also at the computer center and library on campus. Also students can access wireless Internet anywhere on campus free of cost. Students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops. Students should keep in mind that the Internet may not always be functional on campus due to data congestion on the local network. Internet is often very slow and it can frequently go down without notice.

Laundry

Washing machines with dryers are available for student use at the Tagore International House. All homestay students have access to laundry facility, the cost of which is covered in the monthly stipend. During orientation, you will

receive more detailed information about housing and meals and the services provided.

Mobile Phones

Each CIEE student is given a basic model mobile phone on a refundable deposit of Rs. 2,000.00 with a sim card, electronic charger and initial minutes in the first week of the program. The primary purpose of the mobile phone is to be able to communicate with students at all times. As such, it is mandatory for CIEE students to use the mobile phone and use it for the entire semester.

Note: Students can also bring unlocked mobile phones from the U.S., including smart phones. You would just use the SIM card we provide in your phone from home. Data services are somewhat slow but very cheap at about \$3 per month.

Part II: Before You Leave Home

A LOT TO LEARN

Preparing for study abroad entails a lot more than just packing a suitcase. In fact, the thought and effort you put into preparing yourself will largely determine the success of the program you are embarking upon. At CIEE, we will do everything we can to provide you with the information you require prior to departure. But there is only so much we can do, and it is important for you to recognize your own responsibilities, which include:

- Thoroughly discussing your study and travel plans with your financial aid office, study abroad office and academic advisor.
- Making any necessary arrangements for the following academic year, including housing, registration, and graduate school application. If you are a senior, be sure to make necessary arrangements for graduation.
- **Reading all of the materials that CIEE has sent to you, including this handbook.** Many of the questions that students ask are answered in this handbook.
- Doing additional reading about the region/country you will be visiting and the customs of the host culture. While you couldn't possibly be prepared for every new experience that awaits you, reading about the host country will give you a base of knowledge that will serve you well in the early weeks of

the program. (Refer to the Reading List at the back of this handout for required and recommended reading.)

- Arriving at the program site with an open mind, a sense of adventure and a positive attitude toward what lies ahead.

In addition to these required steps, there is a lot more we recommend you do to inform yourself before you go.

Get a Good Guidebook

Past participants recommend that you purchase a good guidebook and read a lot of it before you go! The *Lonely Planet* series is useful. Other guidebooks include the *Let's Go*, and *Real/Rough Guide* series. *Insight* guides provide good background and cultural information. Pay particular attention to sections on obtaining maps and other information from tourist offices, customs of the host country, currency exchange, telephoning home, safety, transportation and general travel advice.

Tap Other Resources

Other good ways to learn about your new home:

- Check your college or university study abroad office for useful services and information.
- Seek out Indians through cultural organizations, international student organizations and Asian area studies departments or centers at your college or university.
- Surf the Web. Many web sites, such as www.lonelyplanet.com, offer travel information, slide shows and tips from other travelers.
- Check libraries for detailed information and keep yourself informed of current events through the news media.
- Consult the list of past program participants in your acceptance packet. They have agreed to be contacted about their experience. Some of their comments are interspersed throughout this book.

Check Travel Advisories

The U.S. government issues travel advisories and consular information sheets for most countries. We have not included in this packet any advisories for India. To receive updated information or advisories for India or other countries you may be traveling to, call (202) 647-5225 or visit the following website – www.travel.state.gov. You can also get this info at any of the 13 regional passport agencies, by writing and sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Citizens Emergency Center,

Bureau of Consular Affairs, Room 4811, N.S., U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., 20520.

Be Informed about Home, too

It is important that you be well informed about your own country, region and hometown. New friends and acquaintances in your host country will be just as curious about you as you are about them. Be prepared to discuss your home political system, culture, traditions, history, holidays, geography and social structures.

Participants say...

Learn as much as you can before you come here. Be prepared for culture shock; be prepared to be independent.

ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS

When preparing to travel and live abroad, it is essential that you obtain all the proper documents prior to your departure. CIEE cannot accept responsibility, financial or otherwise, for a student who travels without the proper documents.

Passports

You are responsible for obtaining a passport prior to the start of your program, and in the case where a visa must be secured, prior to the visa application deadline. You must have a signed passport, valid for a minimum of six months after the date you enter India or for the duration of your program plus any travel, whichever is longer.

If you do not have a passport, apply for one **immediately** because the expedited process can take a month and regular processing can take around three months. If you already have a passport, be sure that it is valid for the required period.

Note: Students must submit a copy of their passport as the part of CIEE application.

Trap: Passport pitfalls

Under no circumstances should your passport be altered. Guard it carefully against loss or theft. Do not forget to sign your passport. Never pack your passport in luggage while traveling; it should be easily accessible at all times.

Where and how do I apply for a passport?

U.S. citizens applying for their first passports must apply in person at a passport agency or at one of the several thousand federal or state courts or U.S. post offices authorized to accept

passport applications. Applicants must present the following materials:

- 1) A completed Passport Application Form (DS-11)
- 2) Proof of U.S. citizenship (certified birth certificate, expired passport, certificate of naturalization, or consular report of birth)
- 3) Personal identification bearing your photograph and signature, e.g., a valid driver's license
- 4) Two recent passport-sized photographs
- 5) Checks or money orders for \$97

Passport requirements could have changed since this document was published. For the most up-to-date requirements, please visit the U.S. Department of State website (http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html).

***Tip: Take a lost passport kit.**

It happens. So save yourself a major headache. Take with you two U.S.-produced passport photos, a certified copy of your birth certificate (which you can shrink to wallet size), and the face page of your passport. Keep this "lost passport kit" separate from your actual passport. Also leave one copy of the passport face page with your parents or guardian and give another copy to CIEE staff at the host site.

Visas

A visa is an endorsement or stamp placed in your passport by a foreign government allowing you to enter and stay in that country for a specified period of time. You need a **student visa** to study in India; a tourist visa will not be an acceptable visa for this program. Please read the visa instructions posted in the reading section of your MyCIEE profile for in depth information.

The Visa Process is a two step process:

1. **Invitation Letter** Before you can apply for your student visa, CIEE needs to receive an official acceptance letter from the University of Hyderabad. You may **not** apply for your student visa without this document. You should expect to receive your acceptance letter from CIEE in December for spring programs and June for Fall programs. As soon as CIEE receives word that the letters have been sent to our Portland, ME office, you will receive an e-mail from your CIEE study abroad advisor notifying you of the impending arrival and verifying your mailing address. CIEE knows that you need this document to apply for your visa and s/he is working on getting

these forms the moment you have been admitted to the program.

2. **Visa Application** You are responsible for applying for your own visa. You will be working directly with a visa processing agency called Trivisa to obtain your visa. CIEE assists you by paying the consular and service fees when you use Trivisa. **Please follow the instructions posted in your MyCIEE account for more information.**

***Trap: Applying from outside the United States**

A U.S. student applying for a visa from outside of the United States may not be able to obtain one. Please check with the appropriate consulate.

