

## Introduction

British Council India convened a knowledge tour in 'Humanities' in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata from 16 to 20 January 2017. The tour was aimed at providing a platform to UK academics to explore opportunities for academic linkages with local institutions. The tour commenced in Delhi moved on to Mumbai and concluded in Kolkata. The format of the tour involved seminars on pre-agreed topics to prospective PG students at the local institutions and discussions on collaborative tie ups with faculties of the same Indian Higher education institutions.

Traditionally India has been a market where majority students have shown interest in studying Management, Engineering, Law and Design related courses. However the student data collected at our events showed an increase in number of students interested in some niche subjects. This tour provided an opportunity to UK institutions to meet the target audience, directly interact with interested students about the course structure, entry requirements and the global exposure students could attain after completing a UK degree. Additionally market intelligence gained by speaking to local institutions indicates that Indian students are now interested in looking at courses other than the typically popular ones.

The UK delegation comprised of the following academicians:

Sr. No.	UK Institution	Academic
1	University of Warwick	Prof. Ross Forman
2	University of Bath	Prof. Joe Devine

## Details of the tour:

### Day One- 16 January 2017 in Delhi

#### 1) [Amity University](#)

#### About the Institution

- Established by an act of State Legislature and recognised by University Grants Commission (UGC) through the Act of State Legislature
- Research driven University and has a body of international academic advisory
- 11 International campuses around the globe and is highly open to international linkages and collaborations with other Universities
- Emphasis on high technology and quality education; biggest strength of Amity is providing ideal training grounds for budding professionals that allow students to experiment and bring to practice what they have learnt in theory
- Alumni all over the world in leading companies like McKinsey, Ernst & Young, HUL, Aricent, Microsoft, etc.

## Highlights of Faculty Discussion

The following aspects were discussed during the faculty discussion

- **Joint Research Programs:** Both UK Universities and Amity University have shown interest in joint research programs in the areas of Comparative Welfare Studies, Gerontology, Dimensions of Child Poverty and Female Security – Social impact, challenges and solutions. Amity University is keen to work on joint projects that involve infusion of Social Sciences with Technology and that can lead to patented work.
- **Student Exchange:** The delegates are interested in short term projects for students that are typically of 2-8 weeks thereby enabling students with international findings, added skills, knowledge enhancement and certificate from the hosting University. The delegates are also interested in building curriculum for joint or dual awarding courses for Master Program students. Co-supervision of students for specialised projects and activities are also welcome. The students can also become a part of joint research work by faculty by taking up data collection activity in India and UK.
- **Faculty Exchange:** Amity University is constantly striving to undertake collaborative research projects with industry and Institutions to remain at the forefront of new developments. A large number of Research Projects are under operation and they are interested in seeking collaboration on the academic front from UK Institutions as mentioned earlier. They welcome Faculty and PhD students from UK institutions to work on projects with their Indian counterparts. The joint research programs will enable students and faculty to share resources and research findings considering the difference in social ambits thereby enabling them to be globally aware and have enhanced knowledge.
- **Funding:** The main concern is that of funding since the budgets allocated especially for Literature is comparatively less. However, Social Sciences has the capacity to go through Global Challenges Research Fund if any research work is selected by the funding body. Funding options have to be worked upon in order to build strong research programs.

Through this visit the delegates met 274 potential students and 11 key contacts at the Institution.

## 2) [Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi](#)

### About the Institution

- Kamala Nehru College is a well-established and an age old institution under the tutelage of University of Delhi
- With more than 50 years of existence, the college prides itself in its journey of educating and empowering women in the areas of Humanities and Commerce; Social Sciences and Literature being one of the most sought after courses in the college, it witnesses students of high quality every year that are focussed in further studies and research in these areas
- The College is one of the best women's colleges under University of Delhi
- The college aims to open new vistas in the area of research, skill building, project collaborations, etc. via various education engagements on an international platform
- The college has already undertaken ELF Program by *Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (US Exchange Programs)*; keenly looks forward to building skills through international exchange programs both for students and faculty

