



## Study Abroad: Visit Bangalore, India's Silicon Valley !

This program provides Penn State students an opportunity to visit Bangalore, India's information capital. It explores the relationship between Democracy, Culture and Globalization in the context of a booming information technology industry. This trip is the international component of **CAS 497A (New media and Democracy)** and **STS/Comm. 408(Cultural Foundations of Communications)**, 3 credit courses to be taught at Penn State during Spring 2009. Students will undertake this trip between **May 12 and May 29**.

### Options

There are 2 options to go on this trip - take a **CAS class** or an **STS/Comm.** class in Spring 09.

1. CAS 497A (New Media and Democracy) : course covers online social networks (Facebook, MySpace etc,)blogs, wikis, you tube, virtual world like Second Life, Mobile communication and smart mobs and the changes in how people engage in political and civic activities.
2. STS/Comm. 408 (Cultural foundations of Communications) : course covers the online and mobile networks mentioned above and looks at changes in culture and its potential for democratic participation.
3. You can either register for 3 credits alone **OR**
4. Register for a course for 3 credits and for 2 credits to travel abroad to Bangalore city, India. **No extra cost for registering for those 2 credits.**

Details are provided in the attached fact sheet.

## **CAS 497A & STS/COMM 408: Fact sheet for embedded study abroad course credits**

### **Trip to Bangalore, India**

#### Overview of the Program

The trip to Bangalore City, India will be held May 12- May 29. This 2 week program is an opportunity for Penn State students to visit Bangalore, India's information capital, and help them explore the relationship between Democracy and Globalization, new information technology and its relationship to evolving forms of cultural practices in the context of a booming information technology industry. While in Bangalore, we will stay at FMC, a Conference / Training & Banquet Centre. Students will earn two credits for this experience. Students, who register for these extra 2 credits, must complete an orientation session and complete reading their assigned readings and reports to successfully earn their 2 credits.

PSU students will visit the International Institute for Information Technology and interact with local students, talk to faculty and get an introduction to the growing role of the information technology sector in Bangalore and its economic, social and political consequences. They will visit eGovernments Foundation – a nonprofit organization that is involved in providing information technology tools to state governments in India. They will visit Janaagraha, a nonprofit organization that works on facilitating citizen participation in local government; attend local citizen-government meetings during Area Sabhas, and meet with citizens in YUVA meetings, a technology-driven electoral campaign to reach out to local youth connected to India's national elections. They will visit Microsoft Research India's project sites and meet researchers. They will visit Bellandur village to experience how local governments have used IT to resist global companies, in addition to local sight seeing excursions. They will at all times be accompanied by the instructor.

#### Costs, Travel & Accommodations

Costs associated with travel to Bangalore will be approximately \$ 875 plus round trip air fare. Currently airfare is around \$1550, this could change at any time.

Any additional costs for passports, visas (\$100) and other personal expenses are to be covered by the student.

Students will fly out of Washington Dulles (IAD) airport to Bangalore International Airport. Students will be responsible for their transportation to/from Washington Dulles. Once in Bangalore, the group will be transported by a rental bus/van chartered for the group.

Students will be housed at FMC, (<http://www.fmcinfo.net/home.html>) which will provide all meals and snacks. It has 20 AC and standard rooms with internet connectivity, telephone services, security and 24 hours hot & cold water.

#### Passport & Visa Information

All travelers must have a **valid passport and visa** to travel to India.

Students can download passport applications at the US Department of State at:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html). This has information about cost, deadlines, ID and photo requirements. Students must apply for a passport no later than January 15, 2009 (average processing time is 6 weeks). To obtain a passport for the first time, students must go in person to a passport acceptance facility (

U.S. post office, for example) with 2 photographs, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license. The passport application fee is \$100. The main State College Post Office handles passports. Official passport photos (you will need 4 – 2 for passport, 2 for visa) can be taken at the following locations: Wegmans, Kinkos, CVS or the main Post Office.

