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UNIVERSITY 392: International Experience Course Proposal for Summer 2018 - Jan 2019

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UNIV 392 Course Proposal for UNIV392: BIOTECHNOLOGY IN INDIA

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UNIVERSITY 392: International Experience Course Proposal

Lead Instructor	Nitika Parmar
Lead Instructor Email	nitika.parmar@csuci.edu
Lead Instructor Rank	Professor
Co-instructor(s)	—
Co-instructor Rank	Lecturer
Academic area(s) of the faculty proposing course	BIOLOGY
Program Chair	nancy.mozingo
Dean	james.meriwether
Travel location(s)	INDIA
Dates of trip	12/26/18- 01/16/19
Course Title	UNIV392: BIOTECHNOLOGY IN INDIA
Number of Units	3
Proposed minimum enrollment	12
Proposed maximum enrollment	14

Will this course be offered during a special session?	No
Are there any travel warnings for your destination?	No
Have you offered this program before?	Yes
If so, when was the last time?	FALL 2016

If you have taught this program before, did you stay within budget? If not, please describe how much you were over budget and why.	—
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The CIA is able to transfer 3 WTUs to a limited number of programs that have faculty offering UNIV 392s (currently only 6 units total are available). Is the offering of your potential UNIV 392 dependent on this external program support?	No
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1. What is your own linguistic, cultural, and/or academic experience with the travel study destination? If you have limited experience with the destination, explain how you plan to maximize student safety (for instance, will you be using a local tour company or tour guide?) If applicable, also explain the role of the co-instructor and their own linguistic, cultural, and/or academic experience with the travel study destination.

I am from India and have spent the first 28 years of my life there. I am fully conversant with the culture, language, food, transportation and lodging arrangements. I have traveled to the sites mentioned in this proposal (New Delhi, Agra, Mumbai, Jaipur and Chandigarh). I am conversant with a lot of educational and research institutions and am very comfortable navigating in the country. I have established contacts with an excellent travel agency (CREATIVE TRAVELS) which will be making majority of the travel arrangements. I availed of this travel agency for the UNIV392 course that I taught earlier. I was extremely pleased by the services offered by this travel agency as the arrangements made were superior, safe and highly organized. Since all student travel will be pre-arranged, safety is maximized as students will be staying in hotels and travelling via agency approved transportation.

2. Previous experience leading groups of students (nationally or

I took a group of 12 students to India in December 2016 (winter break) for a UNIV392 course that I taught in Fall, 2016. Previous to that I took a similar group to India thrice for the same course The visits went very well and students gained valuable experience from this trip with regard to biotechnology practices in India. We visited a large number of biotechnology departments in the top research institutes and universities of India. The student feedback received from these trips as well as a large number of

internationally). If applicable, also explain co-instructor's previous experiences in this regard.

students inquiring from me about future offerings has motivated me to apply for this again. There is a lot of interest among the students and this has been quite well received by students from all disciplines, not only the Biology majors. Some students could not avail of this opportunity previously when it was offered and are earnest to enroll in this now, if offered.

In addition to this international trip, I have also taken students to local trips in the LA and Ventura counties.

I have received extensive training in the area of biotechnology and have been teaching in this area for the past 18 years. I have conducted research in this field for the past 25 years. My research training has encompassed a variety of specializations within the large umbrella of biotechnology such as plant and animal biotechnology, environmental biotechnology and industrial biotechnology. I will be providing all the teaching and will play an active role during all aspects of this course as outlined below:

1. BEFORE the study abroad experience: This course will be taught for the entire Fall, 2018 semester. Typically, the class is taught once a week for 3 hours per week. We meet every week before the trip during to discuss various aspects of India such as the sciences, education system, culture, travel, food, safety, etc. We will have four orientation sessions before the trip where extensive information about India is given to the students in person. I also administer student assignments before the trip and mandate student presentations as well, in order to get students acclimated to Indian research and cultural systems. Students are required to make two presentations before the trip- one activity requires them to explore a biotechnology research lab from an institute that we intend visiting during the trip and a second activity requires them to explore a cultural aspect of India and present their findings. Both activities have required students to conduct some background work on India before they undertake the trip. Students are also graded for their participation in class- this gives students opportunities before the trip to gel with each other and work together as a team and also enables me to observe the personalities of the students in terms of their attitudes, enthusiasm and participation. In order to give the students a feel for Indian culture, traditions and food, I take them on a field trip to Little India (Artesia, CA) for a 3-4 hour outing. This is normally done outside of our class time during the weekend. Although the contact hours are 3 hours per week for 15 weeks, I often meet with students in my office outside of the class time to answer their questions as well. I also invest time in advertising this course, soliciting and reviewing applications, recruiting students, holding interviews and making final selections. For the fall offerings this was done in late summer but for a spring offering, this will be done in mid-late Fall. I spend a significant amount of time during the semester (and prior to it) contacting the travel agencies, research scientists and the visa office in San Francisco to work out logistics and finalize all arrangements.

