

Program report

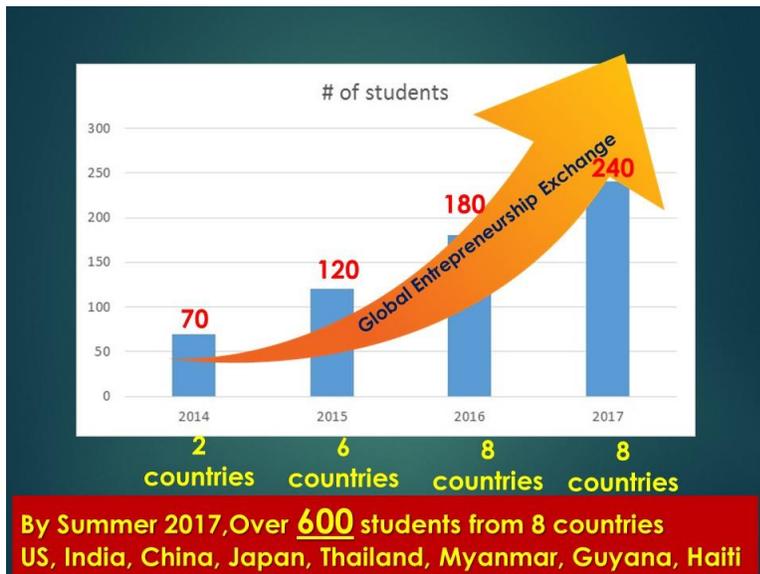
Study Abroad: Destination India

December 28, 2016 to January 13, 2017

Hubli, India

Faculty – Ashwin Mehta (UML, US), Nitin Kulkarni (KLE, India), Alex Sun (NUPT, China))

60 students from US, India, China and Japan assembled in Hubli, India for 2 weeks of intensive entrepreneurship learning in a multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary environment! Since its inception in 2014, over 420 students from 8 countries will have participated in the program, held in Hubli and Lowell.

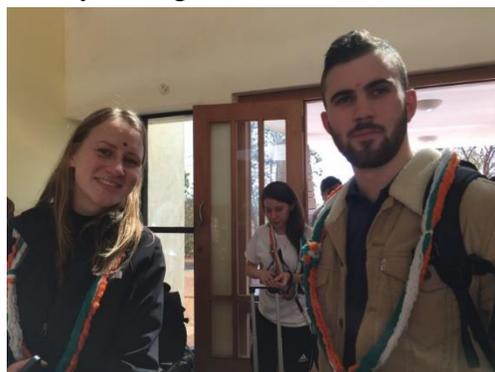


By the end of this summer 2017, with planned sessions in Lowell and Nanjing, the participation is expected to reach 600 students!

Students feedback from the Winter 2017 session in Hubli has been the same since 2014: *“over 95% stated that they will recommend the program to others in the future”*

From Day 1 at the Bangalore Airport, UML students absorbed all they could do in the next 18 days in Hubli, Delhi and Agra! They all unanimously agreed that this was a life changing experience. Words like amazing, incredible, unimaginable, etc. were heard throughout their time in India. They want other UML students to experience the same!

Upon arriving in Hubli, they were greeted in a traditional Indian way!





Student Exchange Program 2016-17



Students from different cultures, never met before, bonded together from the first day on in an amazing way! *“...As I reflect on this experience it saddened me to know that I won’t see the students every day in class. We won’t have our long talks anymore or our bike ride into town. I’m sad because we might not see each other again. It was very emotional to say bye to everyone because I personally consider the people I met part of my family. On our last night we danced on the street and as crazy as that sound it was really fun. Everyone kept on telling me how they thought it was going to take time to get to know us but they were pleasantly surprise when we instantly hit it off. India is a beautiful country, but the beauty lies in its people. The friends I made were kind, caring, and full of joy. They showered me with so much joy and attention that it was hard not to feel like you are leaving a part of you behind. If I could travel back in time I would definitely go back and start the two weeks all over again, but this time with a different set of eyes.”* Graduate Business student

What did they learn?



