

Tête-à-tête #15



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About the University:

Founded in 1974, the [University of Hyderabad](#) (UoH) is one of the major institutions of higher education in India, mainly devoted to postgraduate studies and research. With 46 different departments and centres organised in 12 Schools of study, the University has over 400 faculty and over 5000 students. The campus is located near Gachibowli, which is one of the major IT hubs of India. The [Study in India](#) (SIP) at the university was started in 1998.

1. Could you tell us about the background of *Study in India* programme offered by the University?

Study in India (SIP) at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) was started in 1998. It is the first such programme in India dedicated to students not only from the US and European universities and teaching institutions but also from universities across the globe. It draws on the collective academic strengths of the excellence of faculty of the UoH and aims to provide a rigorous and enriching educational experience customised to the needs of undergraduate students from these regions.

Study in India programme has been an enriching and rewarding experience for all its stakeholders, academically, culturally and financially. The feedback received from the SIP students is a testimony to the success of this programme. Although the Schools of Humanities, Social Sciences, Management Studies and the Sarojini Naidu School of Arts and Communication have attracted the maximum number of SIP students over the years, more recently, the science schools have also seen increased enrolments.

2. What kind of academic programmes are offered under *Study in India*?

SIP primarily caters to the needs of undergraduate students who enrol in the regular semester curriculum of our university, or in short-term courses (3 months/6 weeks/4 weeks), which are customised to suit the needs of international partners. The credits earned through these courses are then transferred back to the home institutions of the students. Although most of the students who participate are from the US and the Nordic countries, SIP has also had a steady stream of students from France, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, UK, China, Korea and Japan. The six-week

summer course on Contemporary India has been drawing immense interest from students over the years.

Apart from the above, SIP has designed an innovative two-week long Faculty Development Seminar for university and college teachers which enables them to learn not just about Indian culture and history but also about the advancements made in the fields of science and technology. This is to better prepare them for teaching South Asia-related courses in their institutions.

3. Who are the partners in SIP?

SIP works closely with the international offices of major US and European higher educational institutions as well as various education consortiums. Our major institutional collaborators include the University of California (UCEAP), Duke University, Dartmouth College, University of Pittsburgh, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, South Dakota State University (SDSU) and University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In Europe, our major academic collaborator has been the Nordic Centre in India (NCI), which is a consortium of around 15 Scandinavian universities.

In addition to the individual universities, SIP over the years has established strong partnerships with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) and International Study Abroad (ISA). The steadfast support of these partners has been integral to the success of the SIP.

4. What makes University of Hyderabad's *Study in India* programme distinctive?

- It is the only comprehensive Study in India programme in India
- Internationally acclaimed faculty of the university with teaching and research experience abroad.
- The modular structure of a rigorous and flexible semester-based programme.
- Economical and variable tuition fee.
- Credits are transferred to the students' institutions after the completion of the programme, if UoH has an agreement with the partner institution. In other cases, a student is given the transcript directly after the completion of the course.
- A fully computerised library (the first of its kind in India).
- Email/Internet facilities.
- A diverse campus with international students and Indian students.
- A pollution-free, nature-rich campus of over 2000 acres.
- A secure, hygienic and modern hostel for international students.

5. Who can join the *Study in India* Programme?

The programme is aimed at international students who have proficiency in English and would be able to meet the specific course requirements.

6. Who can approach the University for a Partnership under SIP programme?

- Universities and their international/study abroad divisions.

- Heads of academic programmes/disciplines, or Departments of universities.
- Institutions with a South Asia/Area Studies Programme.
- Higher education institutes or Councils of International Education.
- NRI groups or associations.
- Trade or business delegations or groups (for short-term courses).
- Individual students who are enrolled in degree programmes and who meet the academic requirements of SIP.

7. Can an institution without an MoU with the University of Hyderabad approach the SIP division to accommodate its students in the programme?

MoU is not mandatory at the moment. Students from universities/colleges across the world can apply for our various academic programmes. Universities can also nominate their students to participate in our programme. However, we are open to have institutional associations through MoUs with universities/colleges and institutes as it would pave the way for enduring academic cooperation in different areas. The MoUs will also enable us to customise certain programmes in accordance with mutually agreed points.

