

Life in India, Spring 2017

What we do in the house:

We live in a big house in New Friends Colony which is a very luxurious neighborhood and we also live about 2 minutes walking time away from the community center which offers a lot of great shops, restaurants, and also street food. We hang around our beautiful house quite often as it is very cozy and also far more comfortable than my apartment in America! We have numerous helpers among our house which include Sabina our excellent cook who cooks great Indian food, Sushila, the helper around the house, our



cleaning lady, caretaker, and our two guards who ensure we are always safe! Our program coordinator Anukriti Agarwal is like our RA in India and she helps us with our transition to India. She truly does a lot for us as she's somebody who buys our groceries, talks to us, brings us sweets from her hometown, and is just so much more! Anukriti is just so fun to be around and is a true friend of ours.



"The students from UVA in India have transformed from being cocooned to a campus, to being extraordinarily adventurous. They can travel by metros, trains, rickshaws with the least amount of difficulty. I have seen all of them grow from their day 1 in the house till this day, and that growth has been tremendous. Be it in Indian ways of travelling, eating, living or making chai, they have been doing it all with great mirth and with a great sense of achievement! It has been a great experience to be a part of this programme which offers every individual associated with it a space to grow and learn amidst the very capital of India. Our programme director, Dr. Geeta Patel has been extremely helpful in everything and to work under her in this programme has been an amazing experience in itself!" -**Anukriti Agarwal**

Our program coordinator
Anukriti Agarwal!

We also take our awesome Hindi classes in our home with two teachers, Sayeed and Professor Sharda. Here is what our teacher Sayeed had to say about our Hindi classes:

"I have been working with UVA India program since last year and this is my second batch of students. Based on my experiences till now, I can confidently state that this is one of the most satisfying programs for any language teacher. This is a beautiful gift for any teacher, honestly. Initially, our classes used to commence twice a week, but now keeping the interest of students in consideration, we're meeting thrice a week. We concentrate on all four skills of language: Reading, speaking, writing and listening, but we specially focus upon speaking. We have a set goal and aspirations in our minds regarding language training, and we're extremely glad that we're progressing in the desired direction."- **Sayeed**

What we do outside: Wandering in Delhi, trips outside the city. Events we

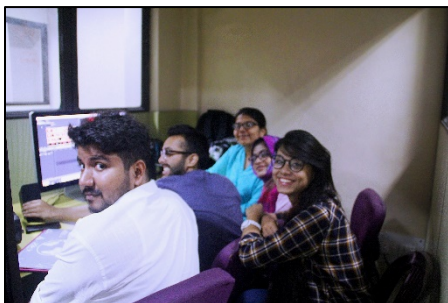
attended. What we can do at night: During our time here, we have explored the many restaurants, attractions, and also the great nightlife that Delhi offers! On a more educational note, we also attended many conferences such as the ones about anthropology of finance, the dissident desire, and we will be going to Mumbai to hear a conference that Professor Patel is speaking at. During our breaks, we traveled around a lot and the program also arranges for two trips out of Delhi that is part of the package. Our spring break was spent in Goa and Kerala in southern India, and it was an incredibly empowering experience



traveling on a trip that we planned and navigated alone. I feel capable and strong about my ability to go about around India now which is an incredible feeling! -**Bryce Lindsey**



Studying: Experiential learning and more conventional classrooms—expanded notion of the classroom



The classes we take provide us a strong foundation in critical thinking; in our Hindi classes we are able to use what we have learned and apply it to our everyday life and surroundings. Classes are taught in a way that encourages practical use and strong development of the language. The classes we take with Geeta Patel are extraordinary, she really challenges us in both our Pleasures of Bollywood Class and our Interdisciplinary Methods class to analyze texts that open our mind to great insights. We then work with our teams to synthesize the information and present it in

ways that encourages applying theory to real world examples. – **Eddie Lin**



Working closely with organizations integrated into the class:

Experiential learning: My time in India is inseparable from my experience with an organization and has truly been the highlight of my time in India. I work at Tara Homes with both Tara Tots (ages 3-11)



and Tara Boys (ages 8-18). Tara Homes is an NGO that houses and supports 20 children in each of their homes, it is residential and they take care of all the children's basic needs and facilitate their schooling. I have different roles at each of the homes, at Tara Tots, I do office tasks as well as teaching bridge the gap courses for those toddlers preparing to begin school. At Tara Boys, my role is more relaxed and consists of trips to the park and bedtime story telling. The two homes are very different from each other, but I genuinely love both. Our class requirement only two days a week, but I have started going for three days a week because I genuinely enjoy it that much. Through my involvement in the homes I was able to

spend Holi with the children and that was an amazing memory because I



got to experience Holi in India and feel the spirit of the holiday through the children's excitement. Working with the toddlers has also helped my Hindi exponentially as the younger ones speak almost no English! - **Bryce Lindsey**