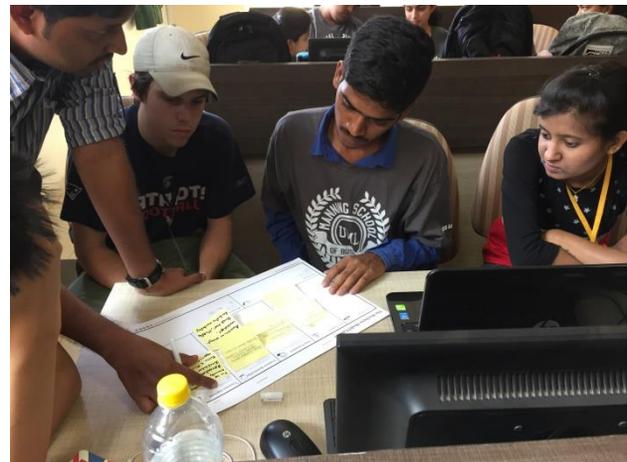
The format of this program was almost the same as in the previous programs. On the very first day, after getting a brief introduction to the entrepreneurship, including a few examples, students were divided into groups to go through an ideation process. It was a quick entry into how to work in a diverse groups and be ready to present to the class of 60 students and faculty problems, ideas to solve and how! One would not know that these students barely knew each other, had difficulties in communication and never had any exposure to ideation.

“I came to India, expecting to learn about business and entrepreneurship, maybe even make some professional connections to spruce up my Linked In page. Though I did learn a great deal in class and sharpened my business skills as only eight hours of classes a day can do, the most valuable lessons and the ones that will stick with me for the rest of my life were learned outside the classroom. My peers were my mentors, my teachers and the people I looked up to the most. I learned not only about business, but as cliché as it may sound I learned to be a better person.”
Undergrad student



- Worked on 12 group projects based on students' own ideas. Each Team had students from US, India and China; plus, business and engineering.
- Projects included developing haptic gloves for blind to navigate,
- Students received discussions about the business model canvas so they can put it to use in their project tasks

- They worked on a creativity exercise to make the strongest bridge from straws! They loved it. They were very creative and a lot of fun!



One of the BVB participant said, *“I literally have a stage fear and I was not so good at communication. But after completing this amazing exchange program, I would say that I have almost overcome my lack of communication skills and fear of pitching it in front of anyone”.*



were lined up, including, a biologic venture, women security service, and a café with a new experience for students on campus.

- Students were asked to make presentations 4 times throughout 2 weeks; each time they got more and more confident in making presentations. They had no stage fright! From the first day in class, each student made at least 4 presentations. There was no language issue, classmates came to rescue when needed

- They listened to several entrepreneurs narrating their journeys; students were very much engaged in these talks. A very impressive group of entrepreneurs



One BVB Mechanical Engineering students wrote, *“I personally learnt from the people in the program that, it is okay to learn things at your pace, it is okay to not know a certain things and accept the gap in your knowledge and learn it later! I’ve learnt to have a lot of patience. I can see the difference in myself from the day the Student Exchange Program was started and the present day, which is remarkable and makes me extremely happy!*

One other participants said, *“One most important thing Student Exchange Program taught me is, if you are shy and you find difficulty to open up to the outer world, there will be times when people will encourage you but, every time the story won’t be the same. You by yourself should gather the confidence to make it up to others and be strong enough to face all the problem.”*



Desh Deshpande and Jaishree Deshpande came to the class and talked to students; this has always been a highlight of the program. Deshpandes have come to these sessions since 2014 and students truly enjoy interacting with Desh. Desh has to all of our programs in Hubli and has taken a very active interest. Jaishree has taken keen interest in learning from students about their experiences and projects they are working. Students were very appreciative of their visit to the class.





Outside the Class?



Students enjoyed some “free” time to explore Hubli and also celebrate New Year!

One weekend day, students went to a newly opened rock garden, Ustav Rock Garden, where over artists work to create life size sculptures depicting how life was in rural India. It was an amazing display of arts and culture!





Students had a fun filled day riding a tonga and playing in a mud bath!



Students constantly interacted with their classmates during breakfast and lunch, and of course, during chai breaks! Chai (spicy tea) breaks were their favorites as not only they tasted typical India tea but had a chance to know more about each other and their cultures & traditions.