DOCUMENTS FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS

If you are not a U.S. citizen, in addition to checking with CIEE, you should also check with your consulate for regulations regarding your stay in India and reentry into the United States. You should call the nearest district office of the INS, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, for information on the documents necessary for you to leave and re-enter the United States.

Before departure from the United States, non-U.S. citizens must consult with the IRS if it is necessary to obtain a Certificate of Compliance—often referred to as a Tax Clearance or a Sailing Permit. This will certify that you do not owe taxes to the U.S. government. Contact your local IRS office for information on documents required to procure this permit.

HEALTH

What health-related steps should I take before I leave?

You are required to complete a medical report in order to participate in the program; please be sure it indicates any allergies you have, in particular to medications. This information is confidential and has no bearing on your participation in the program. If you have a chronic illness that needs medical attention, have your doctor write a clinical report that can be given to a specialist in India if necessary. This should be done as soon as you are aware of any medical conditions that will require

special attention. You should notify CIEE of any special requirements as early as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made on site. In addition, we strongly urge you to have a complete physical and dental checkup before departing. Any required dental work should be done at home. Women should also have a checkup by a gynecologist.

Although no vaccinations are required, it is recommended that you get a Hepatitis A shot as well as Typhoid vaccination. Risk of contracting Malaria is low, however there is a risk. CIEE recommends anti-Malaria medication.

CIEE strongly suggests that you consult a tropical disease medical expert with regard to other inoculations that are not required but might be strongly recommended. These include inoculations against tetanus, polio, measles (booster if born after 1957 and did not have measles), typhoid, meningococcal meningitis, gamma globulin (protects against Hepatitis A) and Hepatitis B. All childhood vaccinations must be up-to-date.

Remember that vaccinations need to be planned well in advance; begin the process at least 2-1/2 months prior to departure.

What medical supplies should I take with me?

If you take prescription drugs, take a sufficient supply with you for your time abroad. (Be sure to take these in their original packages and with the original prescription.) Students who wear glasses or contact lenses should be sure to take an extra pair as well as a copy of their prescription. If you use contraceptives, please take an adequate supply with you.

Female students who suffer with severe pain or cramps during their menstruation period are recommended to carry their pain relief medicine.

What other precautions should I take?

Inform the resident staff of any existing health problems or any potential problems you anticipate arising throughout the course of the program. This includes allergies to any medications. CIEE staff will use this information to ensure that appropriate accommodations are made. Please inform the resident staff if you become ill during the program.

Note re: mental health: The way mental health is treated in India is fundamentally different than how it is treated in the U.S. It is critically important that any mental health history or

concerns are reported on the medical questionnaire and discussed with CIEE staff prior to arrival. Individuals who currently are seeing (or previously seen) a mental health professional should find out if that individual can be contacted via Skype or even phone for assistance. Ample supply of any necessary medications is also important.

General Wellness: The following tips are offered in the hope that your participation in the program will be pleasant and free from illness.

Watch what you eat. While every student can expect at least one bout with diarrhea, you can take steps to reduce the frequency and severity of attacks.

- Carefully wash all raw fruits and vegetables except those, such as bananas, whose skins can be peeled.
- Avoid raw or undercooked foods.
- Only eat food sold by street vendors once your stomach and body are accustomed to India.
- As a precaution, carry prescription anti-diarrhea medication with you at all times. Severe diarrhea can develop very quickly and, depending on where you are, you might not have immediate access to a toilet.

Deal with common ailments. When you first arrive in India, your body will take a while to adjust. You may experience stomach and intestinal disorders (traveler's diarrhea) during the first couple of weeks, and these may recur from time to time during your stay. Prepare yourself before departure for India by making an appointment with a travel disease expert who can prescribe anti-diarrhea medication. You might also want to bring over-the-counter medications for minor ailments; however, in the event that you experience severe diarrhea, you will need a prescription-strength drug.

Pay particular attention to rehydrating yourself when traveler's diarrhea occurs, as maintaining fluid intake is important. Smart travelers carry World Health Organization Oral Rehydration Salts (WHO ORS) packets, which can be found at stores and pharmacies in almost all developing countries. If you cannot find these packets, to restore fluid levels, drink 8 ounces of this rehydration solution after each episode of diarrhea:

- 1 liter boiled or carbonated water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda (not baking powder)
- 4 tablespoons sugar

Be aware of the sun. Take care in the sun. Wear sunglasses and use sunscreen during prolonged exposure to the sun. Drink plenty of water and consume adequate amounts of salt to help avoid heatstroke.

Avoid exposure to mosquitoes. Besides possibly leading to serious illness, mosquito bites hurt. You can reduce the number of mosquito bites by using insect repellent and by wearing socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts whenever possible.

Don't swim or walk barefoot in streams, lakes, or rivers; avoid the parasites that might live in such water.

Stay active. Sports and exercise can provide a well-needed release from the stress of class and culture shock. A Frisbee or volleyball game is also a good way to meet and learn from other Indians.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) advises that travelers who become ill with fever during or after travel in a malaria risk area should seek prompt medical attention and inform the physician of their recent travel history.

Malaria

Although risk of contracting Malaria is low, the risk is still there, and you should be aware of the symptoms of Malaria, so that you can be treated immediately. Contact the resident director and seek medical attention immediately if you experience any of these symptoms: a fever of 101 degrees or more, severe cramping, vomiting, blood in the stools, dehydration, or persistent symptoms (do not subside within 3 to 5 days).

AIDS

The HIV virus is now pandemic, meaning it is present everywhere, including India. The World Health Organization is informed that donated blood is HIV-tested in the main centers in India. However, the risk to you while studying abroad is determined less by geographical location than by individual behavior. You must take precautions: avoid behavior that spreads the disease such as intravenous drug use and unprotected intercourse.

For additional information about AIDS, contact the CDC National AIDS Hotline (1-800-342-AIDS), or the CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse (1-800-458-5231).

Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy

- Using or possessing of drugs is illegal.
- Alcohol abuse by students is viewed by CIEE as a serious violation of the terms of participation and will be treated accordingly.
- Consumption of alcohol is prohibited in public places including Tagore International House common areas, Home stays, university campus, on all organized day and outstation field trips, and on trains, etc
- Smoking cigarettes in public places, including on campus, is prohibited.

Motor driving Policy

As per CIEE rules students may not drive any sort of a motorized vehicle on or off campus.

Riding policy

CIEE strongly discouraging students from riding on two-wheel vehicles operated by staff, homestay families, other students, language peer tutors, credit or non-credit course teachers or friends. Riding on any two-wheel vehicles is against program policy and that CIEE strongly discourage students from riding on them.