### Highlights of Faculty Discussion

- i. **Faculty Exchange: Skill Building / Capacity Building** is one area where both local and UK Universities are interested in engaging with each other. The local Universities invite faculty exchange via seminars, paper presentations and their international journal *ACADEMOS*. They welcome the UK Universities to partner with them in collaborative planning of curriculum. Faculty Training Programs with the aim of knowledge enhancement in both the regions (India & UK) are always welcome. Both Kamala Nehru College and UK Universities have shown interest in developing *South Asian Centre* which will be interdisciplinary home for Humanities and other

collaborative areas. Through this Centre exchange programs for both faculty and students can be run with research and visits to international campus as the main focus. Through the Centre the faculty at both UK and Indian Universities can work on mentoring programs for their students.

- ii. Joint Research Programs: UK Universities and the college aim at concentrating on collaborative research projects. One of the important action points that emerged for research exchange is access to international resources and working on relevant themes together for research that connects cultures and milieu. The major research interests that arose during the discussion are 19<sup>th</sup> Century Interests and Comparative Study, Victorian Studies, Ecological Products & Scenario, Social & Cultural Anthropological dimensions of different worlds.
- iii. Student Exchange: The College aims at inclusive learning and emphasis on comparative study in order to make the students better equipped on international platform. The UK students too gain from this if programs are run under this idea. Writing Programs for students in the area of literature will give an academic leverage to them. The UK students can gain knowledge and submit articles on Indian milieu. Minor projects of short duration can be undertaken by the students jointly. Besides, semester linked programs of short duration can be run jointly by the colleges that will allow students to visit their international counterparts for 2 week programmes.
- iv. Curriculum Exchange: Key highlight under this is to revamp curriculum in conjunction with UK Universities. UK Universities to also embed Indian perspective in their curriculum to make it comprehensive. The main aim of students after study is to get employed. Also, emphasis was made on building joint curriculum enabling students of both regions getting absorbed in research field.

Through this visit the delegates met 150 potential students and 13 key contacts at the Institution.

Day two - 17 January 2017

### 3) [KR Mangalam University](#)

#### About the Institution

- K.R. Mangalam University, Haryana is a State Private University established under Haryana Private Universities Act and is empowered to award degrees under section 22 of the UGC act, 1956
- K.R. Mangalam University's vision is to develop as a world class University and to deliver a substantial innovation and international impact through creation and dissemination of knowledge
- University's Mission is to integrate its growth with the global needs and expectations of the major stakeholders via teaching, research, exchange & collaborative programs with international universities
- The University is committed to facilitate students in all the dimensions of an innovative learning environment
- The University also aims to undertake world class research that highly impacts society

#### Highlights of Faculty Discussion

- i. Faculty Exchange:  
The University is one of the newly established institutions with varied courses and is extremely keen on academic linkages via faculty exchange programmes. They are interested in partnership in the research area to get international exposure for their faculty. However, there has to be convergence in research interests and quality output in articles/papers for publication. Also, UK delegates can contribute towards their academic journal and vice versa. Like the previous college, K R Mangalam is keen on curriculum development where faculties of both Indian and UK Universities can work together. Mentoring of students to work with NGOs on international level is another area of importance.
- ii. Student Exchange:  
Both Indian and UK Universities to jointly work on the objectives and plan for student exchange programme. Summer Schools and Summer Camps in which students can spend 1-2 weeks at other Universities' campus can be run. Virtual classes can be operated for the students in which they can be regularly monitored.
- iii. Curriculum Exchange:  
As earlier mentioned, K R Mangalam is keen on curriculum development where faculties of both Indian and UK Universities can work together. The University has Centre for Community Engagement that promotes social justice and civic engagement via community service and community-based research and learning. International students can be a part of this Centre and work towards different projects that can be utilised in their study/curriculum. Skill building, like the previous College and University, is of importance and the Universities have shown interest in adding programs to their curriculum for international knowledge enhancement.

