IRIDESCENCE
COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

We are born and conditioned by survival instincts, to regard and protect the 'Self' above all else. But education is a game-changer - a human creation that re-conditions the Self-regarding persons towards concern for Community, Society, and the Other. Psychologist Sydney Harris, summed this up when he observed that education turns mirrors into windows. And in our own small but significant way, we at St. Xavier's College are building windows to regard the Other – countries abroad, so that our students can know them better; and students from foreign countries, that they too may know us and our country better. This has been the endeavour of the International Program at St. Xavier's - building windows and pathways of the mind across borders and boundaries, so that the true aim of education can be met.

CIP has been a window to international academics and culture....

International Programmes for Xavier's students: These range from short term (10 days to 2 months) to year-long exchange programs. Studies Abroad at the following Universities have enriched and broadened the education of 37 of our students this year.

Harvard University: For the last nine years Xavier's has been the chosen partner from India for the prestigious Harvard College in Asia Program (HCAP). I am proud to say that this year too, the Xavier's proposal was rated very highly by Harvard, and the college was selected to participate in the HCAP conference. Eight Xaviersites visited Harvard University, USA from 17th-25th January 2015, along with students from five other Asian countries. In reciprocation eight Harvard students visited St. Xavier's from 16th – 22nd March 2015. An International Conference on 'Technology and this Generation: from the Individual to the World' was organized as part of the HCAP program. Students and faculty from Xavier's and several colleges in Mumbai participated in the conference.

York University: The Ontario-Maharashtra-Goa program (OMG) is a collaborative effort between the Canadian Government of the State of Ontario and the States of Maharashtra and Goa. Students from sixteen universities in the State of Ontario, Canada and seven Universities/Colleges from Maharashtra and Goa are participating in this program. Ninoshka D’souza, Nikhil Sekar, Caroline D’Souza, Aashish De Fonseca were selected to spend a year at York University, Canada. All four received scholarships from the York University.

St. Louis University: Ankita Isor was an exchange student for two semesters at St. Louis University, USA. As part of the MOU signed between Xavier's and SLU, she received a full tuition waiver.

Comillas Pontificial University, Spain: For the academic year under review, 2 students – Priyanka Suna and Trisha George were selected to study at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Comillas.

IESEG, France: Three students from IESEG school of Management took courses at St. Xavier's in the final year of the BMS program for the academic year 2014-15. Xavierite Cynthia Lewis availed of the opportunity to study for a year at the IESEG school of Management, France with a tuition waiver.

Sciences Po, Paris, France: Diana Frenchman, Kalindi Rana and Shambhavi Priyam were selected to spend the academic year at Sciences Po, Paris. Two of them were awarded the prestigious Charpak Scholarship by the French Embassy whereas the third student won a scholarship from Science Po. To maintain reciprocity, two students from Sciences Po studied at Xavier's for two semesters.

Yale University: A summer program for two Yale students was conducted on our campus from June 3rd till July 2nd 2014 on the theme of “Bombay: City, Society and Culture” by Dr. Ashish Chaddha. Ten students from Xavier's also participated in this course. Aishwarya Acharya, Shumbham Kanodia, Yashwardhan Singh Bhatia & Devika Lakhote were selected to attend the Summer Session at the University of Yale, USA with a scholarship from 3rd June to 6th July, 2014.

St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford: Two of our students Lailita Tangirala and Kashish Saluja received the Betty and Donald Keating Scholarship to study at St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford, UK from April to June 2015. This is the fourth consecutive year that two of our students have been selected for this prestigious scholarship.

University of Berkeley: Nine of our students enrolled in various courses offered by the University of Berkeley, USA in their summer programme from May to June 2015.