CDC Recommendations

Included in this mailing are recommendations by the CDC for those preparing to go to India. If you plan to travel after the program to other countries, you may want to consult the CDC information specific to these countries. The CDC website is www.cdc.gov

INSURANCE

If you are covered by a personal or parental insurance plan, CIEE recommends that you continue this coverage while abroad. Prior to departure, you should contact your current insurance carrier concerning coverage for accidents, illnesses, and liability cases that occur outside the United States. Check your policy's limitations before making any assumptions about coverage. Most U.S. based insurance companies will not cover property lost or stolen overseas.

CIEE Accident and Sickness Insurance

Each participant is covered by an Accident and Sickness Insurance policy designed to help cover the cost of accidents and/or routine sickness while abroad. Additionally, the policy offers Emergency Evacuation and Emergency Medical Transportation coverage, together with a 24-hour Travel and Medical Assistance

Service. The policy also offers travel document replacement and limited travel delay and lost/stolen baggage coverage. Coverage begins two weeks before the program start date and continues for 364 days.

A complete description of the Accident and Sickness Insurance policy is on the enrollment website. It is important that you read the policy carefully and note exactly what coverage it provides, and note items that are excluded from coverage.

The Accident and Sickness Insurance is designed as an additional or top-up policy only, and does not cover liability. It also does not include routine physical, dental examinations, or preventive medicine. Students are not covered for injuries resulting from acts of war or other political unrest such as riots and demonstrations.

Please note that CIEE does not cover medical expenses on-site. Students pay for any medical costs incurred and then file a claim directly with the insurance company for reimbursement. CIEE does not act as an intermediary between participants and the insurance company.

Primary Insurance Plan Brokers

If you do not have a primary insurance plan, you may wish to enroll in one. The following brokers have individual insurance plans available:

HTH Worldwide
www.hthworldwide.com
Tel: 877-424-4325

Wallach & Company, Inc.
www.Wallach.com
Tel: 800-237-6615

Paying medical bills up front

Doctors, hospitals, and clinics will require you to pay bills at the time of treatment. You must then submit receipts to the insurance company for reimbursement. With this in mind, be sure to budget at least \$50 to pay for medical expenses and unexpected illnesses up front.

PERSONAL FINANCES

Specific information concerning how to bring and obtain funds while in Hyderabad is located in the Money and Banking section of this handbook.

Cost of Living

The exchange rate is not constant. The *New York Times* and similar publications publish exchange rates daily. You may also reference www.x-rates.com or www.oanda.com for up to

the minute exchange rates. You should keep abreast of how a rate fluctuates leading up to departure.

What costs are covered by my CIEE fee?

CIEE Study Center fees include pre-departure information and services, on-site support services, tuition, housing and meals, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions and field trips and sickness insurance.

What expenses should I budget for?

CIEE does not cover the cost of textbooks. You will also need money for entertainment, toiletries, cosmetics, gifts, school supplies and large purchases of any kind. Please note that non-Indians are charged higher fees for entrances to museums, monuments, and domestic airfares, etc.

Besides inflation and currency exchange, another variable that will affect your spending abroad is your individual taste requirements. When creating a budget, it may be helpful to consider how much you normally spend in a semester and inflate it a bit. Although the cost of living for a student in India is less than that of a student in the United States, the added cost of independent travel along with the impulse to splurge makes **careful budgeting** imperative. We suggest you take extra money, if possible, for unforeseeable expenses.

Program and Estimated Additional Costs

CIEE program fees, inclusions, and estimated additional costs, can be found through the following link:

<http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/india/hyderabad/arts-sciences/#programDates>

Please note that CIEE reserves the right to adjust its fees in the event of significant change in exchange rates or other factors beyond its control. The actual cost of the programs may vary slightly for students from different institutions.

Financial Arrangements

You will need to make arrangements regarding traveler's checks, personal checks, credit cards, and bankcards before leaving home. See the section Money and Banking in Part III for details.

****Tip: Forget "Hey Mom, send money"***

It is important that you make arrangements to receive enough money to cover your personal expenses for the time you are in India **prior to your departure from the United States.**

PACKING AND BAGGAGE

Try to organize and pack a day or two prior to departure so that you can judge if you'll be able to carry your bags. You must be able to do this. Some students have even practiced by carrying their bags around the block! Also, by packing early you'll have time to rest before the long trip.

Consider using a backpack or duffel bag, especially if you are planning to travel on your own after the program; suitcases can be quite heavy even when empty. A knapsack or flight bag is great for carry-on luggage and for field trips. On your flight to India, keep your essential medication, toiletries, a change of clothes and underclothes and documents in this carry-on bag in the event luggage is lost or delayed in transit.

What are the baggage limits?

Limits vary. Read the weight limitation and baggage allowance information provided by your international airline carrier. Generally flights overseas permit one piece of checked baggage and one carry-on piece. Each checked bag must weigh less than 50 pounds. Total dimensions (length + width + height) of the first piece must be less than 62 inches, and the second piece less than 52 inches. Total dimensions of the carry-on must not exceed 45 inches and must be able to fit below the seat in front of you or in the overhead compartment. If your baggage exceeds any of these standards you may be charged for excess baggage. Check with your airline regarding any items that are oversized.

What should I pack?

For a complete list of what to take, please see the **Suggested Packing Checklist** at the end of this handbook. Experienced travelers agree: take as little as possible.

Climate

Be prepared for hot weather, no matter what time of year. India generally has three seasons: hot, wet, and cool. April and May are generally the hottest time of year, followed by a few months of rainy (but still hot) weather.

Clothing

Women and men should be modest in dress, even if the temperatures are incredibly high. Cotton and linen clothing are always recommended. Tight shirts, strappy tops, shorts, and skirts at or above the knee are not worn by women. Women in urban India generally wear a combination of Indian and western clothes. Some items (like kurtas; shirts that reach the thigh) can be purchased on-site, but if you have

any shirts or dresses that reach the mid-thigh point do bring them – these items are fine with leggings. Loose fitted shirts and long skirts are fine too. Men should wear lightweight pants. It is not common to wear shorts. You may not be able to enter certain religious places (mosques and temples) with shorts or sleeveless shirts.

Take lightweight, easy-to-care-for clothing that can be hand-washed and drip-dried. Program participants are encouraged to bring cotton clothes because they are easy to wash and dry quickly.

You will be doing quite a bit of walking on campus, so bring a comfortable pair of walking sandals. A pair of flip-flops for the shower is recommended. Most people also want a closed shoe like a lightweight sneaker.

U.S. students have often said they took too much clothing. Don't forget that nothing ruins traveling abroad more than having too much luggage, especially when you have to carry it yourself. You can save packing space by coordinating your clothing so that shirts and skirts can be worn with different skirts and pants.