Through this visit the delegates met 121 potential students and 8 key contacts at the Institution.

The group travelled to Mumbai on 17 January evening to start the second leg of the tour.

## Mumbai

Day three -18 January 2017

### 4) [KC College of Arts, Science and Commerce](#)

#### About the institution

Kishinchand Chellaram College is one of the premier institutions affiliated to the University of Mumbai and recognised by Government of Maharashtra. It was established in 1954 by the Hyderabad (Sind) National Collegiate Board. The college was awarded permanent affiliation by the University of Mumbai within a record span of two years. Over the years K.C. has established itself as one of the leading colleges in Mumbai. This fact is well supported by excellent results, both at HSC as well as at the University examinations and the number of laurels won by the students.

#### Highlights of the faculty discussion:

The discussion commenced with the local institution highlighting their current academic linkages with union college in New York for a trimester programme for duration of 10 weeks. The model on which it would work would comprise the following along with offering credits

- Faculty to come over and deliver lectures
- Curriculum mapping and creation of a module
- Host institution to take care of hospitality and accommodation
- Travel would be borne by the respective institutions

There were discussions around the summer schools with University of Warwick for about 2 weeks capacitating around 2 to 3 students in one batch. The students would need to be fully funded on this visit. With regards to the timelines it was agreed to explore this programme during July and or August

The discussion on research revolved primarily around capacity building with focus on sociology, child welfare and social rights. Prof Joe highlighted the importance of capacity building and working with NGOs for placements. Prof Joe did highlight that faculty exchanges were common at the University of Bath and stressed that the exchange primarily depended on the identification of research scope between the two faculties; the power to formulate these exchanges would be in his remit as Head of Department.

Prof Joe did highlight that he had bid for the Global Challenge Fund for around 7 million pounds and that they would be happy to make India a hub for the same as it was listed in the approved DAC countries which could partner on this project.

With regards to student mobility, Prof. Ross highlighted their priority on internationalisation and highlighted the interest in modules dealing with South Asian Literature. He mentioned the existing link University of Warwick had with the University of Mumbai

*Through this visit the delegates met 220 potential students and 13 key contacts at the Institution*

### 5) [Sophia College for Women](#)

#### About the Institution

Sophia College, founded in 1940, is affiliated to the University of Mumbai. The Governing Body of the Society for the Higher Education of Women in India runs the College. It is dedicated mainly to the all-round education of youth. There are now a number of schools and colleges of the Society all over the world, besides widespread innovative non-formal involvements.

During its 60 odd years Sophia has been committed to responding to the changing needs of women in our society:

In the 1950s, as post-independent India was making her entry into the technological world, education in Science was first introduced (initially up to the Inter Science level and from 1967 up to the B.Sc. level, later extended to the M.Sc. level in three subjects). In the 1960s a thrust was given to the social dimension of education. During the

1970s importance was given to vocational education. In the 1980s research was given a boost. Excellence and 'Quality Assurance' were the in-words in the 1990s. In the first decade of the 21st Century our focus is on transformative education through networking and collaboration as well as through outreach work and extension of educational services to the community with special emphasis on the needs of women.

### **Highlights of the faculty discussion:**

During the course of the faculty discussion Prof Ross highlighted the focus around promotion for the Masters programme via the scholarships offered. He also mentioned the categorical importance of the doctoral programme and its linkage with regards to the multiple exchanges possible. They currently have a semester exchange programme with Purdue University. As far as academic linkages were concerned they were primarily looking at student exchanges which would be one year in duration under the Erasmus funded programme. The model would allow reciprocal arrangement for accommodation in halls of residence. The duration of this exchange would be 2 to 3 weeks. The cost of the travel would be borne by the respective students.

He also mentioned the importance of faculty exchanges which would be reciprocal in nature and involve faculty understanding teaching methodologies overseas and imbibing the best practice back home. The hospitality for the visit would be taken care of by the respective host institutions.