3. CIA expects that the lead faculty member plays an active role during the course (engaging and participating in activities with students), and providing expertise on

2. DURING the trip: I am continuously present with the students during the entire trip. This involves staying with them in the same hotel, having meals together, travelling together and visiting all research and cultural institutes together. During this period I extensively give information to the students

his/her area of research/teaching during the course. What role will you play before, during, and after the study abroad experience? How are you going to integrate your expertise and experience in this course? Will you be providing all the teaching? If a third party educational provider is employed, what will be your role? Please, be specific and describe your level of engagement throughout the process.

about the practices in India as we observe them on a daily basis- these "talks" and conversations are held almost everywhere- a hotel lobby, on a bus ride, waiting in line at a restaurant, seated in a conference room at a university and even at a shopping center. I believe these conversations offer students a rich experiential learning experience. During the visits to the research labs, I tend to involve students in interactions with the scientists and students alike and encourage them to ask questions and take comprehensive notes (both graded activities). In addition, as the science is being discussed in a lab I talk to students about how similar projects are being undertaken in labs across USA and even at CI, although the approach may be different. During the trip I also ensure that each student is healthy and not feeling sick- this involves forming a buddy system and teams whereby I am kept aware of any issues related to health through a close-knit network. At the end of the day I check on each student and ensure that they are provided adequate medical care/medication if they are experiencing any symptoms of an oncoming illness. So far, the illnesses have been minor such as colds, headache and upset stomach and did not require any visits to a doctor or a hospital.

3. AFTER the trip: After the trip concludes, I will administer three quizzes (focusing on biotechnology, culture and traditions respectively) and the students are required to submit these by a due date. Students are also required to maintain a journal during the trip which is also required to be turned in. All these assignments are graded and students are aware of these requirements as indicated in the syllabus. As a culmination the "final exam" will consist of both poster and oral presentations during the end part of the semester. In addition to presentations in the class, students will also be required to present their posters to the CI community. In previous years, I have collaborated with three other faculty who took students for study abroad trips in the winter break and we all get together to present the international experiences in a social gathering held in the library during April where we have food and students share their highlights via posters. In addition, I also have my students present posters at the CI Sage conference held in May in the library. I also request students to provide feedback about their trip (as required by CIA and IRA). Finally as a personal gesture I tend to invite all students for dinner at my home where we have a huge Indian feast and watch all the pictures/videos that we took during the trip.

Integration of my research/expertise in this course: Since my area of specialization is Biotechnology, the course explores various aspects of biotechnology in India (and hence entitled such). My specific area of research is cancer biology and I tend to visit at least 3-4 labs in India which are conducting cancer research. I discuss how research at CI can also align with research in Indian universities and we discuss potential for collaborations. I also invite students to visit my research lab at CI as a means of integration. Although this is not mandatory for the students, several students have discussed their interest in my research program and after the trip has concluded (and they have a better feel for research) several have approached me inquiring about openings in my lab for student researchers. I am happy to say that I have recruited a number of students in my lab from both of the UNIV392 classes that I taught. These students expressed a strong desire to

Syllabus

pursue research after their visit to India and this was very gratifying for me.

[PARMARFall2018UNIV392CourseSyllabus.pdf](#)

- Understand the concepts of biotechnology as practiced in India
- Explain the theory and practice of a variety of experimental techniques as practiced in India
- Demonstrate their ability to explore and appreciate the diverse nature of India's culture, traditions and history
- Integrate content, ideas, and approaches from multicultural and international perspectives

Yes, this course does align with the university mission pillars- specifically the pillars of integrative, multicultural and international perspectives. Their integration into the course is as follows:

INTERNATIONAL: This is an international trip to India and hence it will provide students with experiential learning in a foreign country.

MULTICULTURAL: Students will be able to experience Indian culture first-hand and will get plenty of opportunity to explore Indian culture via visits to cultural sites, museums, shows and heritage sites.