University of Stuttgart, St. Louis University, Stellenbosch University and St. Xavier's College Department of English Collaborative Program: The India- chapter of the online course - In Conversation with Globalization was held from 17th to 24th January 2015. There were 5 students from St. Louis University, USA, 7 from Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 6 students along with 2 student-tutors from the University of Stuttgart, Germany, and 8 students from St. Xavier's College who participated. Dr. David Borgmeyer from St. Louis University, USA, Dr. Wolfgang Holtkamp from the University of Stuttgart, Ms. Alecia Erasmus from Stellenbosch University, South Africa accompanied their students. The theme for this year was “Globalization and Human Rights”. In May, two of our Xavier's students went in May for an 8 day program to the University of Stuttgart.

Xavier's Programmes for International students: These range from short term programmes of two weeks to two months or for one to two semesters. During the year, we hosted on our campus, 83 students from countries such as Japan, USA, Australia and France.

English Language Course: For the
second consecutive year we had students from Soka University, Japan, participating in the specialized, intensive short term English language course. Nine students accompanied by an instructor were on our campus from 8th to 22nd Feb, 2015. At the end of the course the students in groups of two and three performed a skit making use of idioms learnt in class. This was a highly successful and innovative method of evaluating the students. A certificate of participation was given at the end of the programme.

**India Studies Programme:** For the first time Xavier’s had on its campus the University of Notre Dame, USA students for a 15 day programme on “Art, History, and Culture of India” from 14th to 28th June, 2014. The programme was offered for 2 credits with ten Xavier’s faculty and four guest lecturers conducting the course. Fifteen students from the University of Notre Dame were accompanied by their International programme director, Anita Garg. Eight students of Xavier’s College also participated in this programme that had an eclectic mix of lectures, heritage walks, museum and Mani Bhavan visits.

**Xavier’s - Berkeley Summer Programme:** For the second consecutive year we organized a program for students from the University of California, Berkeley, USA. This two credit course “Globalization, Capital Flows and Development” with the Xavier’s and Berkeley students on the campus, from July 4th – 25th 2014. They were accompanied by Professor James Arvanitakis, an award winning teacher and Research Member of the Institute for Culture and Society, who also conducted a session on “Globalization and Complexity”.

**Semester / One year Programmes:** Five students from Soka University, Japan enrolled for the June-October 2014 semester in the SYBA. International students from Universities with MOUs signed, through the exchange programme, enroll in Xavier’s for a semester or one year, with a full tuition waiver. Five French students from IESEG and Science Po, Paris campus availed of this exchange.

**New Initiatives of CIP:** One of the roles of the CIP is to open new avenues of collaborations with international institutes, truly serving as a window to first class education. This year we developed programmes for Xavier’s students to do research internships abroad and for students coming from non-English speaking countries to learn the English language at Xavier’s.

**Research Internship:** Master’s student Caroline Paul availed of the opportunity for a 2 month research internship in the laboratory of Professor Paul Crocker, College of Life Sciences, University of Dundee, Scotland from April-June 2015.

**English Language Course for a semester:** Two students from Soka University, Japan enrolled for a 4 month course in the English Language, at the Xavier’s Language Lab. A certificate was given at the end of the course.

**Memoranda of Understanding signed 2014-2015:**

Memoranda of Understanding were signed with six new universities to encourage the development of visits and informal exchanges of faculty, scholars and administrators in education, research and outreach, to organize joint conferences, to develop joint research programs and facilitate exchange of students during the academic year or summer terms. These institutes include the University of Western Sydney, Australia; New Jersey City University, USA; Santa Clara University, California, USA; the University of Glasgow, UK; St. Catherine’s College, Oxford, UK and Soka University, Japan. Currently Xavier’s has a total of twenty MOUs signed with various international universities which are valid and functional.

**Collaborative programmes with International Institutes:** The CIP organized seminars and workshops for students and faculty by several outstanding academicians visiting the college.

1. Prof. Duncan Ivison, Dean-Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, gave a lecture on ‘The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Conceptions of Multiculturalism’ and ‘Women and Work in Globalising India’ was a talk presented by Dr. Elizabeth Hill, Dept. of Political Economy, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney in November 2014.

