2018 American Studies SUMMER PROGRAM INDIA
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) is a premier urban, public research university focused on academic success. As one of the top research universities in the U.S. and Top 100 Global Universities, VCU welcomes international students and values the global perspective and cultural diversity they bring to an already vibrant campus. With more than 220 degree and certificate programs, VCU has something for almost everyone, including many opportunities to gain real-life experience, perform important research, and grow both academically and personally.

**THE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

The American Studies Program (ASP) is an 18-day academic/cultural immersion program that includes lectures from university professors and tours of local cultural and heritage sites. The program is located at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, Virginia. The city of Richmond is centrally located on the east coast of the U.S., thus allowing the program to incorporate visits to historic Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia Beach, Monticello, and Washington D.C.
For much of the program, students attend lectures presented by full-time VCU faculty. The lectures cover a variety of topics, such as American history (from colonial times to the present), the American political system, American foreign policy, the civil rights movement, race and politics in America, the American presidency (from Nixon to Trump), the LGBTQ community in contemporary America, religion in contemporary America, globalization and international business, environmental science, life sciences and sustainability, and forensic science and criminal justice in the U.S.

In addition to academic lectures, students participate on several out-of-town excursions: a two-night/three-day weekend visit to Busch Gardens, Virginia Beach, Historic Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, and the Williamsburg Outlets; a day-trip to Monticello (Thomas Jefferson’s home) and the town of Charlottesville; and a two-night/three-day visit to Washington, D.C.
WEEK 1

Friday, July 20: Students arrive @ Dulles International Airport (IAD); escort to VCU Globe Student Dormitory.

Saturday, July 21: 10:30 a.m. Orientation Brunch in the Corporate Education Center, 3rd Floor, School of Business (B3187-89) Hosted by Dr. John Herman. Introductory remarks by Dr. Nanda Rangan, Associate Dean of VCU School of Business, Ms. Elizabeth Murray, Program Coordinator, VCU Student Chaperones & VCU Campus Police.

Campus Tour w/ VCU Student Chaperones

Sunday, July 22: 9:00 a.m. Depart VCU for Busch Gardens & VA Beach

Monday, July 23: VA Beach

Tuesday, July 24: 11:00 a.m. Depart VA Beach for Colonial Williamsburg & Outlets

Wednesday, July 25: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Lecture #1: American Foreign Policy Since 9/11. (Dr. William Newmann)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Lecture #2: Civil Rights & Virginia History (Dr. Brian Daugherity)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. English Conversation w/ VCU Student Chaperones (Voluntary)

Evening events organized by VCU Student Chaperones

Thursday, July 26: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Lecture #3: The U.S. Presidency: From Nixon to Trump (Dr. Timothy Thurber)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Lecture #4: Social & Income Inequality in America (Dr. Victor Chen)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. English Conversation w/ VCU Student Chaperones (Voluntary)

7:00 p.m. BBQ Cookout @ Walton Lake Pool

WEEK 2

Friday, July 27: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Lecture #5: The U.S. Criminal Justice System (Dr. William Pelfrey)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Lecture #6: Human-Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery in America (Dr. Maureen Moslow-Benway)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. English Conversation w/ VCU Student Chaperones (Voluntary)

Evening events organized by VCU Student Chaperones

Saturday, July 28: 9:00 a.m. Depart VCU for Monticello & Charlottesville

Sunday, July 29: 11:30 a.m. Depart VCU for Short Pump Mall

Monday, July 30: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Lecture #7: Sustainable Food Supply & Human Security (Dr. Christopher Saladino)

Free Afternoon w/ VCU Student Chaperones
Tuesday, July 31:

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Lecture #8: America’s Indigenous Peoples (Dr. Gregory Smithers)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Lecture #9: Hollywood, Movies, & Culture in America (Dr. Emilie Raymond)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. English Conversation w/ VCU Student Chaperones (Voluntary)