Prescriptions: If you take prescription drugs, ask your doctor to give you a copy of the prescription **with the name of the generic drug, not a brand name**, as your brand may not be available in India. In fact, if the drugs are not perishable, take a supply sufficient enough to last you through the end of the program, as you may have difficulty renewing the prescription in India

Electrical Appliances

Both the shape of the plugs and the electrical current are different in India. The current in India is 220-240V. It is easy to find plug adapters, but devices that convert the electrical current are harder to find and generally expensive. Luckily laptop power cords generally have AC adapters built-in, so all you will need to charge that kind of device is a plug adapter. Other small electricals like iphones, cameras, tablets, etc. generally charge just fine with only an adapter. Note: CIEE provides you one adapter in your welcome bag upon arrival, and you can easily buy more at shops near campus. As for hairdryers and other small electric items that require more power, in almost all cases it is easier to buy those on-site if you need them.

The following website provides a lot of helpful information concerning electrical outlets and voltage compatibility:

<http://users.pandora.be/worldstandards/electricity.htm>.

Voice recorder

We recommend that you bring a small portable voice recorder to tape lectures in content courses.

Mementos from home

Bring things from home that you can share with your Indian friends. This includes pictures of yourself and your family in the United States, recipes you like to cook, typical items from your community, college, or region of the United States, and items related to talents you may have and wish to share.

Gifts

A nice gift for a new friend might be a calendar or diary with pictures of the USA on them, pictures or posters of your home state/town, or t-shirts or baseball caps from your university. Another gift might be an American meal, so bring your favorite recipes.

***Tip: Passport and credit card numbers**

Remember, leave a copy of your passport and a list of credit card numbers at home.

What if I want to have things mailed to me abroad?

If you are considering having some items mailed to you after your arrival, see the section on **Post Office and Mailing Procedures** in this handbook.

PREPARING FOR CULTURAL ADAPTATION

Although cultural adaptation is highly individual, research indicates that most people go through similar stages in adapting to a new-environment. Any travel you've done abroad, and perhaps even within your own country, has exposed you to culture shock. But if you've never had to overcome culture shock, you might want to read about it before you depart. You'll find books relating to cultural adaptation and culture shock on the recommended reading list at the back of this handbook.

During your on-site orientation, the resident staff will discuss details about culture shock and give strategies for adapting to your new surroundings. Near the end of the program, they will also provide information on reverse culture shock and suggest ways of coping with returning home.

Part III: Living in Hyderabad

Sometimes living in a university environment abroad makes it easy to forget you're not home.

Remember, you are in another country with its own laws and customs, and they are different from the ones you're used to. Be aware of this and conduct yourself accordingly. Also, be sure to attend classes regularly and participate in program activities.

The orientation described in Part I will also cover practical aspects of living in a new place, Indian laws, proper social conduct and cultural differences, including race, gender and class.

MEETING INDIANS

Just as it is impossible to define a typical American, it is equally impossible to define a typical Indian. You will meet many types of people in India who have different opinions, attitudes, and habits. The more you interact with Indians, the better chance you'll have of forming relationships and understanding the culture. During these interactions, use common sense, intelligence and a sense of objectivity. Be prepared to discuss your views freely and openly, and try to listen with an open mind.

Indian college students tend to go out in group settings-not male/female pairs. Pairing off is not the norm unless the couple is married. You will see men showing their friendship by holding hands. This is intended as a platonic gesture only.

You may arrive in India with some preconceptions about India and may encounter some Indians with preconceptions about people from the United States. Try to put aside stereotypes and make judgments based on real experiences. If you are confronted with what you feel is a false stereotype about the United States, be frank and truthful, yet tactful in your response. Avoid refuting arguments with odious comparisons to India. This type of response will only create bad feelings. A positive and serious response from you will help dispel myths about the United States.

All students should be prepared for the fact that they will be objects of immense curiosity and fascination to most Indians, especially those outside the university. It can be quite disconcerting to be stared at everywhere you go, but please remember that in most cases, these stares are not meant to be rude or threatening; you will be just one of the few westerners that Indians see in their everyday life.

Special Note to Female Students

Some female students may experience difficulties in India. Some Indians do not understand that the U.S.-style familiar manner

with strangers is merely a gesture of friendliness. Outgoing behavior may be misconstrued as something more. A smile at a stranger could be misunderstood as an invitation to spend the evening together. As a precaution, avoid giving your address, phone number or email address to any people you do not know and trust. Women should definitely expect to have their personal freedoms restricted as compared with the U.S.

***Remember to remain alert and cautious of your surroundings as well as situations that may arise.**

Some difficulties arise because of the stereotypical image of Western women portrayed in movies and the media. American women, in particular, have acquired a reputation for enjoying a free and easy lifestyle that contrasts with the more traditional ways of India. As a result, even though you are accustomed to having a lot of freedom in the way you dress and interact with others, be cautious until you become familiar with Indian social norms.

As a foreign woman in India, you can expect to be propositioned quite often by men in ways you are not used to back home. Advances by men are rarely subtle and can often be considered quite crude. Past female participants have felt like they were the center of attention when walking down the street and commented on being ogled shamelessly by men. It is suggested to female participants not to give their email ID's and contact numbers to any strangers.

Your initial reaction may be to strike out, feeling insulted. Unfortunately, this reaction may only lead to laughter from the man and more discomfort on your part. The best way to handle the situation is not to engage in conversation. It would be very rare for a situation like this to become threatening, but if a man becomes physical with you at any time, tell him very firmly to stop, and remove yourself from the situation immediately.

If you experience any uncomfortable situations or are unsure of how to deal with a particular problem, consult with the Resident Director. Be cautious until you know and understand local values and customs. CIEE encourages our participants to reach out to our alumnae and ask questions about their experiences as a woman in Hyderabad. You will find a list of alumni contacts in the document titled *Dates, Deadlines and Arrival Information*. This list is updated every semester and our past participants are

often very excited to share their experiences with future students.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The health and safety of program participants abroad is understandably an important issue for all concerned. CIEE was a founding member of the Inter-Organization Task Force on Safety and Responsibility in Study Abroad. The following website contains information about the Task Force and study abroad safety issues – <http://nafsa.org/regulatoryinformation/default.aspx?id=6775&terms=Health+safety>.

The CIEE approach to safety is threefold. First, we conduct a careful safety evaluation of every program we run. Next, when the students arrive on site, we conduct a thorough orientation that includes tips on reducing risk and handling difficult situations should they arise. Finally, program staff continuously monitors local conditions in order to provide guidance to participants throughout their stay. Experience has shown that the single most important factor in assuring a safe study abroad experience is the sensible and cautious behavior of the participants themselves. When traveling abroad, you should exercise additional caution until you become familiar with your new surroundings. Always remain alert to what is going on around you, especially in crowded tourist areas and on public transportation.

Although Hyderabad is relatively safe, you must be careful about what you do and where you go, just as you would in any major city in the world. Follow these general rules:

- Tourists are common targets for pickpockets. Be aware of your backpacks and cameras especially on crowded buses. Don't carry large amounts of cash or your passport with you. Never leave belongings in a parked car.
- Keep a suitcase that can be locked under your bed and leave your money, passport, camera and other valuables secured in it.
- Lock your room when you are not home.
- When you carry your passport, wear it around your neck in a thin pouch inside your shirt. If you must carry it in a bag, use one that can be slung diagonally across your chest and that has a sturdy strap that cannot be easily ripped.
- When carrying a purse or bag be aware.
- Never carry valuables in the pockets of your pants.

