

Note1: you may either fill this form or use this form to structure your own report (which you may send us in Word or as a PDF)

Note2: the report will be posted anonymously on the OIN website by the OIN Academic Director. If you are sending in a PDF please make sure that you refrain from putting your name in the document.

Note3. You may send some photos. Do remember that if you, or other students, are in the photos we need your permission (and that of the other students in the photos) before posting them on the website.

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- Host Institution: Symbiosis University SSLA
  
  - Home Institution: University of Guelph
  
  - Type of Exchange:
    - Regular exchange \_\_\_\_\_
    - SSP \_\_\_\_\_
    - SIP \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Term and year in which you were on exchange in India:  
August 2018

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- A. Please write between one and three paragraphs on your experience at your host institution (you may write about your courses/independent study there, hostel accommodation if you stayed on campus, campus experience, interactions with other students on campus and/or faculty, and so on).

We only had about 4 days of classes at Symbiosis so it's difficult for me to say what they were like. The hostels we stayed in were very nice, although the food could sometimes be repetitive. As I said we didn't get too many opportunities to meet local India students as we didn't take many classes with them. However we did get to know some of the other international students as they lived in the same hallway as us and often went on excursions with us.

- B. Please write about your experience of the city in which your host institution is located (including transportation for getting around the city, places you would recommend for eating and sightseeing)

Despite what some people in Canada may assume about India, the city of Pune is actually very safe and I felt very comfortable there. Definitely take precautions when it gets dark but overall its a lovely city. It's pretty easy to get a car or auto rickshaw using Uber or Ola to get around the city. I would also recommend going into Mumbai for a weekend with some other students as it's nice to have some freedom to explore Mumbai. We found that Uber or Ola could be fairly cheap to drive from Pune into Mumbai when split among a lot of people.

- C. Please write about your experiences in the host country, if you did some travelling (including mode of transportation, finding accommodation, places you visited, people you met, cost of transportation and accommodation, and so on).

Another student and I went to Chennai and also did the Golden Triangle. Flights are fairly cheap within India (however watch for baggage weight restrictions). As far as accommodation we found that the best strategy is to reserve about 3 hotels without booking or putting any credit card information, and then decide once you get there which hotel to actually stay in. Sometimes the hotel looks nice online but is actually in an unsafe or inconvenient location which is hard to tell beforehand. We also found it was fairly easy to reserve rooms a few days or even the day before travelling. As far as transportation it's best to ask locals as they might know informal rules you can't find online, like cheap local buses between cities or that auto rickshaws may stop running at a certain time in some places.

- D. Other (feel free to write about anything else that you think may help OIN students in subsequent years).

Make sure you bring a laptop or something if you need to do any assignments or for trip planning. Even though they may say they can get you access to a computer at the university it can be last minute and difficult to access, so it's easier to just bring your own