2. Dr. Jens Coorssen, Head, UWS Molecular Medicine Research Group, University of Western Sydney, Australia gave a series of lectures in biology, “Systems Biology = ‘BIG’ Biology” and “Introduction to Proteomics: large-scale protein analyses” in December 2014.

3. Dr. Nida Denson, School of Social Sciences & Psychology, University of Western Sydney, Australia gave a lecture on “Racial Discrimination and Mechanisms to fight against Racism” in January 2015.


5. Dr Graeme Salter, Director, Entrepreneurship, Engagement and International for the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics, University of Western Sydney, Australia gave a two hour lecture to the faculty on
“Technology in the Classroom” in April, 2015.

**Visiting Universities for Student and Faculty Exchange**

The following representatives visited St. Xavier’s College for future possibilities of student and faculty exchanges, research initiatives and training. A total number of 27 foreign University representatives visited us. Among the dignitaries we had President Sue Henderson, New Jersey City University, USA and Chancellor Prof. Shergold and Vice Chancellor Prof. Glover from the University Of Western Sydney, Australia. Provosts / Assoc Provosts/ Deans/ Faculty from the following institutes had productive discussions with us: St. Louis University, Steinhardt NYU, Stern Business School, NYU; University of Notre Dame, University of Georgia, representatives of nine state Universities of California; New Jersey City University; the University of British Columbia, Trinity Western University, Vancouver; the University of Edingburgh, Cardiff University, London School of Economics, University of Glasgow, School of Oriental and African Studies, EDHEC Business School, University of Leeds; University of Sydney; University of Western Sydney; Soka University; Science Po, Lille; Technion University, Haifa University, Tel Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Bocconi Institute and Universidad Catolica De Murcia.

As part of the ongoing discussions with various University Representatives, the director of CIP attended the Australia Business Week, the University of Western Sydney meet hosted by the Australian Consul General, and the deputy Prime Minister of UK’s dinner meet for visiting faculty from UK.

It has been an amazing year at CIP, and none of this would have been possible without the help of a dedicated staff. Hence, I take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to all the academic partners who share the Xavier's tradition of excellence. My sincere thanks to the Principal Dr. (Fr.) Frazer Mascarenhas without whose mentorship it would not have been possible to take the International programme forward. Special appreciation is due to a large number of Faculty members who helped in the interviews, conducting sessions for foreign students and mentoring visiting students who attend regular classes. A big thank you to the administrative staff in the general office, exam control room, and treasurer's office for timely help with administrative work for the foreign students. To the members of the CIP committee, my sincere thanks for the excellent team work.

*Dr. Radiya Pacha Gupta*
Director, CIP

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**2015 HARVARD COLLEGE IN ASIA PROGRAM (HCAF) CONFERENCE**

St. Xavier’s has, for the last six years, been the Indian partner for the Harvard College in Asia Program (HCAF) that was launched by Harvard University to facilitate both a cultural and scholarly exchange with prestigious Asian academic institutions such as the University of Tokyo, University of Hong Kong etc.

As part of this program, delegates from these universities visit Harvard to participate in their annual exchange conference which is then followed by Harvard student delegates participating in the conferences organised by their Asian counterparts.

The 8 students selected to be a part of the conference this year were Puneet Acharya, Shreya Bose, Shreya Mathur, Tushar Gidwani, Ronak Jain, Tarushi Sonthalia and Shyamolie Parikh.

**The Harvard Conference**:

The 2014-2015 HCAF theme was ‘Technology and Our Generation: From the Individual to the World’. Such a multi-dimensional theme ensured that student delegates could pursue a broad spectrum of topics which had themselves borrowed ideas from multiple disciplines.

Indeed, there was much excitement and nervousness in equal parts as we landed in Boston, not to mention apprehension as we drew closer to meeting our Harvard hosts. Our first day in Harvard saw us connecting with our new hosts which was followed by an orientation to familiarise ourselves with the 5 day conference structure. We spent our remaining time exploring Harvard Square and preparing for the next day's activities and presentations.

