ADVERT:

Would you like to use the skills you have learnt in your course to help some of the poorest communities in the world?

The Faculty of Science and Engineering has partnered with the University of Amrita in India to offer you the opportunity to volunteer over Summer 2019 and join their Live-In Labs programme.

You will be able to use aspects of your degree training in science; engineering; organisational; business or design skills to help a community in India over a two month period from the beginning of July to the end of August.

To find out more, please read the information below:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Would you like to use your science, engineering, business or design skills to help an Indian community?
Apply to volunteer with the Live-In Labs programme at Amrita University.

The centre for the visit is Kerala province in the south of India which is a very beautiful destination. However, as last year’s students will attest, this is not a holiday. You would be working in a remote village, often with no power, no internet and no phone coverage.
Can you cope with two months without Instagram? Imagine!
However, to make up for the technology severance you would be very warmly, safely and carefully looked after by our Indian friends and you would not be working alone. We are hoping that at least 20 students will volunteer this year and you would be working in pairs at the very least, as well as meeting and working with the local students. Individual project teams can be between 5 and 10 students.

The project will run from the beginning of July 2019 to the end of August 2019 and you will be expected to stay for the whole time. It counts towards the University of Manchester’s Stellify Award and the Manchester Leadership Award and will be on your Higher Education Achievement Record when you graduate.
Sponsorship of circa £500 - £600 per student (to be finalised) will be available from the School of Materials and the Faculty of Science and Engineering for the successful candidates, and you will be required to match this with your own fundraising, approximately £600. All students will be required to show evidence of fundraising to qualify for the bursary and the programme.

Details of this, and the support we can offer, will be given to the successful applicants but last year the student team used the University’s Crowdfunding platform to raise the rest of the funds.

An estimated cost for the trip would be (flight costs subject to change)
Flights £650
Internal travel to project £125 (between $100 - $200)
Accommodation and Food £500 ($630 so depends on exchange rate – paid for and all organised by Amrita University whilst you are on the project)
Visa £170. Don’t forget spending money of about £200 so the total (depending on how much you want to spend) might have a lower estimate of £1645 and an upper estimate of £2000.
The accommodation provided will either be on campus or locally in a village. The centre of activities are in Coimbatore or Cochin but the project locations vary and can be anywhere in India.

**How do I apply?**
If you are interested in this opportunity and would like further information and an application form (no more than 2 pages please) please register your interest via the Volunteering Hub at [https://find-volunteering.manchester.ac.uk/opportunity/result/15810](https://find-volunteering.manchester.ac.uk/opportunity/result/15810).

We want to know: why do you want to go? What do you have to give? How might you contribute? What would the experience mean to you? Which of the highlighted projects interests you and why? Please bear in mind that the list of projects develops all the time, and the active projects this summer may well differ. You could be assigned to any project so our volunteers must have a relaxed and flexible attitude and be prepared to go with the flow.

Deadline for submission of forms will be December 31st. A small panel will judge the applications and let you know in January whether you have been shortlisted. This will be followed by a short Skype interview with our Indian hosts and you will be expected to attend some initial training sessions to prepare for the visit. It will be early-mid February when you know if you have been selected for the programme. You then will have two months to fundraise circa £500-600 GBP. Once that is complete at the end of April there will be further pre-departure training but in early May you can start to book your tickets. That leaves you plenty of time to sort out your visas and travel (you must get a STUDENT visa). Remember please don’t apply unless you can spend July and August in India being aware that it can be VERY hot, and then some more hot!

Any student in any year of study can apply, but please be aware that sponsorship can only be given to students from the Faculty of Science and Engineering, so if you are studying in another Faculty you would need to fund the whole cost of the trip. We can suggest contacts in your Faculty who may be able to let you know if they have any funds that you can apply for.

We are happy to accept applications from students who have applied or been on the project in the past, but priority for sponsorship would be given to students who have not benefitted from this experience in the past.

If you have accessibility needs please speak to Bob Cernik, [Robert.cernik@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Robert.cernik@manchester.ac.uk) directly who can advise on whether these can be taken account of.

Any questions please ask.

I look forward to reading your applications.

See here for a great blog from last year’s students including some really helpful information about preparing for your arrival
[https://uomliveinlabsweb.wordpress.com/about/](https://uomliveinlabsweb.wordpress.com/about/)

Best wishes

Bob Cernik

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