

## TESTIMONIAL

### A Passage To India By Corinne Boudreau

I was initially drawn to the India study abroad program because of the opportunity it provided me to complete some my much-needed distribution requirements. What started as an innocent inquiry, soon had me captivated by the idea of spending my summer in a new and exciting environment, with tremendous potential for learning far beyond the classroom itself.

I soon found myself enrolled in the program and doing my best to prepare for what lay ahead. I had heard from past students that the program was amazing; however, I certainly felt some anxiety in the weeks leading up to our departure. Was this a good idea after all? What would things really be like? Was I really ready for this?

Though I had tried to do reading and research beforehand, I soon discovered that there is no book or website that can fully prepare you for a new culture. Our first bus drive through Bangalore drove that point home for me. Suddenly, I was seeing for real the images that had been pictured in books and magazines, trying to grasp that I was really there. For the entire five-hour drive, I remained glued to the window; and for the rest of our stay, I never tired of seeing new and eye-opening sights.

We came to discover that India is indeed a country of sensory stimulation – which in fact often borders on sensory overload. A simple walk down the street from the hostel where we lived brought us into a neighborhood teeming with sights, sounds and smells. Some were weird and wonderful, others breath-taking in their beauty; and still others were uncomfortably hard to witness.

Our time in India proved to be, as anticipated, one of learning in multiple areas. In the classroom, our minds were enriched with history, culture, and current issues. Through our field trips and new encounters, our preconceptions were challenged, and our eyes opened to the realities of this diverse rapidly growing nation. The living conditions to which we had to adapt to were not always what we may have desired. But in retrospect, this was a very healthy experience. Here in Canada, we often have no concept of how fortunate we are to have constant access everything that we do, from mere possessions, to larger privileges like healthcare and social security. The tremendous warmth and generosity of our hosts and the people we encountered throughout our travels was a constant reminder however, that the poorest in possessions are often the richest in love and humanity, and that so many of the things our culture values are in no way necessary for happiness.

In many ways, I am still processing our experience, even months after our return. But my experience has encouraged me to question my own lifestyle and beliefs, and re-evaluate what I value and what I want to do with my future. It has reminded me not only of the beauty and diversity of our world, but also of the injustice and inequality, which is as real as the people I got to know and love in Mysore. It's not about feeling guilty on our part, but about being aware of the greater world beyond our insulated lives, and making our choices in light of this knowledge.

I encourage anyone who wants to experience an amazing culture in the safety and security of a group environment, but still have some amazing times and adventures along the way, to consider this exceptional program. My conviction is that such an experience will continue to reveal things to me for many years to come, and there is no doubt in my mind that it was worth every minute and penny of it.

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# Study in India

[www.mta.ca/india](http://www.mta.ca/india)

## SUMMER 2015

MAY 23<sup>rd</sup> – JULY 18<sup>th</sup>

Application Deadline is January 30, 2015

*The Mount Allison-Dalhousie Summer Studies in India Program offers a unique opportunity for personal growth and academic discovery through immersive group study in Southern India. Delivered in partnership with the Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies (VIIS), this 8-week, faculty-led program aims to connect students with Indian history, culture, and contemporary issues through class work, field trips, and an array of extracurricular options. Up to 9 credits at the 3000 level are available for transfer in Indian History, Gender Issues, and Sustainable Development.*



## LOCATION

The Summer Studies in India Program is delivered by the Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies (VIIS) in the beautiful and historic South Indian city of Mysore.



Located 150km southwest of Bangalore, Mysore (pop. 1 million) is home to a number of universities, temples, gardens, and heritage buildings that make it the cultural capital of the state of Karnataka. Mysore also enjoys an international reputation as an important centre of yoga study and instruction. The moderate summer weather coupled with the city's tree-lined boulevards and nature parks offer a pleasant setting for visiting students.

VIIS is situated on a compact campus in the northern part of the city and regularly hosts visiting student groups from across India and around the world. Its facilities include classroom and meeting space, residence and dining facilities, a computer lab, and 24hr security. *Summer Studies in India* participants will join other students in residence but will follow a customized program that includes separate classes and field trips.

## ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION

This is an open-admission, group-study program administered by Mount Allison University (Sackville, NB) and Dalhousie University (Halifax, NS). Students from Mount Allison, Dalhousie, and other Canadian universities are all welcome to apply.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Students should possess 2nd-year standing (or higher) at the time of application;
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 (or higher) is required;

### APPLICATION:

- Completed application + statement of purpose [www.mta.ca/india](http://www.mta.ca/india)

### Mount Allison students:

Submit your application directly to the International Centre (2F, Wallace McCain Student Centre)

### Dalhousie students:

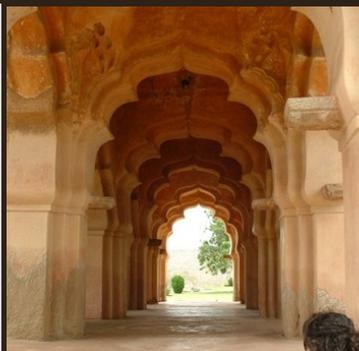
Submit your application to the International Development Studies Department (Henry Hicks Arts & Administration Building)

### All other students — submit the following to Mount Allison:

- Completed *Summer Studies in India* application
- Completed *Visiting Student Application* <http://www.mta.ca/apply>
- Official transcripts of all post-secondary studies
- Letter of Permission from your home institution

Selection will be based on the merit of the student's application and the relevance of his/her academic training to India Studies.

Applications must be received by January 30, 2015



## PROGRAM COSTS

MTA Tuition *	\$2,240
Program Fee †	\$3,200
Airfare ‡	\$2,000
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	\$7,440

\* Tuition: Based on the domestic tuition rate (2014-15) for registration in 3 courses. For international students, the international tuition rate will apply.

† Program Fee: Includes all program-related meals and accommodation, field trips, in-country transportation, materials, daily yoga lessons, Delhi hotel + excursions, and insurance coverage (emergency health + trip interruption). Does not include Indian visa costs (estimated \$250), immunizations, or personal expenses.

‡ Airfare: Estimated total only. Calculated according to round-trip airfare from Moncton or Halifax to Bangalore (to) and Delhi (from).

NOTE: all students are required to pay the \$125 Mount Allison Study Abroad & Exchange Fee to confirm their participation.

## COURSES

Each course is worth 3 credits at the 3000-level. Credits will be transferred to Mount Allison and added to a student's transcript on a Pass/Fail basis. Students should consult with their program advisors to determine how these courses can count towards their Major or Minor.

### Culture and Civilization

This course introduces students to the culture and historical aspects of Indian civilization. It will cover a vast range of topics that highlight India's diversity in language and literature, religion and philosophy, art and architecture, classical and folk traditions. It will attempt to show how India is a composite living tradition that continues itself through a dialogue between tradition and modernity.

### Indian Women: Tradition and Change

The main objective of this course is to present a comprehensive view of women and gender relations in Indian society from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The course attempts to provide an understanding of the traditional and changing roles of women in Indian society by using anthropological, historical, sociological, political and legal sources. Lectures and panel discussions are combined with field experiences in teaching this course.

### Science, Technology & Sustainable Development

The course will introduce students to "development" in India in its historical, economic, sociological and ideological aspects. India, which historically has had a strong science and technology tradition, has emerged as a vibrant democracy coming to terms with developmental realities. The lectures will be presented by academics and activists from in and around Mysore. The course includes two field visits and panel discussions to highlight particular themes covered in the Lectures and broaden perspectives.

## Program Highlights

- Daily Yoga lessons (included)
- Site visits to local NGO projects including schools, hospitals, women's shelters, and community farms
- Day-long and weekend field trips to Karnataka temples and historic sites
- Day-trip to visit one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist settlements and monasteries outside of Tibet
- Week-long, faculty-led field trips to UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Northern Karnataka
- A multi-day trip to Delhi and environs (e.g. Taj Mahal)
- Indian Dance lessons (optional)
- Indian Cooking lessons (optional)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Ms. Robin Walker

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### Rev. John Perkin

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### Dr. Barb Clayton

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