Day 1 of the conference started with a presentation by a spokesperson from Alibaba as he explained the workings of the E-Commerce giant and the processes behind its recent share listing. Following this address, the delegates had to introduce their case presentation and the development related problems that seem to be commonly associated with it. Our topic was 'Healthcare and Technology in India: The Intrinsic Nature of Healthcare and Upliftment through the Use of Technology.' Prof. Imran Syeed, MIT, then enlightened us on the subtleties of Disruptive Technology. The rest of our day was then spent exploring Boston and eating in the East End and Chinatown.

Day 2 commenced with a session on 'The Advocacy of Healthcare Technology' with a special focus on making simple the 'Global Equity of Cardiac Revisualisation' followed by a chance to interact with start-ups such as Wella Pets and Epidemico. A talent show marked the end of our second day.

Day 3 began with a panel discussion that attempted to charter how technology had aligned itself to give rise to an upgradation in education as seen across the world. A special emphasis...
was placed on India and we spent the rest of our day working to solve various delegates’ crises.

By drawing Asian and American connections, the conference addressed the broad theme of technology by means of panel discussions, interactions and presentations from each delegation. The delegates also had to solve major challenges that are confronting the present generation through the use of technology. The focus of the Mumbai delegation was ‘Access to Healthcare and Trends in India with respect to Maternal Health’. The delegates had to identify the key challenges and case studies to help strengthen our arguments and proposed solutions. Once again the role of technology in the dissemination of small scale innovation to eliminate inter-state and rural-urban disparities on a nationwide was emphasized.

A key focus of the conference was on gaining new perspectives through interaction with our hosts and the locals who also went out of their way to make us feel at home. We also had the opportunity to sight see the Widner Library, Memorial Hall, John Harvard’s statue etc. We also organised a special talent show that involved a medley of Hindi songs and Bollywood dances.

A key feature of our stay at Harvard was the opportunity to visit Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School which saw one of our delegates Shreya Mathur take up an opportunity to intern in Bangladesh where she would learn more about growth and development. She writes “Through HCAP not only was I able to form a meaningful friendship with my host but I also had the opportunity to visit the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University which is a graduate school for public policy and public administration. My interaction with a program director and one of the students helped me gain immense clarity on my post-graduation plans and even resulted in a wonderful summer internship.

The program director informed me about some high-impact social enterprises run by an alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School which led to me emailing the Managing Director of mPower Social Enterprises in Dhaka, Bangladesh. mPower is a development intelligence firm dealing in mobile technology and I interned at the firm’s office in Dhaka for almost two months, working on various projects, from agricultural proposals for USAID to landscape studies on social enterprises in Bangladesh for the World Bank. My time in Bangladesh resulted in introspection on growth and development in the two countries and led me to explore crucial sectors in development such as public health and gender. Thus, HCAP was a learning experience in more ways than I could ever conceive it to be.

The Mumbai Conference:

The Mumbai conference which took place on 16th and 17th March 2015 saw Harvard delegates visiting our college involved a variety of talks and discussions on topics related to technology. The Harvard delegates also had the opportunity to learn and explore the city and visit some of the more favoured tourist attractions. Describing her week’s stay in Mumbai, Harvard delegate, Nhu Le states, “Lectures on the state of Indian agriculture and high-impact and accessible technology solutions and the opportunity to see the Indian perspective on the role of technology in International Relations were very enlightening. Also the traditional dance workshops, shows and activities like shopping for kurtas and jewellery were full of cultural and intellectual experiences. One moment, we’re sponging up India’s rich culture and way of life (ancient and modern) as we listen intently to foremost speakers or guides, and the next we’re hysterically laughing at someone’s sarcasm or innuendo. I could not have demanded anything more from a conference!”

