

India Winterim Conduct Agreement for Students

Overview:

Successful program participation requires a commitment to behavior that is representative of the standards set in the [UI Code of Student Life](#) and respectful of the local culture. Respectful interactions are expected with local hosts, lodging staff, faculty, and fellow participants.

Short-term programs are typically not long enough to integrate fully into the host culture or gain in-depth cultural insight. While you will have opportunities to experience local customs and social norms, you may not fully understand what you are seeing and experiencing. As a visiting observer and learner, you are expected to follow local laws and suspend judgement of local social norms during your learning process. At times, your cultural values may be challenged by this experience. You are encouraged to ask questions of program leaders and hosts, both during the program and after you return to Iowa, for help processing and learning from your experiences.

Disciplinary Action:

The [UI Code of Student Life](#) is in effect for the duration of the program. Students on current disciplinary or academic probation are not eligible for study abroad. The eligibility of students with past disciplinary histories is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Behaviors that cause a concern for the wellbeing or safety of program participants or hosts may lead to dismissal from the program.

Local Laws:

Students abroad are subject to the laws of their host country. Ignorance of the law does not justify breaking the law. If you break local laws, your program provider, local embassy and family will be very limited in the support they can provide to help you navigate your legal situation.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug use:

The drinking age can [vary between 18-25 in India depending on the kind of drink and the state](#). In some Indian states all alcohol consumption is illegal. When in doubt about the legality or appropriateness of drinking, do not drink. You may consult your program leader for alcohol policy information specific to your program site. You will be participating in an intensive program and *representing the University of Iowa* for the duration of your time in India.

Binge drinking of alcohol and illegal drug use are unacceptable behaviors here as well as abroad, and therefore grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. Any kind of drinking that interferes with your ability to participate in course activities will be grounds for disciplinary action.

No alcohol will be served and no alcohol should be consumed during scheduled program activities, including meals scheduled for the group. No alcohol may be kept or consumed in hotel rooms, lobbies, or other public areas where food is not served.

We ask that you refrain from smoking inside hotel rooms and during program activities. Women who smoke in public may attract unwanted attention, as they may be perceived to be promiscuous in Indian culture.

Animals:

Give animals on the street a wide berth. Animals you may see on the street, including dogs and monkeys, can carry rabies. Avoid petting or otherwise interacting directly with animals you encounter.

Cohabitation:

Local hotel policies, social norms and laws may prohibit cohabitation for opposite sex unmarried men and women. Passport information may be collected by your hotel. Housing assignments will be based on the male/female designation indicated in your passport. Consult your study abroad advisor if you have questions or concerns about gender-based housing assignments. While there is limited hotel space, every effort will be made to place you in a lodging situation that is both comfortable for you and respectful of hotel policy and local social norms.

Clothing:

Do not wear shorts or flip-flops during the program. In general, dress for business casual in a hot climate. Slip-on shoes will be more protective of your feet than sandals, and more appropriate in some environments. Closed toe shoes are typical in work environments, especially for men.

Conservative clothing that will cover your upper arms, legs, back and chest is advised. A dupatta (scarf) is traditional in Northern India for women. You will see saris worn in Southern India. While you may have opportunities to purchase and wear local clothing styles during your visit, modest Western attire is also appropriate for international visitors on this program.

Your program leader may communicate additional expectations for appropriate attire in the locations you will visit.

Free Time:

Most of your time during this intensive program will be structured time. Refer to your program itinerary for guidance regarding when you will have free time, and appropriate activities you might choose during that time.

You are traveling as part of a group and the expectation is that you will not venture out alone. If you do leave the hotel during free time, inform your program leader of your plans and go with a small group of other program participants. A log in / log out sheet may be provided in your hotel lobby for this purpose. Be aware of curfew times for your hotel (if any).

If your faculty leader gives you permission to be out with a small group (e.g. for a meal in a nearby restaurant), keep contact information and a means of communication with you and know how to reach your program leader in an emergency.

Independent Travel:

Students are expected to arrive and depart with the group. Arriving early or staying late for independent travel in India is not allowed. Rare exceptions will be made only for students with relatives in India who request special consideration from their study abroad advisor prior to departure.

Social Media:

For the safety and protection of the group, program itineraries are not posted on the program webpage or anywhere else on the Internet. Participants are asked not to share current or future group locations or itinerary plans via social media. Posting information and photos of past activities is allowed. Avoid

sharing specific locations in all social media posts for the duration of the program. You will have plenty of time to share your experiences once the program ends.

Swimming:

Follow instructions from program staff and knowledgeable hosts regarding where it is/isn't safe or appropriate to swim. Don't enter water without checking with your program leader first to determine if it is advisable.

Be careful near the ocean. Riptides are possible and warning signs in English may not be posted. Watch for floating trash in the water or on the beach.

Watch for stinging/biting ocean animals.

Indian women tend to cover up in beach areas. Students are encouraged to dress conservatively in beach areas, too.

Transportation:

Students may not drive any kind of motorized vehicle for the duration of the program. Riding on motorcycles, riding in the back of pickup trucks, or hanging on to the top or side of moving vehicles is prohibited. Buses with seatbelts will be used during group travel between cities. During any kind of transport, you are asked to make use of seatbelts whenever possible.

Acceptance of Conduct Agreement

I have read and agree to abide by the terms of conduct described in this conduct agreement. I recognize and accept that not abiding by these terms could be grounds for disciplinary action per University of Iowa policy, including dismissal from the program at the discretion of the program faculty and staff, and full forfeiture of all course fees and administrative fees related my enrollment in the India Winterim program.

Student Name

UID Number

Date