8. Could you explain about the application process for SIP?

The Study in India Programme (SIP) receives online applications from partners and independent students. The applications need to be sent to the Academic Coordinators of the programme for scrutiny and approval. Along with the duly filled application form, letter from faculty/Study Abroad advisor of the student's home institution testifying to the ability of the student to participate in an International Academic Programme, Statement of Purpose from the applicant indicating the reasons for choosing to study at UoH, mark lists (transcripts), etc. need to be submitted.

Students with a GPA of 3.0, and who are in the third or fourth year of their undergraduate programme are eligible to apply for the SIP at UoH. In some cases in the past, where the applicant's GPA is less than the required level, the admission committee had considered the applications, when they were accompanied by additional letters of support from the academic faculty/advisor of the home institution along with a statement from the student. However, the decision of the Admission Committee of SIP will be final and binding on all applications.

9. What is the academic calendar for SIP?

SIP at the University of Hyderabad is offered on a semester basis. While the monsoon semester runs from mid-July till the end of November, the winter Semester runs from early January till early May. The Summer Programme is a four-six-week course that runs from 1st July until 15th August.

Students enrolled in the regular semester programme can take 12 to 16 credits (3-5 courses) in a semester. In addition to the specialised SIP course offerings, students are also allowed to enroll in most regular classes (provided they have the prerequisites) offered by the university and which would help them to interact with Indian students in a classroom setting. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the syllabus and curriculum of the courses offered at the University of Hyderabad fulfill the curriculum needs and requirements of their home institution and respective degree programmes.

10. Who is responsible for the administration of SIP?

The director of the SIP and the members of the SIP Management Committee are responsible for all academic and administrative functions of SIP. The Director as well as the members of the Management Committee are nominated by the Vice-Chancellor. They are all members of the teaching faculty of the University of Hyderabad. The Director of the Office of International Affairs as well as the ex-director of SIP are ex-officio members of the SIP Management Committee.

Courses offered to SIP Students:

1. Regular courses: SIP students attend classes along with other Indian students. However, not all the courses of the university are available. The SIP office will provide a broad list and timetable of the courses offered by different Departments/Schools during the semester, along with a letter addressed to the concerned university faculty to inform them about SIP students who are likely to enrol in these courses. The final list of courses for SIP students will be worked out in consultation with the respective Academic Co-ordinators.
2. Specially designed courses: Several courses have been designed by SIP over the years to cater to the specialised needs of SIP students. The courses on Indian languages -- Hindi, Urdu, and Telugu – have been particularly helpful for those students who wish to pursue higher studies in South Asian Studies. Other SIP courses include Indian Philosophy; Caste and Gender issues in Indian Film and Media; Nutrition and Public Policy in India; Kuchipudi Dance; Community Engagement and Public Policy in India; Islamic Art; Culture and Heritage of Hyderabad and the Deccan, etc. A minimum enrolment of 3 students is required to run a course.
3. Independent study: Independent studies are permitted where a student works individually under the supervision of a faculty member on a focused topic and subject. A few examples of such independent courses taken by the students in the past include: Pearl Markets in Hyderabad, Dalit Women and Water Rights, Organic Farming and Environment, An Introduction to Hindustani Classical Music, etc. However, students who wish to take independent study courses must fulfill the following criteria:
 - Must have a GPA of 3.85 and above
 - Must be working on a topic related to India or South Asia
 - Must provide a clear statement of purpose explaining the nature and purpose of the study
 - Must have a letter from the faculty and instructor of the student's home institution justifying the need for the student to do this independent study and testifying to the student's ability to carry out research work in an independent and responsible manner.
4. Summer/Short-Term/Customized Programmes: In addition to the regular semester programmes, SIP also offers four/six-week programme on Contemporary India, which runs from 1st July to 15th August every year. Following are a few examples:
 - Contemporary India offered for students from University of Pittsburgh and Nordic Centre in India

- Media and Development for University of San Francisco and Pace University, New York
 - Gender and Caste in Indian Film and Media for Dartmouth College.
 - Courses in basic Hindi and Telugu; and Indian political systems.
5. Non-credit Yoga class offered three times a week to all SIP students, free of charge.
 6. SIP also offers non-credit courses that involve practice/performance; for example: courses in Indian Classical Dance, Theatre, Sitar, Painting, Sculpture. For these courses, the tuition fees will have to be paid directly to the instructors.