Students learned a lot about different cultures (Indian, American, Chinese, Japanese, etc.)! They celebrated New Year in different cultures and customs! Students explored Hubli with their Indian friends and hosts; tasted Indian cuisines and specialties

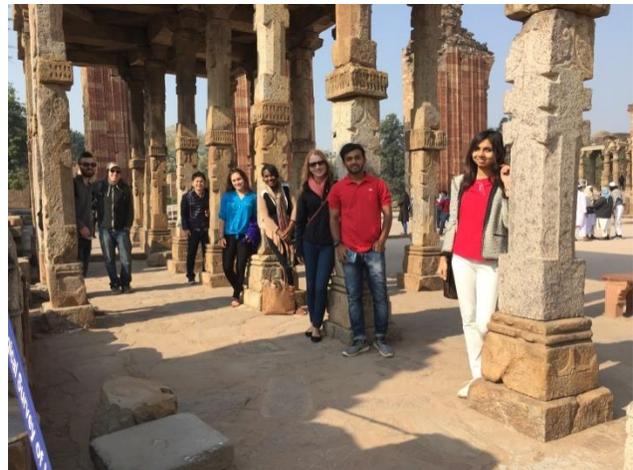
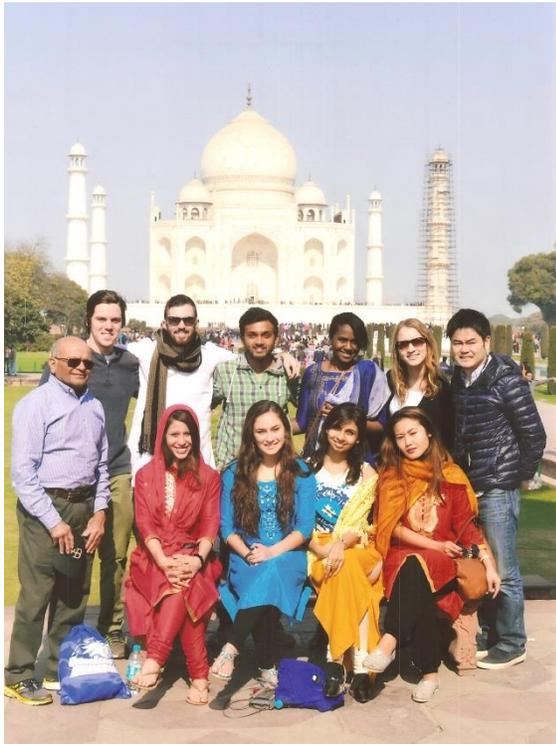
Visited one of the largest kitchens, Akshya Patra , which makes 200,000 meals each day for school children. Students also tasted the food that was delivered to these children and they loved it!



Students found time during a weekend to visit an orphanage. They were told by the previous batch so they brought with them some goodies for children and had a full day fun and joy!



Of course, no visit to India is complete without going to Agra and seeing the most beautiful monument, Taj Mahal! In Delhi-Agra, US and Chinese students experienced historical and cultural sites, including famous Taj Mahal and Qtab Minar!



Student Feedback

We have asked students to complete a short survey to receive their feedback. Here are key items from their responses:

100% of students agreed that *“The team project helped me to understand the need for collaboration in the entrepreneurial environment”*

Over 90% responded that *“The team experience has enabled me to better understand the need to communicate in cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural teams”*

93% agreed that *“This experience has helped me become more comfortable working in a multidisciplinary environment”*

Over 85% stated that *“The course has given me basic tools and skills to consider becoming an entrepreneur”*

Over 90% agreed that *“Guest speakers provided relevant information and experiences.”*

88% responded that *“The project helped me better understand the entrepreneurship process”*

All students agreed that *“I understand the value of market research from this project”*

On Team Effectiveness, interesting to note that 88% stated that *“Our team bonded very quickly”*, and, 80% agreed that *“Our team worked smoothly and was very productive”*

This feedback will be incorporated into our future programs to make sure that students continue to receive highest level of academic learning.



**Goodbye BVB Friends, will see you
in Lowell!**

Goodbye at Delhi Airport

Prof. Ashwin Mehta
Prof. Nitin Kulkarni
Prof. Alex Sun