- At night, don't take shortcuts and don't travel alone. Take a cab or walk on main streets.
- Do not accept rides with anybody you do not know.
- As noted earlier, keep a photocopy of your passport in a separate place. This will speed up the process of replacing your documents should they be lost or stolen.
- If you are the victim of a pickpocket, or if something is stolen, inform the Resident Director who will help you make a report.
- Be aware of the heating situation provided by your host institution and host residence. For locations where carbon monoxide producing appliances may be present – i.e., any appliance that burns fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal – detailed information on the possible dangers associated with such appliances, along with safe operating instructions, will be provided in the on-site program orientation. For further information, please visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website at www.epa.gov.
- Please keep the resident staff informed of your travel plans at all times.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MAIL

Telephone

CIEE Hyderabad provides cell phones to all students with activation and initial minutes (talk time).

****Trap: Letting down your guard***

When visiting a foreign country, you may well be enchanted by your surroundings and engage in behavior that is not typical of you. This may cause you to let your guard down and be susceptible to crime. Practice common sense and exercise good judgment. Remember that you are more likely to be a victim of crime if you have been drinking alcohol.

Fax

The CIEE office does not have a fax machine, but there are Xerox centers near campus who offer this service at a cost. The CIEE office does have a scanner, and in most cases students find it easier to scan and email documents rather than fax them if possible. Students can avail the scanner facility at office on all working days and hours.

Anti-Theft Software

If you are bringing your laptop with you, consider downloading an anti-theft software package. These are GPS programs you download to your

computer. If your computer is ever lost or stolen, you report it through the company's website. When the computer is connected to the Internet, the program will send it's coordinates to you via e-mail. While there are many programs out there, their monthly subscription fees can vary. To learn more, please check out a trusted tech-site such as www.cnet.com, www.pcmag.com, or www.pcworld.com.

Internet and Computers

Students have Internet access at various places around campus, including the Tagore International House where they have wi-fi access. Students are encouraged to bring personal laptops with a wireless connection. Also students can access to wireless internet anywhere on campus free of cost.

The Indira Gandhi library has a fully automated system (one of the best in India), and a substantial book and periodical collection. It provides good Internet access (there are other computer facilities in many parts of the university) though students are not allowed to bring their personal laptops into the library. The library also has a laptop zone at the entrance where students can sit and use the internet connection. Students should remember that the speed of broadband connections is comparatively slower than what they may be used to in the U.S.

Mail Service

Mail service from the United States to India is normally slow. It takes anywhere from 10-14 days to receive letters from the U.S.

Packages

Packages should be sent with a courier service (for example, DHL), and they should be sent to the program address. Once packages arrive there, students will be notified to pick them up. There is no fee for this service.

****Trap: Don't mail cigarettes or alcohol***

It is illegal to send cigarettes or alcohol through the mail.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of an emergency, parents or family can reach you by calling CIEE. The CIEE home office is in daily contact with the Hyderabad office.

Contact information for the CIEE home office will be included in an electronic final mailing to both

you and the emergency contact designated in your application materials.

MONEY AND BANKING

Arrive in India with several ways to obtain money, so that in the event one method fails or is inconvenient, a back-up option is available.

****Trap: PIN numbers***

For both credit cards and bank cards, inquire with the issuer to verify that the card is valid for an international banking system. And memorize your PIN in numbers not letters; foreign phone pads are often configured differently.

Money

The unit of currency in India is the Rupee, abbreviated Rs, and broken down into 100 paise (p). Please note that India is predominantly a cash society, with the exception of malls, chain supermarkets, and upscale restaurants. For day to day use, you will need cash.

ATM/Cards

ATM/debit cards have proven to be the easiest ways to obtain funds. There are two ATM's right on campus and hundreds located all over the city (Citibank and other multinational banks have a number of ATM's throughout Hyderabad). Besides the convenience of obtaining funds, it is equally convenient for more funds to be added to your U.S. bank account from home in case of a financial emergency. However, be sure to do your homework and check your bank's rates for international usage in terms of ATM withdrawal fees, swipe fees, and how they determine the exchange rate. It may behoove you to start a new checking account with low or no fees for international use.

Your card may be a bit finicky as to which ATM's will work for you, so we strongly encourage you to bring at least \$100 USD in case it takes a week or so to be able to withdraw money.

Traveler's Checks

American Express Traveler's checks are the safest but not necessarily the most convenient form of payment or changing money. They are recommended as the safest means of handling your personal finances as they can be readily converted into rupee or other currencies at any bank, in any country you may visit. As long as you have a record of your traveler's check numbers, you can recover stolen or lost amounts. Be sure to buy your traveler's checks before you depart the United States. You will need your passport to cash them.

Banks cash traveler's checks but do charge a commission rate. *Forex* (foreign exchange) bureaus have better rates for large-denomination checks. American Express does not charge a commission for changing traveler's checks. Shop around. You can, of course, bring and exchange dollars for new rupee, too; the exchange rate is slightly better, but the risk is higher. Avoid roadside money-changers, and never change money on a Saturday night, the rates are terrible. Currency transactions with private individuals are illegal. Onsite CIEE staff can arrange dollar exchange at your door step, if informed a day before you need the money.

Credit Cards

Having a credit card may be useful for some, but most will find that the high rates make this the most expensive option. Cash withdrawals from a credit card typically charge a higher APR that is compounded daily. If you bring a credit card, it is probably best to only use it in case of an emergency.

***Tip: Credit card and traveler's check numbers**

Remember to keep a list of your credit card numbers and traveler's check numbers separate from the cards and checks. Leave a list at home, too.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

There is a health center located on campus, with ambulance services for medical emergencies. There is a doctor on-call 24 hours a day. This service is free to students. There are also well-equipped hospitals and clinics close to campus that can treat a range of issues. In addition, an US trained doctor from one of the reputed Apollo Hospital meets students during orientation and talks on the issues of health for foreign travelers. She is also available by phone 24 hours a day during the semester.

GETTING AROUND

Buses are the most inexpensive way of getting around Hyderabad. In addition, auto-rickshaws are widely available and taxis can be hired for approximately 700 rupees for a period of 4 hours. There is also a train facility (MMTS (Multi-Modal Transport System) that is very helpful for venturing out to different parts of this dramatically spread out city. You will also be doing a lot of walking and cycling to get around campus.

For more detailed information on transportation, make sure to consult the 'on-site' student handbook, which you will be given once you get to Hyderabad.

Participants say...

Getting to and from the city is quite easy to do. There are a variety of options available, and most are quite cheap. However, the position of the campus, as well as my class schedule, make it hard to get into the city during weekdays.