INTEGRATIVE: Students will be able to experience biotechnology practices from a variety of disciplines, particularly at the Environmental Biotechnology retreat (at the Ecovillage). The biotech practices utilized at this Ecovillage integrate modern biotech techniques with traditional methods relying on sustainable living and will provide an excellent opportunity to the students to view the blend of the new with the old. Based on the previous trips, students have come back to USA with renewed vigor to engage in research and hence this course also exposes students to research directly and provides insights into the benefits of conducting research.

Itinerary

[ParmarUNIV392Winter2018Itinerary.pdf](#)

The trip to India will involve visits to top scientific institutions where students will get to see various advancements in the area of basic and applied biotechnology, thus aligning with the first two learning outcomes. Students will be required to conduct background research on these institutions while in USA in order to prepare themselves and be ready with pertinent inquiries. Students will be conversing with the scientists and students to understand the experimental technologies as are adopted there. The itinerary will involve a visit to ten different scientific research institutes and universities; additionally a major element will be a visit to the Govardhan Ecovillage for the environmental biotechnology retreat. The itinerary also includes visits to sites to gain insights into the cultures and traditions of India. A total of 10 research institutions will be visited for educational purposes and several monuments will also be visited such as museums, art galleries, temples and palaces. These visits will align with learning outcomes 3 and 4. Students will be required to take extensive notes on these visits and make entries into their journals at the end of each day thus producing a reflection of their experiences as pertinent to Indian culture and scientific advancements.

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List all student learning outcomes for this course

Does this course include any other high-impact practice or other mission pillars (student research, service learning, interdisciplinary, etc.). If so, explain how they are integrated

Explain how the itinerary and course activities align with the course student learning outcomes

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For 3 unit courses, explain how the itinerary and course activities meet the university multicultural graduation requirement and align with the course objectives.

This course meets CI's multicultural graduation requirement. This course has activities built into it that will allow the students to get exposure to a diverse range of work in Indian art, literature, language, and culture and enable them to express intellectual and emotional responses and make pertinent evaluations. There will be plenty of opportunity to explore Indian art, music, traditions, architecture and traditions and this will provide students a strong platform to experience Indian culture on a first-hand basis.

Orientation Outline

[ParmarUNIV392ORIENTATIONSESSIONSFall2018.pdf](#)

How will students be recruited? Regular CI students should have at least one recommendation from a faculty member other than the teacher for the overseas course

Advertisement of the course will be done through flyers and posters across campus, through information sessions presented at Student Clubs as well as at the LSAMP meetings as well as campus wide announcements via program coordinators. The course will be advertised in spring 2018. Interested students will be required to complete an application form and provide at least two letters of recommendation from CI faculty, excluding the instructor for this course. The application will primarily provide me insights into students' academic preparation, their level of confidence and expectations as well as their motivation for this course. The recommendation letters will provide useful feedback about students' potential and skills. Subsequently, students will be invited for an interview following which I will select a maximum of 14 students for the course and the overseas trip. Students will be informed of their acceptance into the course before week 2 of the fall semester.

For whom is the course designed (CI undergraduate students, CI graduate students, students with a certain program area, open university students, others)? Will there be any priority order when accepting students to the program?

The course is open to all undergraduate students of all majors. Students who have previously visited India via UNIV392 courses will not be considered. In addition, as per IRA guidelines students who have been funded by previous IRA funds will also not be considered. The purpose will be to give as many students as possible an opportunity to visit India who have not undertaken major international travel.

Information about the course will be sent to all students through a variety of advertising means as explained in # 1 above. Students will be able to download an application form which will require them to provide a number of supplemental documents including transcripts, statement of purpose and recommendation letters. The application will require students' to answer questions related to biotechnology as well as personal interests with regard to

How will students be selected? How are you going to ensure that this

opportunity is available to as many students as possible?

Will your travel arrangements (e.g., accommodations, meals, excursions, airfare) be managed by an independent provider (e.g., AIFS, CEA, ISA, Australearn), a foreign university, or a travel agent? Please explain

Housing: where will be the students stay during the study abroad experience? If staying with host families, are meals included?

Meals: Are meals arranged for the students? If not, where can students find their own food?

Transportation: What are the transportation arrangements for the trip?

international travel. The recommendation letters will provide useful feedback about students' potential and skills. Subsequently, students who satisfy all criteria will be invited for an in-person interview in my office following which I will finalize a maximum of 14 students for the course and the overseas trip. Students will be informed about their acceptance into the course in December itself thus giving them enough time to enroll in the course.

The majority of the travel arrangements will be made by Creative Travels (<http://www.creative.travel/welcome.htm>), a highly reputed and well established travel agency in India. This arrangement will include accommodations at hotels, transfers from airport to hotels, ground transportation to research institutions, travel by private bus, excursions, tours and cultural trips. The agency will also arrange for entrance fees to the cultural sites.

