



Fachbereich Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften Nürnberg FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

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| Angaben zum Auslandsaufenthalt | |
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| Studiengang an der WiSo: | International Information Systems M. Sc. |
| Gastuniversität: | International Institute of Management Indore |
| Gastland: | Indien |
| Studiengang an der Gastuniversität: | PGP Program (Master in Management) |
| Aufenthaltszeitraum (Semester und Jahr): | Dez. 2022 – Mrz. 2023 |
| Darf der Bericht veröffentlicht werden?* | (Nicht zutreffendes löschen) JA |

*Veröffentlichung unter: <http://ib.wiso.fau.de/outgo/partneruniversitaeten/>

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1. Preparation

There are less things that you need to prepare for than I thought. Important are vaccinations for India (just consult your doctor), a Visa card to get cash (I can recommend DKB, more in "Payment") and a travel insurance to cover medical costs.

Additionally, there are some things that can help: Bring some more passport photos, you will need them from time to time. Bring sunscreen since it is difficult to get in India. And a lot of patience, you will need it for sure.

2. Visa

As a student, I had to apply for a student visa. For this I needed to present a invitation letter from the Indian university where I was going to study abroad. The student visa could be obtained online and in person at the embassy. However, by the time the Indian university send me the invitation letter all appointments in person were already booked out, so I had to go with the online workflow. After applying online, I send a letter with my passport and the other required documents to the visa application centre. This was a little scary at first because I didn't really trust the German postal system with my passport. But since there was no other way, I had to rely on them and in the end, all worked out. In the letter I also send another envelope addressed to me with enough stamps for a "Einschreiben" so the embassy could send the passport with the visa back to me.

There are several centres in Germany, the one responsible for me was in Munich. One thing to consider is that the photos for the visa have a special format. To get them you can go to a specialized photographer to get the right dimensions. A student visa costs around seventy euros, including the shipping fees. Generally, it takes about two weeks to obtain a visa.

Be aware that if you wish to extend your visa, you must do so at least one month in advance or leave the country and apply for a tourist visa

3. Accomodation in the dorm

As I was directly housed on the campus, I didn't have to do any research beforehand. Together with the 11 other exchange students I was staying in a student residence. The student residence was one of the fancier ones (for Indian standards). It is usually reserved for the PhD students and disabled people.

Most of us including me had to share our rooms with one other exchange student. However, some of us randomly got a single room or complained to the hostel office



and

got a single room afterwards. The rooms also had an attached bathroom with toilet.

The other Indian master students had single rooms but only one or two bathrooms per floor. Also, their building was older.

For the three-month exchange, the price was 35,000 rupees, including a 5,000 rupee deposit, which is about 400 euros in total. Payment could be made in cash, but the administrative procedures for doing so were quite tedious.

4. International office / registration

We had an international office with two employees which were responsible for only 12 exchange students. This made all administrative procedures quite easy, however sometimes things took their time.

The initial registration at IIM Indore was just a longer appointment with one of the international office employees. After filling some forms everything was done.

Unlike at FAU, many administrative things are done through shared Google Drive and Google Docs. In addition, we also had to join WhatsApp groups for each course we took, as assistants posted updates on the course (absences, deadline extensions, etc.).

5. Lectures

The list of courses that we could choose from arrived only some weeks before leaving for India. This made it very difficult to find learning agreements for the subjects. However, I can only recommend to stay calm and wait, it all works out in the end.

I chose three lectures: Mithila arts for managers, data visualisation and start up. All were really interesting and good. Especially Mithila arts for managers was something different. This is an Indian painting art, which is taught for relaxation during the stressful life as a manager. From lecture one on we were painting in class. The teacher was very enthusiastic but also demanding. In the end she facilitated an exhibition with the best paintings.

Most other courses were based on lectures with cases to be prepared in advance alone or in groups. Oral participation was often graded. Other evaluations were left to the discretion of the professors and could take the form of cases to be submitted, written exams, or presentations in class. Also missing in more than 80% of the classes would cause grade deductions.

