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Exchange partner school: Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore (India)

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Re: Report from exchange program

1. Academic part

Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore with its all-stone architecture, lush verdant woods and landscaped gardens provides an idyllic environment to engage in management studies, academics and learning. IIMB has world-class infrastructure that facilitates excellence in teaching, research, consulting and other professional activities.

Located in India's high technology capital, IIMB is in close proximity to some of the leading corporate houses in the country, ranging from information technology to consumer product companies, giving it the added advantage of integrating classroom knowledge with practical experience.

Established in 1973, the Institute has since then built on its base of highly accomplished faculty, world class infrastructure and motivated student body to emerge as one of the premier institutes for management education and research promoting managerial excellence in the country. IIMB strives to achieve excellence through partnerships with industry, and leading academic institutions, the world over. IIMB's mission is to "build leaders through holistic, transformative and innovative education."

The long-duration post-graduate programmes of the Institute comprise the flagship Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP); the Post Graduate Programme in Software Enterprise Management (PGSEM); the Post Graduate Programme in Public Policy and Management (PGPPM); the one year full-time Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP), and the Fellow Programme in Management(FPM), which is a doctoral programme. As such, IIMB offers courses relevant for each of the three segments of the managerial hierarchy. All these programmes are very highly rated and IIMB alumni occupy senior managerial and academic positions across the globe.

IIMB has always been a hub of innovative activity and is continuously on the lookout for opportunities to collaborate with the industry as well as other academic institutions the world over. Innovation and research at the Institute has been given a fillip with the establishment of Centres of Excellence in various areas ranging from Public Policy and Corporate Governance to Insurance to Financial Markets and Risk Management. The N.S Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning is a catalyst for entrepreneurial activity and a well-known incubation centre for startup ventures.

A feature that sets apart IIMB from other B-schools is the carefully selected mix of students with diversity as a stated objective so that students can leverage from each other's experience in addition to theoretical studies in the classroom, thereby creating a truly enriching learning experience. The Institute also has the largest Student Exchange Programme amongst all B-schools in India with several partner universities across North America, Europe and Australia.

School policies for PGP program (MBA) are very strict and students need to commit to the program full-time moving to the campus hostels. Every first year course is to special grading called S curve. It means that certain amount of people has to fail the class and the grades are also distributed accordingly. That is why there is very strong competition among students and it makes the program very famous and valuable among future employers.

In the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGPM), IIMB offers compulsory (required) courses and electives in the following areas: Finance & Control, Marketing, Corporate Strategy and Policy, Organisational Behaviour & Human Resources Management, Production and Operations Management, Quantitative Methods and Information Systems, Economic and Social Sciences.

The core courses are offered only in the first year of the PGPM. As exchange students are admitted into one of the terms in the second year of the PGPM, all the courses available for exchange students are elective courses. Selection to PGPM electives is open to all exchange students in the normal course of graduate student exchange. As is the case for IIMB's PGPM students, exchange students may also be allowed to take one or two courses offered in the Post Graduate Programme in Software Enterprise Management (PGSEM) or the Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP).

100%, all courses are taught in English only so fluency in English is compulsory.

PGPM students at IIMB take a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 credits per term. Courses are usually 3 credits each. One credit implies ten classroom contact hours for the course during the term. For every hour of classroom contact, most courses will require an average of about two hours of work outside the classroom in the form of readings, assignments, projects etc. The hours of preparation for each classroom session could vary from two hours to four hours, depending upon the nature of the course. Students would be well-advised to get clarity on this aspect while planning their course commitments.

Minimum attendance of 75 percent is required in every course. The PGP Office will keep a record of attendance in all courses. Students who do not meet the minimum attendance norm in a course will be awarded one full grade point lower than that secured by them in that course. This will be done by the PGP Office and the teaching faculty concerned will be informed of the same.

Grading system:

Grade	Description	Grade Point
A	Excellent	3.50-4.00
B	Good	2.50-3.49
C	Satisfactory	1.50-2.49
D	Low Pass	0.50-1.49
U	Unsatisfactory	0.00-0.49
I	INCOMPLETE (Final Grade Pending)	

2. Life & Cultural Life

In Term 6 non of the exchange students had a buddy, which would have been very helpful at the beginning as the campus is located 1 hour from the airport, and the public transportation system is not very good.