Prof Joe highlighted the importance of exchanges at the undergraduate level which would enhance the teaching experience and mentioned about the study abroad economic programme. Prof Joe did highlight the faculty exchanges were common at University of Bath and the fact that the exchange primarily depended on the identification of research scope between two faculties of host institutions; the power to formulate these exchanges would be in his remit as Head of Department. The duration of the exchange could be around 2 to 3 weeks.

Prof Joe highlighted the importance of field work imparted to doctoral students across various themes like physical and social humanities.

With regards to the scope on linkages from the local institution side, Sister Ananda was keen on exploring avenues around joint research projects and exchanges for both, students and faculty. For the faculty exchanges there were discussions around the time frame and after multiple discussions it was derived that mid Jan to mid Feb would be an ideal time for this crossover.

*Through this visit the delegates met 121 potential students and 4 key contacts at the Institution*

### **Day Four - 19 January 2017**

#### **6) [Ramnarain Ruia College](#)**

#### **About the Institution**

The Ramnarain Ruia College of Arts & Science was established in June 1937. This College is affiliated to University of Mumbai and conducts courses at Undergraduate and Graduate (Postgraduate) levels. Today, Ruia College enjoys the reputation of being one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the country. Its outstanding performance in the field of curricular and co-curricular activities has very considerably enhanced its prestige and brought it substantial financial assistance from the University Grants Commission, the CSIR and many other equally reputed bodies.

In the context of the changing global scenario, the institute has gone all out to provide its students with state of the art facilities as well as to design innovative courses to meet the demands of the time. Above all, the college gladly carries out its social responsibility by serving the physically challenged and socio-economically deprived.

### **Highlights of the faculty discussion:**

The discussions revolved around exploring the implementation of the faculty improvement programme in conjunction with the department head. The model on which it works is primarily on nomination and competition with the Institute of Advance Study. The duration of the programme would be 2 weeks involving the global history centre.

Exchanges at the student level comprised discussions around the implementation at the new centre in London campus which would primarily revolve around summer schools scheduled for October end for a period of 2 to 3 weeks.

Prof Joe highlighted the bid for the Global Challenge Fund is of around 7 million pound sterling and that they would be happy to make India a hub for the same as it was listed in the approved DAC countries. The discussion on research revolved primarily around capacity building with focus being on sociology, child welfare and social rights. Prof Joe also highlighted the importance of capacity building and working with NGOs for placements and mentioned faculty exchanges were common at University of Bath.

The host institution did speak about the importance of scholarships for their students with special emphasis on the GREAT Scholarships across various streams and UK institutions. They were happy to explore the exchanges at the student and faculty levels however were keen on exploring joint research projects across faculties from respective sides. The recognition issue of the one year master's programme was also discussed in detail.

Through this visit the delegates met 130 potential students and 8 key contacts at the Institution

## 7) [St. Xavier's College](#)

### **About the Institution**

St. Xavier's College in Mumbai, India, is a top liberal arts college in India. It was awarded the highest rating, A+ (5-Star), in the re-accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2006. Though it began as an Arts College, by the 1920s science departments were established. The college was greatly expanded in the 1930s. Towards the later 20th century, St. Xavier's has continued to expand in student body and faculty size, and has seen the establishment of several research centres and programs. Since 30 January 1869, St. Xavier's College has been affiliated with the University of Mumbai. It is accredited by the University with the task of preparing students for degrees in Arts, Science, and Commerce. It was made a constituent college of the university in 1953 following the Bombay University Act 1953 and received recognition by the University Grants Commission (UGC) since 1956. On 31 May 2010, St. Xavier's was granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission, thereby becoming only the second college in Mumbai to be granted such a status.