In general, the professors were very attentive and available to answer our questions or help us in any way. We could contact them by email or WhatsApp without any problem.

6. Language courses



There were no language courses offered at IIM Indore.

7. Living in India

I arrived in India at the beginning of winter, in Indore (December). Generally, temperatures range from 20-25 degrees Celsius during the day and can drop to 10 degrees Celsius at night. It only rained one or two times during my exchange, most of the time it was sunny.

On my campus, Indian students had a different schedule from ours: they stayed up very late, until 4-5am and woke up around 3pm if they didn't have classes. So, it was completely normal to plan group work sessions at 1 or 2am. A night mess was open until 4am where you could order food from a menu. When we went there after midnight, it felt like it was only 8pm as the tables were full, there was music, and a lot of activity.

Regarding food, you have to get used to eating spicy food in general. It is possible to find less spicy food, but even when you ask for a dish that is not spicy, it will still have a slightly spicy taste. In Madhya Pradesh, the state where I was residing, foreign food was hard to find, such as cheese, beef, or certain types of fish. However, for vegetarians, there was a wide variety of dishes available. Moreover, it was quite difficult to eat a balanced diet on campus because most Indian dishes are served with gravy sauce and naan bread. Preparing our own food was not an option because we had no kitchen. Finally, you have to be careful about what you eat or drink because it can happen that you get sick, even when eating at the campus canteens.

The campus was quite far from the city, so we often used auto-rickshaws that we stopped on the side of the road or the Ola app to get there. In the city of Indore there is not much to see except for some shopping malls. However, there are many lovely destinations around like waterfalls and temples. Most of them can be reached within one hour of traveling. Sometimes I rented out a scooter or a bike to get there. For this kind of trips you have to get used to Indian traffic, but once you get it gives you much more freedom. I also tried the metro in India during my travels, which was very clean and affordable.

For leisure, the campus was very lively with many events organized (prom night, sports tournaments, section war...) where it was easy to meet people. It also had many facilities for practicing sports and several parks for walking, including a meditation garden. Finally, for studying, we could go to the large library.

IIM Indore seems to be very popular with French universities. Most of the other exchange students were French (10 out of 12). Thus, you will get two exchanges in one.

For traveling, we took night buses that allowed us to cover long distances without losing too much time. Most of them had beds and were very affordable. The train could also have been an option, but it required booking well in advance. If the distances were too great, we took the plane.



8. Payments and telecommunications

In India, the main ways of payment are cash or payment applications such as Paytm or GooglePay, payment by credit card is rarely possible. Since I couldn't open an Indian bank account, I didn't have access to payment applications. The easiest way is to have a credit card that allows you to withdraw cash as many times as you want without fees. I chose the DKB card, which worked fine.

However, sometimes you have to be careful because depending on the Indian bank, fees may be added on their side. Usually this is indicated on the screen during the withdrawal. SBI bank and Bank of India ATMs can be found almost everywhere and work reliably without fees.

An SBI ATM can be found on campus as well. However, they mostly dispense 500 rupee bills, which are very difficult to pay with since nobody has much change. In this case I often asked an Indian friend to pay for me online and I would give them the cash later on.

Buying a SIM card in India costs around 5 euros. I took a prepaid card that I recharged either by going to an Airtel operator store or by paying somebody in cash to recharge my plan using their payment application. Plans are very cheap in India and always include internet. For three months of unlimited calls and texts and 1.5 GB of internet per day, I paid 1700 rupees, which is about 20 euros.

9. Cost of living

Cost of living is very cheap in India. An average meal is about 1-2 euros. A 45 minute rickshaw ride in Indore is 5 euros and a tea 15 cents. I got a PROMOS scholarship of 1050€ total and I could finance most of my stay with this money.

10. Conclusion

If you want to go to India, I can only recommend staying at IIM Indore. Since there are only few exchange students everyone is very close. Also, you get to know Indians quickly, since many want to meet the foreign students. Indore is located in the centre of India you have a good home base to travel in all directions.