**Visas:** For completing visa documentation you will need the following

- Application: Complete the online [India Visa Application](#). After the application has been completed, you must print and sign the application.
- Passport: Passport must have a minimum validity of six months from the date of application with at least two blank visa pages. Last 2 amendment pages are not acceptable. **Must be the actual passport not a copy.**
- Photographs: Photographs: 2 latest identical passport size photographs (black/white or color) depicting front pose against light background on photographic paper.
- Proof of Address: Applicants must submit a photocopy with proof of residence/address while applying for the visa. Photocopy of driver license or utility bill is acceptable. **For minors, a parent or guardian proof of address may be submitted instead.**
- Tourist Visa fees are \$ 73. All fees are payable by Money Order (Payable to Travisa Outsourcing) or Credit Card (Visa and MasterCard only).

### **Health Information and Required Shots**

*All students are required to get anti-malarial medications prior to departing and will need to provide proof of prescriptions.*

To facilitate the process of meeting all the health requirements, students will need to make an appointment with the Travel Clinic at University Health Services <http://www.sa.psu.edu/uhs/basics/travel.cfm>. Schedule your appointment at least 4 to 6 weeks in advance. Call (814) 863-0774. This clinic includes options for Hepatitis shots, tetanus boosters, meningitis vaccines, cholera & anti-malarial drugs.

### **Scholarship options:**

If you are part of the College of Liberal Arts, you can apply for the Undergraduate enrichment funds. Here is the link to the CLA enrichment fund

[http://www.la.psu.edu/CLA-Deans\\_Area/documents/StaffEnrichmentFundApplication\\_000.pdf](http://www.la.psu.edu/CLA-Deans_Area/documents/StaffEnrichmentFundApplication_000.pdf)

***Other majors, please contact your College.***

In addition, The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Education Abroad Scholarship provides recognition and financial incentive to undergraduate students who are participating in embedded, short-term programs. This scholarship offers awards of \$500 to students based on financial need and academic achievement. The deadline is three weeks prior to your trip's specific departure date. There is normally at least one scholarship awarded per program, so please encourage apply. The application can be accessed at the following link: PA Commonwealth Education Abroad Scholarship

[http://www.international.psu.edu/studioabroad/customtags/ct\\_FileRetrieve.cfm?File\\_ID=0401704871767405720D01021A7004097C140F0C01011C027770740173747C0371740077740477](http://www.international.psu.edu/studioabroad/customtags/ct_FileRetrieve.cfm?File_ID=0401704871767405720D01021A7004097C140F0C01011C027770740173747C0371740077740477)>

For more information about this trip and corresponding courses, please contact Dr. Veena Raman ([vvr101@psu.edu](mailto:vvr101@psu.edu)).

# **Internship Opportunity**

There is an opportunity for PSU students to apply for an internship opportunity at Janaagraha, a nongovernment organization in Bangalore City, India.

Janaagraha works to improve the quality of life in urban India by improving the quality of public governance and promoting citizen participation in governance. <http://www.janaagraha.org/>

They are in the process of refining and measuring three indices:

- The Ward Infrastructure and Services Index (WISA) measures a critical aspect of the quality of life in each administrative ward of the city
- The REED Governance Index measures the quality of governance in the cities based on Janaagraha's REED framework
- The Civic Literacy and Participation Index measures the level of citizen awareness of and participation in civic life.

Based on individual skills and interests, projects for interns would involve doing literature reviews, conceptually refining the indices, refining the statistical methodology, assisting in the implementation- data collection and collation, data analysis and report writing.

In addition to these three key projects, research interns at Janaagraha work with the advocacy program in developing position papers on various aspects of urban reform.

## **Required skill sets**

Under-graduates and Graduates who are pursuing *public policy, political science, economics, international development, law, environmental sciences, urban planning & design, and management* will find opportunities to apply their skills in the Research program. Projects will be either directly under the Research program or as support services being provided by Research to other programs at Janaagraha.

If you are interested in this internship opportunity, please contact Dr. Veena Raman ([vvr101@psu.edu](mailto:vvr101@psu.edu)).

For questions about internship credit options contact: Ashley E. Tarbet [atarbet@la.psu.edu](mailto:atarbet@la.psu.edu)