### **Highlights of the faculty discussion:**

The faculties discussed existing models of exchanges with SOAS which involved one year of semester study at SOAS and the involvement of credit transfer. The model worked under the Erasmus scholarships umbrella. They were looking at research exchanges involving joint funded projects under the Global Challenge Fund in which India would be categorised as a partner under the development assistance committee (DAC). With regards to exchanges at the student level they were keen on short term visits which would be two to three weeks in duration in the month of October (Diwali festival break).

Prof. Ross highlighted the importance of the summer programmes and conducting joint diplomas as well based on their existing models. He also spoke about the scholarships offered under the GREAT Education campaign. With regards to exchanges he was keen on exploring models which involved students' exchanges at the department and the university levels.

Prof Joe's discussions revolved around study tours (field visits) as a part of the programme and highlighted the importance of capacity building in the field of research. His proposal bid for the Global Challenge Fund was an aspect which the institution would want to explore to partner on.

Through this visit the delegates met 115 potential students and 4 key contacts at the Institution.

Post the Mumbai visit, the delegates travelled to Kolkata to complete the final leg of the tour



## Kolkata

Day five - 20 January 2017

### 8) St Xavier's College Kolkata:

St. Xavier's was founded in 1860 by a Catholic Minority Religious body, the Society of Jesus, and was affiliated to Calcutta University in 1862. St. Xavier's College counts amongst its pupils international figures of repute such as Rabindranath Tagore and Jagadish Chandra Bose. St. Xavier's has always been known for his cosmopolitan and national character.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) recognised St. Xavier's College as an "A" grade institution in 2003. In May 2006, it was declared a College with Potential for Excellence by the UGC. From July 2006, it became an Autonomous College (the first in West Bengal). In 2011, NAAC assessed St. Xavier's as an Autonomous College with a CGPA of 3.53 on a scale of 4. They are also currently building a new campus in Kolkata.

155 years is, therefore being celebrated by building up partnership programmes with international colleges and universities. They currently have collaborations with:

- Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland
- State University of New York , Oswego, USA
- Santa Clara University, California, USA
- Media Studies and Culture, Torun, Poland
- College of St. Benedict / St. Johns University, Minnesota, USA
- UNAMUR, Namur, Belgium

### Highlights of faculty discussions:

- Regarding collaborations on student exchange programmes, St. Xavier's College suggested that if UK Universities waive the tuition and boarding fee for students visiting UK they can do the same for students visiting from the UK – they already have this arrangement with international partner universities.
- Credit transfer should be incorporated along with joint degrees.
- University of Bath highlighted developing a module which is completely mobile so it saves students the trouble to travel to the UK. They can achieve the degree staying in their home country from the UK University.
- Opportunities for faculty exchange - University of Bath highlighted that they want research collaborations through staff exchange. While it is not necessary for the faculty to teach in the university, they will need to explore research opportunities and ideas while they are there.
- Both were keen to explore short exchange programmes for faculty and specialised guest lectures.

On this visit the delegates met 76 potential students and 12 key contacts at the Institution.

### 9) Presidency University:

Presidency University has a unique place in history. It was one of the first institutions of Western-type higher education in Asia. . This was taken over by the British Government in 1855 as the College of the Bengal Presidency, and placed in 1857 under the newly founded Calcutta University. Over the next hundred years and more, Presidency College was Bengal's pre-eminent centre of higher learning. Although a Constituent College of Calcutta University, it preserved a tradition of research. This gave a unique dimension to its undergraduate teaching.

2017 marks the bicentenary of Presidency University which was given the status of an independent University in 2010.

Presidency has signed MOUs with The University of Groningen, Trinity College Dublin, SOAS and University of East Anglia to name a few.

The department of Sociology started in 1989 as part of Presidency College. Currently at the department, they have scholars who have had exposure of learning, and teaching, in Calcutta, Delhi, Germany and the UK. These are



also active researchers whose interests range from Marxist thought to anthropology of affect, from sociology of childhood to representations of death in Indian films, from agrarian history to sociology of depression.

Presidency University added another feather to its cap when it got a very impressive 3.04 CGPA and Grade A from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). India Today rank's Presidency as number one within Kolkata.