Transportation in Hyderabad in one word: adventurous. The fact that the campus is outside of the city is a good thing because the pollution is milder and we can get a break from the hectic city life. However, it makes going into the city an odyssey, every time. As time goes by and we get accustomed to the city, it gets easier to navigate. But the traffic is dense and slow so it still takes a long time to get anywhere.

Independent Travel

You will no doubt want to explore beyond Hyderabad, particularly on weekends. At the same time, it should be clear that your primary identity on this program is 'student', not 'traveler'. Visiting other areas in India should not be considered an integral or expected part of your semester.

CIEE's rules for independent travel:

Since you may not miss any classes, you may travel independently only on weekends, scheduled holidays, and after the completion of final exams. Do not travel to regions of India where transportation is unreliable or scarce. The Resident Director has final authority over the appropriateness of all travel plans. It is highly recommended that you take time at the end of the program to explore southern India extensively.

Additional safety protocols concerning independent travel are instated on the program. **Students participating on the fall and spring programs must submit a complete Independent Travel Request form 48 hours prior to any independent travel. Students failing to do so are subject to a disciplinary warning letter to your home school and possible dismissal from the program. It is important that students make travel arrangements in advance as it becomes too difficult for booking train and or flights as it has too many people and one can book train 90 days in advance.** After submission of these two documents, the resident staff will consider each participant's request. Resident staff will schedule meetings with participant to discuss independent travel details once the forms have been completed by each student. Considering

safety situation at the destination for which student already planned, booked transportation and accommodation. For the safety of student, it is likely that Resident Director asking student either to amend or cancel the trip and for the same student must be ready. If student still wanting to go the places where resident staff considers it as risk place in that particular time in terms of safety then 'it is mandatory that student write an email both to their parents and sending schools by keeping Resident Director in the loop.

A NOTE FROM CIEE REGARDING INDEPENDENT TRAVEL PRIOR TO THE START OF OUR PROGRAMS: Please be aware that the visa application process for some countries may require students to surrender their passport for several weeks prior to the start of the CIEE study abroad program. These consular requirements may impact independent travel plans. Visa requirements should be investigated and considered by all applicants prior to planning independent travel. CIEE requires all students to be in possession of the proper visa documentation in order to participate in our program.

VOTING WHILE ABROAD

U.S. citizens who expect to be away from home on Election Day may request absentee ballots in person or by mail from their local election offices. Procedures vary by state but are usually quite simple if you have already registered to vote.

If you have not arranged this before leaving home, you may use the provisions of the Overseas Voting Rights Act of 1975, which requires states to establish a means for citizens residing overseas to apply for voter registration. Some states permit you to use an FPCA (Federal Post Card Application) to register. Others use an SF76, which serves as both an application for registration and as an absentee ballot. You can get a list of states' voting requirements from a U.S. Embassy or consular office.

***Tip: Notarize your ballot**

FPCA forms used to register or obtain a ballot must be notarized. If you believe you have been wrongfully denied the right to vote, you may write to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Washington, D.C. 20530.

If you are a citizen of another country, consult the authorities governing elections in your own country for similar instructions before you leave.

Income Tax

Most U.S. citizens and residents must file U.S. income tax returns even if their earned income is exempt from taxes. State requirements vary; call or write to the appropriate state office.

Internal Revenue Service income tax information and forms are available at U.S. Embassies and Consulates. Since tax laws change from year to year, direct any questions to the U.S. Consulate. Non-U.S. citizens should contact the appropriate authorities in their own countries for taxation information.

Part IV: Policies and Procedures

Please click on the following link to view CIEE's Policies and Procedures:

<http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/terms-conditions/>

This website includes:

General Policies

- Admissions
- Late Arrival and Early Departure
- Exceptions
- Drug and Alcohol Violations
- Alcohol Policy
- Independent Travel
- Dismissal from the Program

Academic Policies

- Student Academic Orientation
- Course Loads, Credits, Equivalencies and Grades
- Academic Records
- Attendance
- Pass/Fail and Audit
- Drop/Add Period
- Incompletes
- Withdrawal from a Course
- Academic Honesty
- Appeals

Program Fees and Payment Policies

- Confirmation of Participation
- Payment of CIEE Program Fees
- Due Dates, Late Fees and Interest
- Exclusion from Participation
- Late Fees and Interest
- Withdrawal and Deferral Policy
- Program Cancellation

Please make sure to review this website. Your signature on the "Program Participant Contract" indicates that you have read and agree to comply with all of the policies provided to you on that website.

A NOTE FROM CIEE

Credits and Grades

Most students who choose to go abroad for a term or a year report that the experience is one of the most powerful and enjoyable parts of their undergraduate education. We hope that when you return home, you will have had an equally memorable experience.

Many students report that study abroad is also challenging, and that coming to terms with the challenges is one of the things that make it so powerful and memorable. Some students, however, report that the challenges of dealing with another country's academic culture are sometimes more frustrating than enjoyable.

The academic programs that CIEE provides are to varying degrees integrated into another culture's academic framework, and are often governed by rules that are unfamiliar to U.S. students. At CIEE we want you to experience the challenges of adapting to a new culture, of accepting different teaching styles, and embracing forms of learning that may be different from what you are used to.

But we are sure you will agree that problems associated with your credits and your grades should be avoided—that these should not turn out to be “opportunities for growth.” We want to help you avoid these problems, and with some careful planning and attention to detail, you can:

1. Managing Your Registration.

You are probably going to sign up for four classes during your session overseas. Although it's surprising, one problem faced by some students when they return home is that the Course Registration Record we have for them doesn't match what the student actually took. You can avoid this. Read on.

Make it your responsibility to keep your Course Registration Record accurate and up to date.

Students select a preliminary course schedule, either in the U.S. before going abroad or after arrival at the Center. The courses selected constitute your Preliminary Registration, which will be sent to your home or sending school. There will be an opportunity to change courses during the first days of the regular semester (the “drop-add” period). Once this add-drop period ends, all courses for which you are registered will remain final, and will be permanently listed on your Course Registration Record. These will be the courses that will appear on the credit and

grades report that we will send to your home or sending school after the session ends (called the “CIEE Academic Record”).

Although CIEE staff, both in the U.S. and at your site, will make every effort to ensure that your Course Registration Record is accurate, we cannot do this unless you correctly follow all the formal procedures for making changes. **You must fill out a form to drop or add a course.** It is not sufficient to tell your professor, the CIEE Resident Director, or another staff person that you are changing courses—you must complete all required paperwork or the change is not official. In some cases you will also be required to obtain permission from your home institution.

To sum up, **make it your responsibility** to ensure that your Course Registration Record is accurate. If at any time you are not sure, ask to see a copy of it.

There's a difference between DROPPING a course and WITHDRAWING from one.

