



CIE NEWS

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A Newsletter for the Center for International Education at Rider University

International Celebration – Holi



This year, the spring festival holiday of Holi took place on March 17. Holi is also known as the festival of colors, and sometimes festival of love.

Holi is a national holiday in India. It is celebrated at the end of the winter season on the last full moon day of the lunar month, Phalgun.

An ancient Hindu religious festival, Holi has become popular with non-Hindus in other communities. The celebrations begin on the night before Holi with a Holika, or Little Holi, bonfire where people gather to sing and dance. The next day is a carnival of colors, where everyone chases and colors each other with dry powder and brightly colored water solutions. The celebration occurs in the open streets.

Holi signifies the start of the new spring season. It also has a religious purpose, symbolically signified by the legend of Holika. The word Holi originates from Holika, the evil sister of demon king Hiranyakashipu. The two were defeated by the king's son Prahlada in a fire. The bonfire is a reminder of the symbolic victory of good over evil, of Prahlada over Hiranyakashipu and of the fire that burned Holika.



International Student Highlight: Deepa Desai – India

My name is Deepa Desai and I am currently enrolled in the Master of Accounting program and this is my first semester at Rider University. What I really like about Rider, apart from its reputation in academics, is that the



entire staff at Rider is very polite and always eager to help. The people in the international center are very welcoming and help in making the transition and settling down in a new country.

I come from a country that is incredibly rich in culture and heritage and we believe in “unity in diversity.” I am from India. It is a large country in southern Asia. India has great varieties and differences in both its land and its people. The land includes desert, jungles, and one of the world's rainiest areas. India also has broad plains, mighty rivers, the tallest mountain system in the world, and tropical lowlands. The people of India belong to many different ethnic groups and religions. They speak more than 15 major languages and more than 1,000 minor languages and dialects. Dance, drama, theatre or music, every art is unique in itself. In India, religions, mythology and classical literature form the basis of most of the performing arts.

One of the popular tourist attractions is the famous Taj Mahal. The highly irresistible Indian food encompasses a wide variety of regional cuisines native to India and is also heavily influenced by religious and cultural choices and traditions.

International Student Events

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| April 13 | Mentor Outing to Washington, D.C. |
| April 15 | International Day |
| April 17 | Int'l Student/ Alumni Networking Event
6:30 to 8:30 p.m., NAB 202 |



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TASHAN – Bollywood Dance at Rider



TASHAN is Rider's Bollywood dance team on campus. They are a cultural group that performs Indian cultural dances along with modern day hip-hop dance style to embrace the Indian culture and also promote diversity among Rider students.

For more information on being part of the dance team or the events that TASHAN coordinates, please feel free to email Hajrah Butt (Captain) at butth@rider.edu or Sharanpreet Singh (Vice-Captain) at singhsh@rider.edu.

Study Abroad Events

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| April 4 | Pre-departure Orientation 1 (Fall only)
3 to 5 p.m., Sweigart 115 |
| April 16 | Study Abroad Scholarship Fundraiser
5 to 8 p.m., Fireside Lounge |

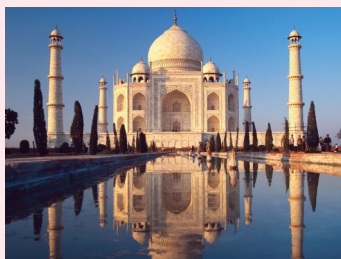
Study Abroad Programs in India

Located on a beautiful campus in western Hyderabad, the University of Hyderabad (UoH) is one of the most prestigious higher education institutions in India. Students also have the opportunity to take specially designed courses for international students, including Hindi, while also taking regular university courses with local Indian students.

The Contemporary India program in Pune, a smaller city outside Mumbai, is designed for students from a wide variety of majors and academic interests, with a curriculum that spans development studies, economics, public health, environmental studies, international affairs, political science, film and media studies, anthropology, history, and women's studies.

Contact the CIE for more information on these programs.

Country Highlight – India



Students interested in studying abroad will find there is plenty to do and see in India.

India is a large country, offering a wide diversity of people, traditions, religions and foods. Students can discover and learn something new everyday.

Students can enjoy flavorful cuisine, beautiful landscapes and cultural festivals while studying there. India is also the birthplace for a number of religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

From seeing the tigers at Kanha National Park to visiting the famous Taj Mahal, students have a multitude of opportunities to explore what India has to offer.

Top 10 Reasons to Study Abroad in India

1. Visit the Taj Mahal
2. Learn to speak Hindi or Bengali
3. Attend cultural festivals
4. Taste the flavorful cuisine
5. Visit the spiritual and cultural center, The Golden Temple
6. Explore a diversity of religions
7. See the tigers at Kanha National Park
8. Take in the beautiful landscapes
9. Experience the cultural phenomenon of Bollywood
10. Meet friendly locals

