

## **VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF INDIAN STUDIES, MYSORE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING LAUNCH OF COURSE**

Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement is NGO striving to serve the nation constructively in the fields of health, Education and community Development. In the past one year it has started a new initiative, the Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies (VIIS) for the study, documentation and promotion of Indian art, culture and heritage, and provide for a foundation of values for development initiatives. This Institute provides support for **Study Abroad Program** of various Universities from Canada and USA.

#### **Study Abroad Program for Iowa University**

VIIS conducts a composite course centred upon Indian culture and civilization for the University of Iowa (USA) as part of the Study Abroad Program in South India. This course has been running every year since 1998 for the Fall Semester commencing in mid-August upto mid-December, the exact dates varying by a few days according to the arrival of the students from USA.

About 20-25 Students from Iowa University, Syracuse University and some other Universities have been regularly taking up these courses every year and receive academic credits from University of Iowa based upon examinations/evaluations and grading awarded by faculty at VIIS, Mysore and University of Iowa.

**The course is open for Indian Students from this year onwards.**

#### **Course details**

The following subjects are offered for the course:

- Indian Culture and Civilization (mandatory)
- Science, Technology & Sustainable Development (elective)
- Women and Gender in Indian Society (elective)
- Environment & Health (elective)

The course program consists of the following phases:

- Academic phase                      6 weeks
- 'Explore India' phase                2 to 3 weeks
- Internship phase                      4 weeks
- Evaluation                              1 week

Besides the academic subjects, students are offered classes in traditional dance, Carnatic music, yoga, languages (Sanskrit, Hindi or Kannada) and cooking.

The initial **Academic phase** includes lectures by eminent faculty, site visits including a 7-days visit to ancient archaeological sites in north Karnataka, documentary film viewing and panel discussions. All elective subjects are focussed on India but within the international context.

The "**Explore India**" phase allows students to visit other parts of India on their own according to their interest.

The **Internship phase** provides an opportunity for the students to work with selected NGOs in or near Mysore, or undertake study or research of a selected subject, according to their area of interest as stimulated by the subjects during the Course. At the end of the Internship phase, they are expected to submit a written project singly or jointly, or perform the skill or art that they have imbibed from the internship.

Details of the Course are available at University of Iowa website:

<http://international.uiowa.edu/study-abroad/programs/crsprgdetail.asp?s=20093&pID=80&cID=59&c=Academic&Crumb=123>

### **What the Course offers**

The course offers an excellent opportunity to understand the rich culture and heritage of India, visit many heritage centres and learn from reputed scholars in a spirit of appreciative inquiry

The Gender, Science-Technology and Health-Environment courses offer an overview of the contemporary India set in the background of this Cultural legacy, and also contextualise it to the present day global scenario.

The opportunity offers fresh insights and new perspectives, and encourages discussion and questions that add to the quality of learning and instruction. The interaction with fellow students from USA brings an element of direct international contact that widens the intellectual horizons of both Indian and US students. Indian students are invited to join the course and participate in the Academic phase and, if desirous, in the subsequent phases also.

### **Qualifications and participation**

Indian candidates need to have

- Motivation to learn about Indian culture and civilization (the core subject) from ancient times upto the present day (as in the elective subjects) in a form not available in any Indian university.
- Good written and spoken fluency in the English language.
- Completed PUC or 10+2 course

Indian students will have to necessarily participate in all lectures, panel discussions, documentary film shows and site visits of the Academic phase. They are encouraged to take up residential accommodation at VIIS alongside the students from USA, but special cases may be permitted to live with relatives or friends in Mysore provided they undertake to make their own arrangements to commute to VIIS in time to attend all academic commitments.

On completion of the Course, Indian students will be given a Certificate of Attendance for the Course which is approved by the University of Iowa, USA.

### **Vacancies**

Two seats are open for direct admission for Indian Students for the year 2009. Admission will be offered to Indian students on first-come-first-served basis.

### **Course Fees**

The course fee including academic expenses, accommodation, food and basic exposure visits is **Rs.90,000.**

### **How to enrol**

Indian students desirous to participate in the Course and who satisfy the necessary criteria mentioned above, may apply in their own handwriting before **31 May 2009**, clearly stating their personal reasons and motivation for wanting to attend the Course offered and undertaking to participate in all activities of the Academic phase and, if desirous, in the "Explore India" and Internship phases.

**For further details, communicate with:**

Dr. M.S.Nagaraja Rao (Program Director) or  
Ms. Sindhu Suresh (Program Coordinator)

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