For the Govardhan Ecovillage retreat, all arrangements (accommodation, ground transportation and workshop/activities) will be made by the Ecovillage itself.

I have availed of these travel arrangements before and am very satisfied with the level of service that they provide.

Students will be staying in 4-5 star hotels during the entire length of their trip (the travel agencies get excellent discounts from them and these provide a high level of security). Hotels are chosen by the travel agency based on their comfort level, security and price. The travel agency will arrange for the hotel accommodation for the majority of the trip except for Govardhan Ecovillage where we will be coordinating the retreat logistics with the Ecovillage directly for accommodation, workshops, activities and transport. In the hotels students will be required to share hotel rooms on a twin basis (2 students per room). Accommodation in the Govardhan Ecovillage will be on the basis of twin or triple sharing depending on the room size.

All breakfasts will be taken at the hotel where we will be staying. One aspect of this trip is to also experience the cuisine of India and for this purpose students will be eating at local restaurants and cafeterias. India is abounding with restaurants catering to all palates and all hotels have plenty of eateries within walking distance. For lunch and dinner students will avail of local eateries close to the sites we are visiting on a particular day. Students will be taking group meals most of the time and we intend to all dine together in the same eatery.

In the Ecovillage, students will be taking meals within the village itself, as part of the retreat.

Flights to and from India will utilize international carriers and will be booked by CSUCI using CSU contracted services (CSU Travel Store) for air booking. In India, travel arrangements will be made by the travel agency and will include the following:

- a. Transfers between airport and hotels - via private bus
- b. Transportation for visiting the scientific institutions and cultural sites (this will be local travel) - via private bus
- c. Journey from New Delhi to Mumbai and Mumbai to Chandigarh: By air (national air carriers)

If traveling from location to location, what means of transportation will be used?

- d. Journey from Mumbai to Ecovillage: By private bus (2.5 hours journey)
- e. Journey from Chandigarh to New Delhi: By train
- f. Journey from Delhi to Jaipur and back: By train

Note: Students will be required to undertake the journey from CSUCI/their homes to LAX and back on their own. This is being proposed to save on costs. Typically parents like to drop them off at the airport. In the event that surplus money is left in our budget, a roadrunner shuttle may be availed of.

No travel warnings have been issued by the Department of State for travel to India currently. I will make it mandatory for all students to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) offered by the US Department of State. All students will be required to enroll in this program prior to travel. Politically, India is not going through a period of unrest and no security threats have been cited.

From the US Department of State: "India, the world's largest democracy, has a very diverse population, geography, and climate. India is the world's second most populous country, and the world's seventh largest country in area. Tourist facilities offer varying degrees of comfort. Amenities are widely available in large cities and tourist areas."

Language: The medium of instruction in India is pre-dominantly English and travelers to all major cities do not experience any language barriers.

Security: Travel in India will be done as a group and students will not be allowed to travel anywhere (including local restaurants) on their own. The entire cohort will travel as a group throughout the trip. For students interested in exploring additional aspects of India during free time, the instructor will always accompany them. The following guidelines are expected to be followed:

Safety/security: Please give a brief synopsis of the status of the security of the country, both politically and medically, as obtained from the Department of State.

- a. Students will be required to return back to their hotels no later than 11p.m. during the entire trip. Student teams comprising of women only will not be allowed to travel on their own without an accompanying male student and instructor.
- b. Students will be encouraged to respect local customs and dress. Conservative dressing is encouraged.
- c. Students will be encouraged not to carry too much cash while shopping. Passports and important documents will be deposited in the safety deposit boxes at the hotels while students go shopping.
- d. Students will be provided information about local police stations and emergency personnel before embarking on a local trip.
- e. Students will be given a comprehensive emergency action plan.

I carry a binder with me which has information about all students such copies of their passports and visas, copies of the insurance cards, emergency contact numbers, etc.

Medical: Medical care in the major population centers (such as the ones listed in this proposal) approaches and meets Western standards. Top class hospitals

provide ample care and services although they expect cash payment for their services. Private clinics are open until late in the evenings. Ambulances (both private and government) are available. Students will be provided information about vaccinations that are required before travel during the pre-trip orientation and will also carry routine medication with them for small ailments such as fever, headache, diarrhea, etc. Preventive medication for malaria will also be carried.

