

EMORY TIBETAN STUDIES PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

PRE-DEPARTURE MATERIALS

All students receive extensive pre-departure materials prior to the start of the program. Students are responsible for making their own flight arrangements to India. The Center for International Programs Abroad (CIPA) coordinates an airport pick-up for students upon arrival to New Delhi.

ORIENTATION IN DELHI

The program begins with a mandatory three-day orientation in New Delhi. The on-site orientation will provide an overview of the program, introduction to program staff, opportunity to meet other program participants, site visits to interesting destinations in the Delhi area, and general information on health and safety. The program participants travel as a group to Dharamsala.

FACILITIES AND HOUSING IN DHARAMSALA

Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, Sarah Campus (end January to early March)

For the part of the program, students reside at the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics-Sarah campus. This is a beautiful, rural setting about 20 minutes by car down the mountain from the Indian town of Lower Dharamsala and 40 minutes from the Tibetan town of McLeod Ganj (upper Dharamsala). The Sarah branch of IBD was established to enable monastics and lay students to pursue studies in Buddhist philosophy, Tibetan language, and modern subjects, such as teacher training, computer skills, etc. Students live with a Tibetan roommate in one of the dormitories and take most of their meals with the IBD students. Most Emory and IBD faculty/staff will live on campus during this time. Roommate assignments are arranged by IBD upon arrival to the Sarah campus.

Sarah students enjoy volleyball, basketball, and badminton courts, a canteen for drinks and snacks, a small shop for toiletries, school supplies, etc, and numerous paths leading down to a lovely river or through the Indian countryside. Sarah also has a beautiful temple, where program participants are always welcome at morning prayers or other times, and a fifteen-terminal computer lab, which program participants are allowed to use during specially scheduled, but limited times. The library has many English language texts, primarily on Tibetan Buddhism. There is a commercial phone booth nearby where students can make international calls. All meals and safe drinking water will be provided on campus, either by the program cook staff or in the common IBD dining room. Vegetarian food will be available. Classes will be held in the guest hostel, or on the roof of the academic buildings. Students usually celebrate Tibetan New Years or Losar with the faculty and friends at Sarah.

Homestays, McLeod Ganj (March)

After the IBD-Sarah period ends, students will be placed with a Tibetan family living in McLeod Ganj for three weeks. Daily visual check-in periods and/or group meetings with program leaders will ensure students are comfortable and enjoying their time with their homestay families.

Chinar Lodge, McLeod Ganj (late March to mid April)

After the homestay, students will live together in the Chinar Lodge, which is located at the end of a quiet street in McLeod Ganj. It is within easy walking distance of the Upper IBD campus, the Tsuglhakhang (Central Temple), the Dalai Lama's residence, the Tibetan Children's Village, the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, the Central Tibetan Government offices, several monasteries and nunneries, numerous restaurants and shops, and beautiful trails up into the high mountains.

Chinar Lodge functions primarily as a home for the Emory students, with library, a communal dining room, and spacious yard. Students will be sharing a large room with 1-2 other Emory roommates. Each room will be furnished with beds, bedding, a desk, and a closet, which includes shelf space. Additionally, each room has an attached bathroom with heated showers. Students eat breakfast as a group in the dining room, as well as enjoy some group lunches there. Vegetarian meals and clean drinking water are available at the Chinar Lodge. This is also true of most local restaurants, should students choose to use your food-stipend for lunch and/or dinner in town. The two Program Coordinators will be living near the Lodge, and will have breakfasts there daily. Classes will be held at both the Lodge and at the nearby

Institute of Buddhist Dialectics (upper campus). Internet access will be available, for under \$1/hour, in various internet cafes.

Independent Research & Concluding Activities Period (mid April to mid May)

During the Research Period, students may elect their housing, as long as the research site has been approved by the Emory-IBD program directors. Suggestions on places to stay will be provided, when possible. Students will be given a research stipend to cover reasonable room and board expenses during the Research Period. At the end of the research period, program participants will reconvene for three days in a mountain resort near Dharamsala for farewell activities, hikes, closing evaluations, "graduation," and a good-bye party.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

All students are provided with emergency contact information and protocol prior to departure, during on-site orientation, and just before the Independent Research period.

- All students will be required to attend the mandatory on-site orientation activities in Delhi.
- Students will meet the program staff, participate in important orientation discussions regarding acclimation to India, and be provided critical health and safety information.
- Tibetan Studies Program staff (in India and at Emory) and students are registered with the US State Department and will thus receive current Travel Advisory Warnings for India.
- The Tibetan Studies Program is partnered with the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics (IBD) in Dharamsala and the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) in New Delhi, both of whom will assist students in emergency situations.
- All students will be given a laminated card containing phone numbers for program staff members (both in India and at CIPA), the US Embassy, AIIS, IBD, local and Delhi hospitals. They will be instructed to carry these cards at all times.
- Students will be encouraged to purchase cell phones and put relevant contact numbers in their phones.
- In the event of a medical emergency, students are advised to contact the program staff who will accompany students to nearby medical facilities, as needed. The program provides a supplemental medical insurance policy through T.W. Lord and Associates as part of the program cost.
- Emory on-site program staff will keep on-hand the following information regarding students: 1) phone numbers & email addresses for students and their emergency contact person(s), and 2) relevant medical information.
- Students will not be allowed to travel to places or engage in activities mentioned as dangerous in current US State Department Travel Advisory Warnings for India and Nepal.
- Students will be required to provide the following information to Tibetan Studies Program on-site staff before traveling outside the Dharamsala area (during weekends, Spring Break, and Independent Research period): 1) when departing and returning, 2) with whom and how travelling, and 3) where staying. During the three-week-long Independent Research period they will be required to contact a program staff member once a week.
- Evacuation plans are in place for a variety of health and emergency situations. These plans will be updated according to current situations. If it becomes necessary to evacuate individuals or the group, program staff will do so in consultation with CIPA, the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, and/or AIIS, and someone from Emory's on-site staff and/or IBD will accompany evacuated program members.
- Emory works closely with International SOS, a medical and security assistance service, and this service includes extensive materials available online and 24/7 call centers for medical, health, safety and travel information. International SOS (Emory University Member ID: 11BYSG0000003). Web: www.internationalsos.com; Tel: 215-942-8226