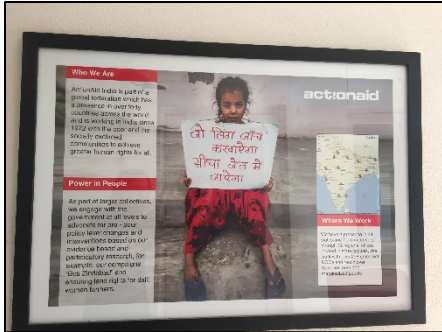


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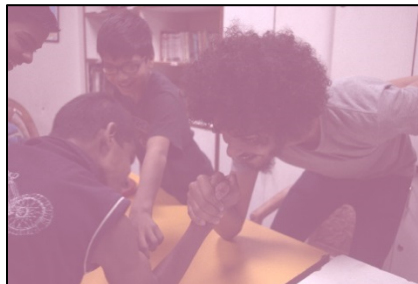
I currently work with MaroonAI, a big data intelligence company and I am a part of their marketing team. I do a little of everything from making cold calls like a salesman to researching like a consultant on industry strategies and more, the work does get a lot at times, but I am truly thankful that it is good work benefitting the company and also myself in the pursuit of industry skills. The people I work with also are extremely great people and they pay for all my meals and we have even gone out together to the mall and enjoyed some ribs at TGI Friday's. **-Eddie Lin**



I work with the Indian branch of an international organization called ActionAid, whose mission is to end poverty, patriarchy, and injustice. At ActionAid India, I conduct research regarding children's right to education and how that intersects with gender, class, and caste. Working with such a large social justice organization has revealed to me the complexities of non-profits, the benefits of NGOs, and their limitations. Further, I analyzed governmental policy and how it compares to the reality of implementation, and how frequently, the two are not synonymous. The work environment of ActionAid India is very informal, and many people conduct their work independently and without much supervision. This allows me to focus on my work and develop my independent work skills that will be invaluable in a future internship or job setting. **-Meghan Grumbling-McKenna**



Like Bryce, I also work with TARA Homes, an Indo-French NGO located in South Delhi. The NGO was started around 9 years ago as a means to combat child homelessness, labor, and a lack of proper access to livelihood. In three separate homes, there are about 60 kids (20 per home). On Sunday, I work with the TARA girls to improve their English. On Monday, I do the same work with the TARA boys, in addition to having them write poetry in their language of choice (usually English, though I've gotten quite a few pieces in Hindi and even a couple in French!). When I'm not helping the kids with their English, you can expect to see a lot of tickling, horseplay, and laughter. Of all the bonds I've made in India, these kids have become some of the closest people to my heart. **-Triston Smith**



Studying with Indian students?

"The Indian students make my day every time I see them! Because we have a partnership with Jamia's Mass Communication Program, we simply get the best of the best in communication students and they are all artistic and authentic souls. I'm lucky to be able to share such a strong bond with the students and I truly believe the students in our partner college are some of the most genuine and greatest people I have ever met. I'm happy to say that many of the kids I have met here have become good friends for life." – **Eddie Lin**



What are you getting from this? How will this help you in your later career?

"All-in-all, my time in India has been wonderful. I have learned things you simply don't have access to in a traditional classroom setting. Additionally, I have been able to gain valuable work experience and learned to work better in a team of people from different ethnic, religious, and lingual backgrounds than myself. All of the tools I've gathered here will work for me for the rest of my life, and I am so thankful to have been afforded the opportunity to participate in such a

wonderful program." – **Triston Smith**

What is it like here, why would you recommend it?

"India is a country with such beautiful people, culture, and food and this has simply been one of the most life changing experiences in my life. I am truly happy in this environment and it has also allowed me to grow my personal satisfaction and purpose in life. If you are somebody who is wondering what could be experienced beyond Charlottesville, or your little bubble or if you are somebody who wants to simply grow, I highly, highly recommend you apply for the UVA in India program." –

Eddie Lin



The advantages of combining conventional classroom work with out of classroom study and experience in India

Because we work with organizations, conduct research projects and take classes, we are truly learning from as many angles as possible. In our practical hands on learning experiences and through our research projects we are able to gain the practical skills needed in the industry of our choosing and thus the organizations and industries of Delhi becomes our classroom. Education works best when we are able to combine both the practical and theoretical parts of learning and it is safe to say that this is by far the most learning semester I have had at UVA! – **Eddie Lin**



More questions? Contact us!

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