



Rai Foundation
CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDSETS

Impacting Global Society –
Strengthening understanding of the
International students of the innovation, creativity and
leadership in India - the new super growth market

With an innovative and far-reaching initiative

‘Discover India’: International Students unravel what makes India tick
Understanding global dynamics in the light of Indian experience and Asian perspective

‘Discover India’

International students engage in unfolding the Indian economic juggernaut as active participants

Background: India is a country with lots of innovative drive, creativity, leadership at grass root levels and loads of opportunity for all students in the world to prosper in as well as contribute toward. Students, with their innate sense of enterprise, are uniquely positioned to capture global opportunities apart from the social implications of helping uplift society globally. All they need is an opportunity to get the right exposure.

As *Partner University* goes more global in its outlook, there is an imminent need for its larger student body, especially at the undergraduate level, to be exposed to the realities of the developing world: importantly, high growth nations like India where a lot of scope for innovation and creative enterprise exists – for all. India’s age-old diverse and tolerant ethos has forever been welcoming and liberal.

Aim: To enable *Partner University* students to learn about Indian culture, politics, economy, arts, and importantly ways of doing business in the Indian environment. As these students take up positions of leadership in respective fields, influencing policy globally, acquainting them with what makes India tick and how they are positioning themselves for global growth and how its 5000 year old civilization is impacting society globally is absolutely vital.

Facilitation of Aim: Rai Foundation will annually host in India a specified number of students from the *Partner University* for a proposed period of 3 weeks during their winter break (can be for much larger periods if they do internships/projects).

Partner University students along with their Indian counterparts will be encouraged to identify issues at large in India - business, civic, educational, health, etc. – and come up with innovative models to address these. Rai Foundation will provide complete support to students of *Partner University* to incubate collaborative projects, culminating in formation, if feasible, of their own start up companies.

Methodology: Mix of lectures, presentations, field visits, industry interface, eminent guest speakers, brief internships, and group projects with Rai Foundation students that will enable exchange of thought-processes and cultural ethos.

Partner University students will gain first-hand insights into work practices in a culturally-diverse India as they will also engage with NGOs and more home grown grassroots models that offer exciting and unique lessons in entrepreneurship.

Outcomes

- *Partner University* students will greatly benefit from this brief but intensive exposure. During their sojourn in India, students will see enterprise at work in every corner of the street, literally. For foreigners, this reality of Indian gumption is quite baffling, especially since the international media has been partial to presenting images of poverty and disease. Not to say these are not present. Yet, how people across this unequal and diverse country fend for themselves and families, without much education or economic sufficiency – just with faith, drive, courage and enterprise – is truly mind-boggling.
- Apart from experiencing the ‘energy’ in India, the international students will understand the dynamics that make a populous India nonetheless ensuring a democratic model of economic growth, unique in Asia.
- For Rai students attached to the international students for projects, it will be a thrilling opportunity to work with a world-class peer group and gain insight into the *Partner University* way of doing and thinking through things.
- Worthy projects developed jointly by students of both institutions will be helped by Rai Foundation with consultancy and introduction to venture capitalists and angel investors to raise resources toward incubation of the same.

Financial proposal for this initiative

COST PER STUDENT PER DAY:

Particulars	Cost (in usd)
Residence (at our university hotel on twin sharing-rooms –rooms are air conditioned with fridge, TV, 24hr internet connection)	20
Food (breakfast, lunch, dinner)	15
Travel including to and fro from residence to campus plus local sightseeing/visits to Industry/government and pickup and drop to airport	10
Total cost of stay per student per day	45
Add: One time Agra trip (including price of ticket for seeing Taj Mahal of usd 20)	40
Add: One time faculty cost for taking 50 classes during the 21 day trip on business, finance, arts and culture per student (two faculty at usd 1250 per month teaching a batch of 50 students per class)	45
Total cost for a 21 day trip per student : $45 \times 21 = 945 + 40 + 45$	1030

Rai Foundation will bear the total cost per student as given above. *Partner University* will bear cost of the students' round trip travel to India.

For summer projects/internships, details can be worked out but living costs will be as above.

This program can run over a trial period of one year. If both sides are satisfied, it can be continued for a further period of 3 years.