#### **Highlights of faculty discussions:**

The following aspects were discussed during the faculty discussion.

- Research collaboration and cross faculty collaboration – focusing on specific areas of specialization.
- Developing a module on Global Masters wherein the teaching can be collaborative.
- Credit transfer should be incorporated.
- University of Bath highlighted on developing a module which is completely mobile and global.
- More collaboration of student exchange programmes. However University of Bath is keen on collaborating with faculty members in regards to research.

On this visit the University of Bath met 22 potential students and 10 key contacts from the Sociology department at Presidency University.

#### **10) Jadavpur University:**

Jadavpur University is at present an internationally recognised premier university of the country. Jadavpur University not only engages itself in teaching and research of international quality, but also provides societal services for the benefit of rural and urban populations. The university interacts with industry, research bodies and civil society in the process of curriculum development, revision and implementation. Jadavpur University's outreach programmes and international collaborations are among the best in the country and this helps in receiving feedback from individuals and communities within the country as well as from some of the best research institutions in the world.

Jadavpur University's collaborations have led to a greater diversity of campus activities; international exchange programmes (e.g. SYLFF, Erasmus Mundus) have allowed students, even undergraduates, to spend a semester or two in institutions abroad; students of engineering have benefitted through their participation in industry and industrial processes; many international programmes and collaborations (e.g. Global Change, SYLFF) have enabled students to interact with scholars and researchers across the globe; the World Bank-funded TEQIP has allowed the university to improve the quality of its technical education.

Jadavpur University has signed 182 MOUs during the period under review with institutions and other bodies in India and abroad.

The university-industry interactions have resulted in the establishment/creation of highly specialised laboratories/facilities. Jadavpur University has been ranked by Times Higher Education World University Ranking. Jadavpur University ranks within the top 100 Universities in Asia.

#### **Highlights of faculty discussions:**

- There was an interest from Jadavpur University on research collaboration on 'Cities' in the post-colonial context.
- University Warwick too was interested to collaborate on research about 19 Century migration in cities, China-India relations and Kolkata's China town. Jadavpur University was also keen to explore Chinese diaspora writers.
- University of Warwick was keen to explore student exchange programmes - this would be for a small group of students and for a year's duration.

- Jadavpur University was keen to have teaching faculty from University of Warwick for Caribbean Studies – a short visit to deliver a course.
- While Jadavpur University has the Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Warwick has the Institute of Advanced Study and there are possibilities of collaboration between both, including faculty visit for 10 days for research and master class delivery.

On this visit University of Warwick met 55 potential students and 3 key contacts at the Institution.

### Feedback received from participating delegates

Overall rating of the tour:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Quality of Institutions /cities visited	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Interaction and content of the programme at institutions	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Support provided by British Council	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Overall feedback about the tour

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The mission met my expectations	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Overall, this was a high quality event	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%
I have acquired knowledge about institutions in the cities through this mission	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

- **Specific feedback from University of Warwick representative**  
The overall visit provided a good opportunity for me to better understand the context of Indian higher education and the possibility of Warwick’s humanities programmes developing student staff exchanges and other types of collaboration.  
In terms of follow up, I will be liaising with Warwick’s Global Engagement Office and Study Abroad team, as well as with my own department and the steering committee for our planned Centre for South Asian Studies about taking forward some of the exchanges and collaborations discussed with individual institutions.
- **Specific feedback from University of Bath representative**  
I am in discussion with University of Bath representatives. I would also like to discuss further with British Council about some ideas that emerged during my visit and which might be of strategic value to British Council.  
These visits need to be part of a wider process of engagement.

**Annexure:**

**Photographs at institutions in Delhi**

Amity University









Photographs at institutions in Kolkata





St. Xavier's College: Sociology Department.



St. Xavier's College: English Department.



Presidency University: Sociology Department



Jadavpur University: English Department

Photographs at institutions in Mumbai

Xavier's College





Ruia College



Sophia College





KC College

