India

Culture, Traditions, & Globalization

Pune, a city of over three million in the state of Maharashtra, offers students excellent resources for experience, exploration, and study.

- A gathering place for artists and intellectuals as well as an industrial center, Pune’s residents include leaders in the fields of art, music, dance, yoga, theatre, film, religion, politics, environmental science, and social reform.
- As students pursue their independent research projects, they have access to the city’s museums, educational institutions, government offices, political organizations, business and labor groups, and cultural and social welfare agencies.
- Local historical sites and archives chronicle Pune’s role as a center of Indian resistance to British rule and as the summer headquarters for the colonial government of Bombay.
- Maharashtra is among the more prosperous and stable areas of India, embracing nearly all of the nation’s religious, social, and ethnic variety.
- Mumbai, India’s chief commercial center, is just a few hours by train from Pune.

“The home stay is quintessential to [the India] program. It was really incredible to not only learn from my host family, but to become so close with them!”

Emily Berkson, India Program, Fall 2010

ACM also offers the India Summer Program, featuring service learning & cultural immersion. Visit acm.edu/indiasummer for details.

Above: Students with bags of trash they picked up in Pune as a service project during the International Day of Climate Action.
Cover: Visiting the historic Jantar Mantar astronomical observatory in Jaipur during the program break. (Photo courtesy of Aisha Mergaert)

ACM brings a liberal arts perspective to your off-campus experience by emphasizing:
- Diverse viewpoints and ways of learning,
- Interdisciplinary courses and seminars,
- Personal attention, working closely with faculty and local experts,
- Independent projects tailored to your academic interests, and
- Education that provides the cultural and intellectual context to understand the world around you.

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) is a consortium of independent liberal arts colleges in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado. ACM offers distinctive off-campus study programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the U.S.

For students with interests in:
- Anthropology & Sociology
- Environmental Studies
- Globalization & Development
- Government & Politics
- Health Care & Public Health
- Indian Art, Dance, Film, Literature, & Music
- Philosophy & Religion
- Women’s Studies

acm.edu/india
Dynamic change in an ancient culture

From the high-tech industries of Bangalore — India’s answer to Silicon Valley — to thousands of rural villages seemingly untouched by the 21st century, India embraces both the dynamic forces of globalization and the deep-rooted traditions of an ancient culture.

The dichotomy is woven into everyday life in India — cows interrupt the streams of cars and trucks on the roads, and farmers work with hand tools in fields under the flight paths of jumbo jets.

On the interdisciplinary fall semester ACM India: Culture, Traditions, & Globalization program in Pune, students have the rare opportunity to experience India’s dynamism and diversity firsthand through courses, independent study, and daily life in an Indian home and community.

For more details, go to acm.edu/india

**Dates**  Fall semester (early August - late November)

**Enrollment**  Maximum of 20 students

**Courses and credits**  Recommended credit is 18 semester credits or the equivalent. Students are required to take all four program components listed below:

- **Marathi**  Language study is intensive at the beginning and continues through the semester. (6 semester credits)
- **Contemporary India**  This course, which provides an overview of India, starts after orientation and continues through the semester. (4 semester credits)
- **Elective course**  Students choose among courses with a special emphasis on the state of Maharashtra. Recent electives have included public health, film, literature, political science, environmental studies, and sociology. (4 semester credits)
- **Independent study project**  Students plan and carry out a project in their chosen field in the natural sciences, social sciences, or humanities under the guidance of highly qualified Indian advisors. See acm.edu/india for a list of students' projects in previous years and profiles of research advisors. (4 semester credits)

**Field trips and travel opportunities**  The program includes field trips to nearby cultural sites. There are several holidays during the program and a one-week break, when students can travel to other areas of the country.

**Extracurricular activities**  Students can arrange for private lessons in many areas, such as Indian music, yoga, dance, batik, weaving, and Hindi language. Many students combine their extracurricular activities with their formal research projects.

**Language requirement**  No prerequisites. Marathi language study is an integral part of the program and is required. All other courses are taught in English.

**Eligibility**  Students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors during the program are eligible.

**Living arrangements**  During the first few days of the program, students stay as a group in a hotel. For the rest of the program they live with host families in Pune, who provide two meals each day.

**Costs**  For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to acm.edu/india. Students also should check with their Off-Campus Study or Financial Aid Office for information about their college’s pricing policies for off-campus study.

**How to apply**
- Access the ACM application at acm.edu/apply.
- Students should check with their Off-Campus Study Office about their college’s application procedures and deadlines.
- ACM must receive completed applications by March 15.

**India: Culture, Traditions, & Globalization schedule**

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A student with her host sister. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Fischer)