

GUIDELINES FOR FIRST STUDY INDIA PROGRAMME (SIP)

1. The first SIP is tentatively scheduled to be held from 25 September-23 October, 2012.
2. Duration of the programme would be for 4 weeks. If there is any change in the above mentioned dates, revised dates would be communicated in due course.
3. The Programme is open to youth of Indian origin in the age group of 18-26 years as on the first day of the month in which the programme commences. It is open to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) (not Non-Resident Indians) from all over the world.
4. The total number of participants in any SIP may not exceed 30 at a time.
5. Minimum educational qualification required for applying is graduation. Those who are studying for graduation may also apply.
6. Selected participants would be required to purchase air ticket for their journey from their country of residence to India and back, as per the schedule prescribed by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the programme. On successful completion of the programme by the participants, the concerned Indian Missions/Posts would reimburse 50% of the cost of air-ticket by economy class (direct flight) to the participants. Cost of boarding, lodging, local transportation and course fee during the programme will be borne by Government of India.
7. The applicant should not have participated in any previous Know India Programme (KIP) or Internship Programme for Diaspora Youth (IPDY). Students and those who have not visited India before are encouraged to apply.
8. The applicants should be able to converse in English [they should have studied English as a subject at the High School level or should have English as a medium of instruction for the undergraduate course].
9. Gratis visa by Indian Missions/Posts abroad will be granted to the selected participants.
10. The Mission should seek a medical fitness certificate from the participants before recommending them for the programme. Participant should have medical insurance before visa is granted to them.
11. The participants should be made aware of the prevailing weather conditions in India: during visits to rural India air-conditioned accommodation may not always be available.
12. All applicants for the programme may be asked to write an essay of 250 to 300 words on why they want to participate in the programme and what they expect to gain from it.
13. Selected participants would be required to abide by the regulations of the Study India Programme as conveyed to them by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs or its agency nominated to conduct the Programme or through Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The participants are expected to fully

cooperate and abide by the regulations of the Programme in order to ensure its smooth conduct and success.

14. In the event a participant is found guilty of misconduct or indiscipline during the course of his / her stay, the participant may be asked to leave the programme. Such participants would have to meet the entire cost of their air travel from his/her country of residence to India & back and clause 6 above relating to refund of 50% of the air-fare by the Indian Missions/Posts will not be applicable to them. Drinking and smoking in many places in India is banned and is discouraged during the programme. Participants are expected to remain with the group and take the programme seriously.
15. The participants will not be permitted to leave the Programme mid-way. All are expected to participate in the various programmes organized for them enthusiastically & are not expected to stay back in their residential facility except for medical reasons, on the advice of the doctor. Participants who leave the programme on their own will not be entitled to the airfare.
16. The organizers will take care of the participants only for the duration of the scheduled programme. If the participants wish to arrive early or delay departure they will have to make their own arrangements at their own cost.
17. Duly completed application form for the programme, along with a passport size photograph, is to be submitted at the Indian Diplomatic Mission/Consular Post that covers the area of residence of the applicant. Nominations received after the due date, incomplete and unsigned applications, or forms not accompanied with photographs would be summarily rejected.
18. Nominations, duly recommended by HOM/HOP, should be forwarded by e-mail/fax to the Under Secretary (DS), Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Akbar Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 110021; e-mail: usds2@moia.nic.in; fax: (011) 24197942. The application form in original should be sent by diplomatic bag to Under Secretary (DS), MOIA, Akbar Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021.
19. Details of the Programme will be posted on the Ministry's website. <http://www.moia.gov.in>.