

Check list for the Universities offering SIP

The following are some of the matters to be observed while offering Study India Programs (short duration programs).

1. **Familiarity with western education system:** Since students attending these programs (mostly from US, UK and other western countries) want their credits to be transferred to their parent institutions, it is necessary that the faculty offering these programs should have exposure and knowledge of their education system. If not all faculty, at least those who organize the programs should have first-hand knowledge of their educational systems.
2. **Semester system:** Since students attend these programs semester-wise, it is better if the semester system is followed at offering universities. Otherwise special arrangements have to be made by the offering university for these students.
3. **Credit system:** If the offering university follows credit system, it facilitates well. Otherwise faculty organizing these programs should have adequate knowledge in credit system and how the system operates.
4. **Continuous Evaluation:** Most of the SIP students follow continuous evaluation at their universities. Therefore special arrangements may have to be made for their seminars, quizzes, assignments, term-papers, filed reports, internship reports etc.,. Ideally the end course exam should not have more than 50% weightage.
5. **Separate Food and Accommodation arrangements:** Since these students stay for a limited period, there is not enough time for the students to adopt to our food and other habits. Separate arrangements may have to be made for their accommodation and food.
6. **Study Tours:** Since most of the students are attending these programs want "to see India and feel India" there should adequate mechanism to take them to field visits and study tours during week-ends

Once the above requirements are met , the following are to be attended to:

- (i) **Good Brochure and Pamphlets:** A multicolour brochure/ pamphlets highlighting the strong points of the university (which will interest the foreign students) should be brought out. Students are normally interested in courses from Performing Arts (Dance - various Dance forms of India, Music - vocal and instrumental, Theatre arts etc.), Fine Arts (Painting, Sculpture etc.), Folk Culture Studies, or courses from Religion and Philosophy (especially Indian Philosophy), Anthropology, Sociology, History, Political Science, Economics etc.,. It is noticed that very few students opt for science courses.
- (ii) **Dispatch of Publicity material to sponsoring Universities:** Universities to whom an approach is to be made is to be identified. For this purpose, American Universities Book or Commonwealth Universities Book published every year could be perused. Most of the bigger Universities maintain their own Study Abroad Program Offices and it is better to address to them, if possible by name. An Internet search also could be made to locate the universities.

- (iii) **Internet and e-mail facility:** Since most of the correspondence with the universities and students is to be done through e-mail, it is essential that the persons organizing these programs at the offering university have Internet and e-mail facility and also direct telephone facility.
- (iv) **Visit to the university:** Once contact is established with a university, the sponsoring institution send a team to make a visit to the university to see the facilities available for conduct of their programs. The team would stay for few days and make a detailed study - in terms of faculty expertise (sometimes they would like to have detailed discussion with the faculty offering courses under SIP), facilities available in terms of accommodation, food, administrative set up for offering programs etc.,
- (v) **Entering into MOU:** After the team is satisfied with the facilities the sponsoring institution enters an MOU with the offering university with all details clearly written - duration of the program, no. of credits to offered, broad list of courses to be offered, cost of the program and finally how long the MOU would be in operation. Normally, in the first instance, the MOU is entered for three years and thereafter in spells of 5 years.
- (vi) The programs are to be offered as per the terms of MOU each year. There will be effective feedback from the undergoing students which will mostly influence the sponsoring institution about its continuation of the program with the offering university.