Communication: Although telephone calls can be made locally from telephone booths, these can be inconvenient and expensive. I intend to buy a cell phone for myself. Students will have the option of buying a pre-paid India SIM card for their existing phones which can be used with international cell phone models so that students can communicate with each other as well as with me on a regular basis. The exact need and type of card needed will depend on students' individual cell phones and will be discussed during the pre-trip orientation. I will be available 24/7 for the students via cell phone.

**Emergency Plan
Budget**

[ParmarUNIV392EAPFall2018.pdf](#)

[PARMARFall2018UNIV392BUDGET.xlsx](#)

Divide the overall cost of the trip (excluding tuition) and divide it by number of students and by the number of days (including departure and arrival dates). Write cost per student per day here:

153

Additional Supporting Information

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Additional Supporting Document #1

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Additional Supporting Document #2

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Additional Supporting Document #3

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Additional Supporting Document #4

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Additional Supporting Document #5

—

I have read the guidelines for teaching a UNIV 392 course and I agree to follow them

true

I agree to conduct at least one pre-departure meeting, in coordination with International Office staff, to cover Safety and Risk Management issues and

true

required CSU forms	
I understand the travel-study student evaluation process is mandatory and agree to participate	true
I have included in this application my UNIV 392 course syllabus	true
I have included in this application my outline of orientation session(s)	true
I have included in this application the course itinerary	true
I have included my UNIV 392 budget sheet	true
I agree to comply with the budget proposed in my application and not incur expenses beyond the budget approved by CIA and IRA	true
I will be using a third-party vendor and have read EOs 1080 and 1081. I have provided the written agreement in this application	false

Program Chair Approval

I have read the Faculty Application and discussed the course offering with the faculty member	true
I certify that course of study is within the applicant's field of competence	true
I agree that the student learning objectives for the course can be met within the travel-study format, including appropriate pre- and post-trip meetings	true
I approve the offering of this course abroad	true
If the course is not taught through Extended University (i.e., it is considered a state-side course), I understand that the Program will have to make the necessary arrangements to accommodate the units of this course within the faculty's teaching load. The Center for International Affairs has very limited funding to offer re-assigned time to the program to help defray the cost of teaching a UNIV 392 but this funding is competitive and not guaranteed	true
I agree my program is responsible for any expense incurred beyond the allocated budget (travel fees+IRA funds, if applicable)	true

Name

Nancy Mozingo

9/20/2017

Date/Time

9:30:45

PM

Validation

myCI-
signin-
BM-0601

CIA Approval

I have reviewed the travel arrangements proposed for this study abroad course and find the arrangements to be appropriate. Staff have also discussed the requirements specified in Chancellor's Office Executive Order 715 with the faculty member, and have advised him/her of the requirements that must be followed when offering this course in another country. true

The University acknowledges that the above program has been reviewed by the sponsoring Academic Area and staff and that the faculty member has been given policies and procedures related to short-term study abroad courses. The University will support this program as long as enrollments, other financial conditions, and related course costs are deemed appropriate. The University reserves the right to modify arrangements, in consultation with the Center for International Affairs and the sponsoring academic area. true

I have verified that there are no Department of State Travel warnings currently in effect for the countries to be visited. true

Center for International Affairs Decision

I approve the
Chair's
recommendation

Name

Andrea Grove

Date/Time

9/22/2017
12:54:07 PM

Validation

myCI-signin-
RC-0464

Comments

—

Dean Approval

Approval I approve this course

Name James Meriwether

Date/Time 9/24/2017 2:35:54 PM

Validation myCI-signin-KM-8941

Comments —

Senior International Officer Approval

Approval —

Name —

Date/Time —

Validation —
Comments —

Provost Approval

Approval —
Name —
Date/Time —
Validation —
Comments —

President's Office Approval

Approval —
Name —
Date/Time —
Validation —
Comments —

Current Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Assigned To
Approval from Senior International Officer	9/24/2017 2:35:54 PM	Mayumi Kowta

Completed Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Time Completed	Completed By
Approval from james.meriwether, Dean	9/22/2017 12:54:07 PM	9/24/2017 2:35:54 PM	James Meriwether
Evaluation	9/20/2017 9:30:45 PM	9/21/2017 12:51:48 PM	Antonio Jiménez-Jiménez
Approval from CIA	9/20/2017 9:30:45 PM	9/22/2017 12:54:07 PM	Andrea Grove
Approval from Chair	9/14/2017 9:29:04 PM	9/20/2017 9:30:45 PM	Nancy Mozingo
Fill out Request	9/10/2017 6:35:18 PM	9/14/2017 9:29:04 PM	Nitika Parmar

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