As noted above, once the drop-add period is over, all the courses for which you are registered will remain permanently on your record. However, if you realize, *after the end of the drop-add period but before the middle of the session*, that special circumstances will prevent you from completing a course successfully, it may be possible to “Withdraw” from the course. Please also be aware that it is not possible to add a course after the add-drop period. If you do withdraw from a course, it will remain on your CIEE Academic Record with a “W” grade. Permission to Withdraw from a course is not automatically granted just because a student is not doing well; it is only granted when there are circumstances that the Resident Director believes *prevented* a student from doing well, and *only before the program's withdrawal deadline*. There is also required paperwork to complete if you are withdrawing from a course.

After the withdrawal deadline, all courses that remain on your Course Registration Record will be posted on your CIEE Academic Record with a letter grade. If you stop going to a course, fail to take the final examination, or fail to turn in required coursework, you will receive an F.

2. Getting Good Grades.

The time to think about your grades is at the beginning of each course, not at the end.

Make sure you understand the basis on which the professor will be assessing your work. Practices vary from country to country. Often a single final paper or examination will be the most

important (perhaps the only) opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned and/or achieved in the course. In some courses, the basis for grades may have been explained during orientation or during the registration process. An explanation may appear on the course syllabus, and/or the professor may announce grading policies. In some cases, you may not be sure how the professor will be calculating the grade. In this case as well, **make it your responsibility to be sure you understand the basis for grading in each course.** If you're not sure, ask the professor or the Resident Director.

How am I doing?

Although grading differs from country to country, there are general guidelines that we can offer.

In the U.S., a student usually forms an idea of how he/she is doing as the semester progresses based on a self-appraisal of participation in class and a general sense of what the professor cares about. In most overseas situations, it is much more difficult, and often not possible at all, for a student to determine this. Although we ask our teachers to give students ongoing feedback, their own academic cultures are often very different in this regard, and many teachers do not always offer feedback in a way that enables a student to form a reliable opinion of his/her progress. We strongly recommend that you ask your professor how you are doing, perhaps two weeks after the semester has started and again two or three times during the session. Don't wait until mid-term time to do this.

“Demanding” doesn't mean the same thing in most overseas academic cultures.

U.S. students are accustomed to forming an idea of how demanding a teacher is based on the pressure that is applied on a day-to-day basis. In the U.S., if a professor repeatedly challenges students to show they have read and understood the assignments, and then chastises those who can't answer, students will conclude that this is a demanding teacher. This doesn't always happen overseas. “*Demanding*” in an overseas context may mean simply that the grades awarded at the end of the course are lower than those awarded by other professors.

Because of these differences, you need to take stock of your situation early and often. If the regular clues are not present, you should ask, “How am I doing?” If there isn't yet any basis for the professor to answer that question, you should ask, “What is important in this class?

What should I be doing in order to succeed?” Make it your responsibility to actively seek confirmation of how well you are doing in each course.

All the CIEE staff, both in the U.S. and at your program site, want you to have an enjoyable and successful session overseas. We are committed to offering top-quality assistance to help you understand the host culture and its constraints. Please do not hesitate to contact any staff member if we can advise you on how best to manage your overseas experience.

Have a great year, learn all that you can about your temporary home, and try to bring back an excellent and accurate academic record.

CONCLUSION: THE CHALLENGE IS UP TO YOU

Your stay abroad may be one of the most vital and rewarding times of your life. Don't worry about what you are going to miss at school by going overseas. You will learn so much abroad! The people you meet and the situations you experience may be invaluable in the years to come.

We hope you will arrive prepared to adjust to a way of living that is different from your own; to a way of thinking that may be, in some cases, more traditional, more conventional, and more conservative than your own. You will also most likely encounter new and different views about the U.S. and its people. Take the opportunity to learn from these and to clarify misconceptions about the U.S. when you can.

Remember that each person you meet will see you as a representative of the United States. If you can accept differences cheerfully and with an open mind rather than attempting to alter the environment around you, you can contribute to a positive relationship between the country and the United States.

CIEE wishes you every success during the coming months.

Participants say...

Overall my experience abroad is something that I would not trade for anything. Being abroad gave me the opportunity to push myself beyond my comfort zone thus increasing my abilities to deal with more confidence. My only advice to those coming abroad is to constantly push yourself. Venture out on your own and don't let your fears deprive you of the opportunity to try something new.

Part V: Additional Resources

SUGGESTED READING LIST

We urge you to read several of these publications to expand your knowledge of India and ease your adjustment to Indian culture. Many of these books can be purchased at your local bookstore, online booksellers such as Amazon.com, BN.com or may be available for reference at your campus study abroad office or local library.

Non-Fiction

- India Unbound by Gurcharan Das. The book outlines many of the political, economic and cultural changes during the last decade in India.
- India: From Midnight to the Millennium by Sashi Tharoor. Covers 50 years of Indian history 1947 to 1997
- Freedom at Midnight by Dominique Lapierre, Larry Collins. The subject of this narrative is the eclipse of the British Raj and the birth of an independent India and Pakistan.
- India Briefing edited by Marshall Bouton. A book of writings on Indian politics, religion, economy, society, culture, and foreign relations.
- India: A Million Mutinies Now. (Penguin, 1992) by V.S. Naipaul.
- Snakes and Ladders: Glimpses of Modern India by Gita Mehta. Gita Mehta brings modern India to life in a series of essays about the economy, politics and history.
- Classical Hindu Thought: An Introduction by Arvind Sharma. This book is divided into sections, which deal with the key concepts of Hinduism such as karma, dharma, maya, moksa and varna and the main gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon
- India: The Golden Jubilee Granta 57. This is a collection twenty-two acclaimed writers' short stories and essays.
- Through Indian Eyes Donald J. Johnson, et al. Recommended as a basic text on Indian culture.
- White Mughals: Love and Betrayal in Eighteenth Century India. By William Dalrymple. Viking 2003. A historical, cross-cultural romance set in Hyderabad.
- Hyderabad: A Biography by Narendra Luther. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Fiction

- Clear Light of Day by Anita Desai. Both an examination of contemporary India and a family history in about two sisters, Bim and Tara.
- Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh. This is a story about partition and culture. Any book by this author is worth reading.
- A Suitable Boy By Vikram Seth
- A River Sutra by Gita Mehta
- A Fine Balance By Rohinton Mistry. Set in 1975 amid the political and social turbulence of the times, this novel is the Indian Les Misérables.
- Feminist Folktales from India by Qiron Adhikary. Collection of folk tales about women's everyday lives in India.
- Midnight's Children. By Salman Rushdie. A brilliant picture of post-Independent India (and South Asia), centered on the city of Bombay (Mumbai).
- Modern Hindi stories, edited by Indu Jain. The book is an English translation of short stories written by well-known Hindi writers in India.

