India Study Abroad

This is to invite you to be part of an exciting and life-changing experience: A Study Abroad Program to India. The India Study Abroad program is operated by the Walton College of Business and was developed to address a growing need to understand the implications of doing business with one of the largest countries in the world that is increasingly becoming a key pivot of the global economy. This is a non-traditional program in the sense that the travel abroad is done during the Winter Break. The study abroad program focuses on the following:

a) Understanding the historical, cultural, and economic facts that have shaped India’s current business environment.

b) Gaining insights about the shape of India’s future business environment.

c) Gaining deep understanding of operational and managerial challenges of businesses working in India.

d) Understanding the cultural and other differences between Indian and American ways of doing business.

e) Understanding and coping with the challenges inherent in managing the India-based operations of multinational corporations.

Details of the program are as follows:

a) Six credit hour program with Five Saturday classes in the Fall, and one Saturday Class in the Spring Semester. If you are an MMBA student, you will substitute your six credit hours for MKTG 5333, Retail Strategy and Processes (Spring 2011) and MGMT 5373, International Management (Summer 2011).

b) Travel to India from December 26 through January 16 (Dates are subject to minor changes). Visits are tentatively scheduled to Bangalore, Jaipur, and Delhi and associated trips to other cities in North and South India. Several company visits to major multinationals as well as various invited speakers in India and here.

c) Visits to ancient monuments going back two thousand years. Exposure to medieval architecture such as the Taj Mahal, Forts, and so on. In the past we have visited an elephant sanctuary in the South of India, and a Tiger Sanctuary in the North of India. We expect to continue doing that.

d) Work on market projects (usually in teams with students of our partner schools – great insight into the minds of a local culture and strong potential for long term ties with some of the students you work with).

e) Interaction with local families in different parts of India, and visits to villages and to visit NGO’s working with extremely needy sections of the Indian population.

This trip provides a detailed understanding about Indian culture, history, and business practices – providing participants a leg up in their job search. In order to be considered for the trip you must email your interest to Dr. Alan Ellstrand or Dr Vikas Anand (Aellstrand@walton.uark.edu; or
vikas@walton.uark.edu) as soon as possible. If selected you have to pay a non-refundable deposit of $400 by the end of August. This deposit will be applied towards your program fee. We have tentatively set the program fee at $5271.00. Note that the program fee may be revised upwards by no more than 200 dollars or downwards based on actual costs incurred. The fee will be paid in three installments in the Fall (from July through November). The program fee includes airfare, lodging, and a large chunk of the meals that you will have while in India. It also includes most admission fees to historic monuments. Note that the fee does not include any tuition for the course – however, since the Study Abroad program substitutes for other classes in the program, you will not have any net change in your tuition fee.

This program is jointly conducted by Dr. Alan Ellstrand and Dr. Vikas Anand and is offered once every two years. Students who participated in the program previously rated it as an outstanding and life-changing experience. Many of them gained valuable insights that have helped provide them with unique opportunities with their employers (apart from some exciting and fascinating shopping and eating experiences). A few students even got jobs or promotions based, in part, on their participation in the program.

Some pictures from the previous trips are attached on the next page.
Working with an orphanage in Bangalore India.

One of several historical monuments in India.
At the entrance to an amazing fort in Jaipur.
At a 600 year old temple near Bangalore in India.
Stopped at a tiger sanctuary (Wild life park) during a safari. The next page shows pictures at an elephant sanctuary in South India.
Visiting a school and homes at a local Indian village.
Historical Monuments in India