7:00 p.m. Movie Night @ The Bow Tie Movieland at Boulevard Square

Wednesday, August 1:

12:00 p.m. - Depart VCU for Rice Rivers Center

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Lecture #10: Tour Rice Rivers Center for Environmental Life Science (Dr. Gregory Garmen)

Thursday, August 2:

Free Day w/ VCU Student Chaperones

**WEEK 3**

Friday, August 3:

Globe Cleanup & Pack for DC

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Farewell Dinner @ School of Business Atrium

Saturday, August 4:

9:00 a.m. Interns make final room check

9:30 a.m. Checkout of Globe

10:00 a.m. Depart for Washington, D.C.

Sunday, August 5:

Tour DC

Monday, August 6:

Students meet in hotel lobby for transport to Dulles International Airport (IAD) for return flight to India
Students will live in the Cary & Belvidere Residential Apartments. These are suite-style rooms, with kitchens, living rooms, laundry facilities (4 students per suite). ASP will provide pots, pans, plates, and cooking utensils students will need to cook food.

There are a number of restaurants near VCU, and students can take advantage of VCU’s student dining facilities; however, most students will want to cook in their dorms. On at least four occasions, we will provide the students with food – Orientation Brunch, BBQ Cookout, Picnic at Rice Rivers Center, and Farewell Dinner. Also, because the students will be spending 8 nights in hotels (2 nights in VA Beach, 2 nights in Washington, DC, and 4 nights in New York), these hotels will provide breakfast to the students at no charge.
EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

- Busch Gardens
- Virginia Beach
- Historic Jamestown
- Colonial Williamsburg
- Williamsburg Outlets
- Monticello (Thomas Jefferson’s home)
- Charlottesville
- Washington, D.C.
An important feature of this program is the interaction between VCU students and Indian students. The VCU student chaperones are with the Indian students nearly every minute the Indian students are in the U.S. – they will meet the Indian students at the airport when they arrive; they will arrange nightly activities for the Indian students, such as cooking dinner together, exercising together, eating out together, shopping trips, etc.; they will travel with the Indian students on the program excursions; and they will see them off at the airport when they depart the U.S. for home.

ASP provides Indian students the opportunity to learn English in a real-time environment from someone their own age. In short, in an increasingly globalized world, this program is designed to bring Indian and American students together in the hope that cultural differences and misconceptions can be confronted, understood, and bridged through daily contact.
ELP TUTORING CENTER
The Tutoring Center helps English Language Program students with anything related to learning English. All students are welcome, and services are free.

GYM FACILITIES
Students will have access to two gym facilities - the Cary Street Gym just blocks away on the Monroe Park campus and the Larrick Student Center, about a mile away on the VCU Health System Campus.

LIBRARY
The newly renovated James Cabell Library provides students with space to study, collaborate, discover, create, and conduct research.

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING
Studying in a foreign country is exciting but can also be stressful. Counseling Services provides students with assistance related to emotional and mental well-being, and teaches them skills to facilitate their academic and personal goals.

WRITING CENTER
The Writing Center is a peer-based learning support service whose primary focus is to help students strengthen their writing skills. English Language Resources provides extending writing consultation time with a focus on tools to help English language learners become stronger, more confident writers.
PROGRAM PRICE

The price per student is (USD) $2,000. This price does not include airfare and most meals in U.S. Payment is due by May 30.

Students can pay directly with credit card on the VCU Global Education Office website at https://global.vcu.edu/payment/payment.aspx?id=42

VISA CATEGORY

Students will apply for B-1/B-2 visas. After students provide VCU with the necessary visa application information (e.g., name, birthdate, gender, affiliated university, and copy of valid passport information page), VCU’s Global Education Office will provide the student with the necessary documentation to take to the nearest U.S. Consulate/Embassy to request a visa.

QUESTIONS?

Contact John Herman, Ph.D. at jherman@vcu.edu or (804) 828-2856.