Travel Guides/Travelogues

- Lonely Planet India. 10th edition. by Sarina Singh et al. A good, general overview of society and geography, **invaluable** for independent travel.
- Footprint South India Handbook: The Travel Guide. By Robert Bradnock and Roma Bradnock. June 2001. Good overview of South India, with specific material on the state of Andhra Pradesh and the city of Hyderabad.
- Eat Smart in India: How to Decipher the Menu, Know the Market Foods & Embark on a Tasting Adventure by Joan Peterson, Indu Menon. Gives tips on how to read menus in restaurants, shop in the supermarket or the bazaar in India.
- Arrow of the Blue-Skinned God: Retracing the Ramayana through India by Jonah Blank. Retelling of an Indian epic combined with a vivid portrait of contemporary India.
- On the Grand Trunk Road: A Journey into South Asia By Steve Coll. Personal reflections by a Pulitzer Prize winning editor of *The Washington Post*.
- William Dalrymple's The Age of Kali: Indian Travels and Encounters (Lonely Planet, 2000) and City of Djinns: A Year in Delhi (Penguin, 2003).

Books on Cultural Adaptation

Adaptation to a new culture can be difficult. The following reading list contains publications that deal specifically with issues of culture shock and the difficulties associated with living overseas.

- Citron, James. *Short-Term Study Abroad: Integration, Third Culture Formation and Reentry*, NAFSA: Association for International Educators, 1996.
- Kepets, Dawn. *Back in the USA: Reflecting on Your Study Abroad Experience*, NAFSA: Association for International Educators, 1999.
- Kohls, Robert. *Survival Kit for Overseas Living: For Americans Planning to Live and Work Abroad*, Intercultural Press, 2001.
- Storti, Craig. *The Art of Crossing Cultures (Second Edition)*, Intercultural Press, 2001.
- Storti, Craig. *The Art of Coming Home*, Intercultural Press, 2001.
- Wolfgang, Aaron. *Everybody's Guide to People Watching*, Intercultural Press, 1995.

Films

For those wanting an introduction to Bollywood, India's massive film industry, there are quite a few subtitled Hindi films readily available at different video stores in the U.S. The following is a select list:

Bombay. 1995. By Mani Ratnam. A brilliant film made with the communal (Hindu-Muslim) riots of Bombay serving as a backdrop.

Fire. 1997. By Deepa Mehta. A controversial film exploring contemporary Indian mores of sexuality.

Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India. 2002. By Ashutosh Gowariker. Colorful depictions of Indian village during the 'Raj' interspersed with beautiful songs, music, and more, woven around India's national pastime/sport, cricket

The Mahabharata. 1990. By Peter Brook. Although not a Bollywood venture, Brook brilliantly adapts one of India's most famous and timeless epics.

Monsoon Wedding. 2001. By Mira Nair. A delightful comedy/drama set in New (and Old) Delhi.

WEBSITES

For those students with access to the Internet, we also encourage you to look at the many sites on student travel as well as on India and Hyderabad including the following:

WEBSITE	DESCRIPTION
www.ciee.org	CIEE's web site. If you haven't already, take a look and find out about other CIEE activities around the world.
www.travel.state.gov	The U.S. State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs home page providing Consular Information Sheets, Travel Warnings, U.S. Passport Information and Application Procedures, U.S. Consulate and Embassy Addresses Abroad, and U.S. Customs Information.
www.x-rates.com	Current exchange rates.
www.cdc.gov	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Provides updated information on required immunization and regional health advisories for travelers.
www.newsindia-times.com/	Indian current events
www.lonelyplanet.com	On-line travel guide to India from the very respected <i>Lonely Planet</i> series of travel guides.
www.indianembassy.org/	Indian embassy in Washington DC
www.india.com/	India's current events, radio, finance, pop culture, etc.
http://www.uohyd.ernet.in/	University of Hyderabad website
www.deccan.com	English daily newspaper published in Hyderabad
http://www.hydonline.com/	Web-based e-zine on Hyderabad
www.aptourism.in	Tourism site about the state of Andhra Pradesh in which Hyderabad is a district

SUGGESTED PACKING CHECKLIST

Naturally you'll want to pack what best reflects your own life style and taste, but CIEE recommends the following:

Important Documents

- Airline ticket (save the return ticket if it's a round-trip ticket)
- CIEE Student Handbook and pre-departure materials
- Course catalog from your school
- Credit card
- Home Advisor's address, fax, e-mail
- International Certificate of Vaccination
- International Student Identity Card (if purchased)
- Important addresses, phone numbers and e-mails
- Passport/Photocopy of passport (keep separate from passport)
- Bring at least 10 color photographs, Specifications for photographs:
 - 1). Passport size - 1.4 inches (width) X 1.8 inch (height) with 300 resolutions. We need 10 of these.
 - 2) Stamp size - 2.3 centimeters (width) X 2.8 centimeters (height) with 300 resolutions. (We need 5 of this specification. These photographs are used for Police Registration, Visa extensions and student ID cards). You may also have these done in India.
- Traveler's checks/List of traveler's check numbers (keep separate)

Clothing

- Bras & Underwear
- Chinos, khakis, or other loose-fitting pants/slacks
- Pajamas/nightgown
- Rain poncho or parka
- Shirts or blouses
- Shoes (2 pairs a soft-soled dress pair and a pair of sandals)
- Skirts or dresses
- Sneakers (1 pair)
- Socks, cotton
- Sweater
- Swimsuit (1)
- Tie
- T-shirts, cotton

General

- Backpack/Overnight bag for traveling
- Battery Charger
- Bottle/can opener and corkscrew
- Bug spray for mosquitoes (DEET 30% or greater)
- Camera (and film/ memory cards, and extra battery)
- Contraceptives
- Ear plugs
- Gifts/Photos from home (especially for those who are planning on home stay)
- Glasses or contact lenses, extra pair, prescription
- Grammar/language books for Hindi
- Guidebook (Lonely Planet has been the most complete and trusted guidebook)
- Gynecological supplies, especially tampons (5 month supply; only ob tampons are commonly sold in India)
- Journal
- Hosteller's sack/sleeping bag (travel bed sheets are more compact and nice for overnight trains)
- Medicine kit: antacid/anti-diarrhea medicine (Pepto-Bismol or Imodium), aspirin, Band-aids/cough and cold medicine (Nyquil, Dayquil) and prescription-strength diarrhea medication antibacterial ointment, motion sickness medicine
- Malaria Medicine
- Medication you are taking and a copy of the prescriptions
- Money belt or pouch, worn flat under clothes
- Musical instrument
- Nail clippers
- Pain reliever (Tylenol, Advil)
- Ziploc bags
- Pocket knife that has a corkscrew, and scissors (do NOT put in carry-on luggage)
- Portable tape/digital recorder
- Reading material: books, magazines
- Recipes and a weights & measures conversion chart
- Soap and soap dish

- Sunglasses, good pair/sun hat/waterproof sunscreen
- Toiletries: brush, comb, cosmetics, dental floss, deodorants, hair conditioner, Q-tips, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Travel alarm clock
- Travel umbrella
- Vitamins with iron and Vitamin B
- Washcloth and towel (big towels are provided for students staying on campus)
- Battery powered fan
- American chocolate, granola bars, jelly snacks, healthy and filling snacks
- School supplies (mechanical pencils/ pencils)
- Electricity converter