Incoming exchange students may be accommodated in the students' hostel (dorm) depending upon the availability. This accommodation will be available only for the duration of the term. In 2010-11, all the exchange students had the option of staying in the students' hostel and most of them chose to do so. If some students cannot be accommodated on campus due to demand-supply mismatch, those students may be housed in a serviced apartment closer to the campus. Sample costs for on campus housing:

a) Hostel (dorm) room rent: INR 20,000 per term, subject to change

b) Mess advance: INR 20,000 per term, subject to change

Students who choose to stay in the IIMB hostel should pay a total of INR 40,000 as above to the Hostel Office on arrival. Students who choose to stay elsewhere but have food in the IIMB hostel mess should pay INR 20,000 toward mess advance to the Hostel Office on arrival. In the students' mess, the basic vegetarian food costs about INR 4,000 per month; additional items (including non-vegetarian dishes) can be purchased separately at an extra cost and adjusted against the balance in the mess advance. The net balance amount in the mess advance is refunded by the Hostel Office to the student after deducting outstanding dues towards the night canteen, Student Activities Centre (SAC) run by students, gymnasium, Library, photocopying, laser printing at the computer centre, etc.

There are many facilities in the campus to do sports. Football and cricket field, basketball and tennis court, badminton indoor place and gym.

Students in the Term 6 are very focused on their placements and their attitude towards others is more like "air". It means there will be no one who will want to talk to you (unless you are a good looking girl). The overwhelming majority (~90%) of students are engineers. Students are younger and have less business experience, as most students have only worked 0-2yrs. A large percentage worked in some field related to IT. Foreign students consist of...you and your fellow exchange students

On campus local students party in the dorm rooms from ~11pm-5am virtually every night. It is a bit annoying and if you are not invited to the party (which is likely not to happen) using ear plugs is highly recommended.

Basic hygiene and etiquette is virtually non-existent in India, so prepare accordingly:

- Bring toilet paper and soap when you travel
- Bring a face mask when traveling
- Consider bringing or buying cheap shoes that you don't care about, as virtually every square inch of India is fair game for urination, trash, and other unknowns

Only drink bottled water that is still sealed or filter it yourself professionally. Our term the water filter broke twice and many of the students ended up in the hospital for days at a time.

Things to know in general when traveling is that you will need an Indian mobile phone to book virtually all travel and the following items if you want to walk INTO an airport (don't arrive without them or you'll probably have to reschedule your flight): Printed photocopy of a flight leaving within a few hours, Original passport, Original FRRO letter (for international flights)

Travelling by night buses was pretty convenient if ones do not mind bumpy roads. Rail works well in the north...not so much in the south...The places to see by bus are:

State of Kerala

- Kochi (historical seaside town)
- Munnar (hills and mountains worth of rolling green hills)
- Alleppey ("backwater" tours)
- Kumily-Periyar (Tiger National Preserve)

State of Karnataka

- Bangalore (obviously)
- Hampi (think Indian Pompeii)
- Nandi Hills (beautiful sunrise)
- Ooty (little towns in the mountains)
- Mysore (big palace)

State of Tamil Nadu

- Madurai (biggest temple ever!)
- Chennai (big coastal city)
- Pondicherry (cute French colonial town)

Goa and surrounding

- Consider it for a NYE party...it shouldn't be hard to find one to join within the ex-pat community or simply organize a trip yourself

More further from Bangalore its better to travel by planes:

State of Rajasthan

- Amritstar (famous temple)
- Udaipur (pretty lake/town)
- Jaipur (big palaces)
- Jodhpur ('blue' city)

State of Maharaja

- Bombay (Bollywood, premier Indian business city)

- Pune (more relaxed business city)

State of Uttar Pradesh

- Kolkata (large coastal city)
- Agra (See New Delhi)
- Varansi (“Ganges River” city)

State of New Delhi

- New Delhi (the capital...)
- Agra (Taj Mahal...technically in Uttar Pradesh)

State of Gujarat

- Ahmedabad

3. Notice for future students

IIMB is very good business school with top tier students among India – it is perfect place for networking and understanding the Indian culture:

If you are interested in exchange in India below are some of my recommendations for you:

1. Consider bringing cash to pay the \$800 cash deposit
2. Bring 4-5x paper copies of every important document, as electronic copies are universally not accepted and printing requires that you have an ID card, which requires that you have already submitted lots of paper photocopies (passport, Indian visa, bank statement, letter of acceptance, healthcare insurance)
3. Bring 8x passport style photos (all strange administration procedures starting from university, ending on mobile phone)
4. To stay healthy:
 - Bring ear plugs, as students routinely blast speakers and play cricket in the hallways from ~11PM-5AM every day (not just weekends)
 - If pollution bothers you, bring or buy a face mask upon arrival (almost everything is a solid hour of smoke induced haze that makes LA air look like Yosemite's)
 - You may want to bring your own iodine tablets or professional water filter, as the water filter on campus sometimes doesn't work

- Bring your own bed sheet, pillow and sleeping bag
5. Bring your formal dress because you can participate in all companies' presentations and placements.
 6. After your exchange finish apply for status of Alumni, it will give you access to great network of people around India.
 7. Be patient! India is a great place to learn it, otherwise you will struggle a lot :)