HCAP Participants

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

My visit to the University of Oxford this year, from April to June, on the Betty and Donald Keating Scholarship was a truly memorable experience. I was given the opportunity not only to study at a prestigious institution for a term, but also to experience the rich student culture, travel around The United Kingdom and interact with other students who hail from different parts of the world.

Oxford has a unique way of teaching and learning; their method was quite different from anything I had previously experienced. A tutor was assigned to me for each of my subjects - Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and I was to have a one-on-one session with them every week wherein we would discuss my 1500-2000 word essay. This is very different from the lecture system that we follow in India.

The tutor also provided me with a list of lectures that I could attend in order to supplement my knowledge of the subjects. This way of teaching ensures that every student puts in a great amount of effort writing each essay, because at the end they are going to be evaluated personally by their tutor.

Studying in the United Kingdom as a Visiting Student offered great academic opportunities, and also gave me the platform to demonstrate my interest and proficiency in certain extra-curricular activities. I played Cricket and Volleyball for the ‘Firsts Team’ of my college at Oxford, and both my teams made it to the quarterfinals in the Cuppers Tournament.

I also learnt a form of Ballroom Dancing - the Quickstep, and represented my college in the Ballroom Dance Cuppers and finished as a quarter finalist.

Another aspect of Oxford that mesmerized me was its motivational and inspirational environment. I was in the midst of students, most of who were currently heading a division at Yahoo, or were Olympic Gold medalists or the recipients of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. This programme also
provided me with the opportunity to interact with distinguished people like the 2008 Noble Laureate for Economics, Paul Krugman.

While travelling around the United Kingdom, I was fascinated by the diversity among cities, ranging from the busy life of a business town like London to the student-centric life of a modern town like Manchester, and to the quiet life of a small and beautiful town like Nottingham.

My main focus during my time at Oxford was to make sure that I experienced the student culture by participating in the opening meetings of the democratic Junior Common Room (the undergraduate student body), attending various social events and talks by guest speakers and participating in sports and other activities. I can confidently say that after having spent ten weeks in Oxford, I have made some amazing friends and have met people whom I would love to be in touch with.

Lastly, I would not hesitate to advise other students who are given the opportunity to study at the prestigious University of Oxford to go and experience life at University - it's worth every minute!

Kashish Saluja
SYBA Economics

STUTTGART

Novel experiences are always welcome, but what we make of these experiences, how we imbibe them and assimilate them into a cohesive whole, ultimately defines the worth of the journey.

Our visit to Stuttgart in Germany, as part of a cultural exchange program will be something we will fondly cherish for the rest of our lives. Not only did we openly engage with a culture that was astonishingly novel, but were fortunate to meet a host of other individuals from diverse backgrounds and exciting experiences.

Our little coterie of friends became an ever widening cultural magnet, pulling in Bolivians, South Africans, Indians, Turkish, Vietnamese and Americans alike. Truly, within the overarching theme of Human Rights, transcending borders was not such a distant dream anymore. In view of this fact, the assimilative value of these diverse cultures cannot be underestimated.

There was also a lot to imbibe and ponder over, given the stark differences that exist between our countries and cities. Despite the fact that Mumbai and Stuttgart are sister cities, we could not help but marvel at the range of their expertise and awareness as citizens of a city that was ravaged during the Second World War.

Of the places we visited, some of the most memorable were the Mercedes Benz Museum, the Hohenzollern Castle and the Ludwigsburg Castle. The Benz Museum not only had models of iconic cars produced since the company’s conception, but a history of the development of cars amid the backdrop of socio-political events that dominated Europe since the early 1900s.

The Hohenzollern Castle was a long trek up a mountain, which left most of us breathless- and not just because we weren’t as fit as we thought. The view from up there was stunning! The students, who had organized these visits were always with us, providing us with detailed explanations pertaining to the history behind the Castle.

The Ludwigsburg Castle was magnificent. It had gardens which stretched for miles, which were three times larger when the Castle was originally built. It also had a theme park, which was designed along the lines of European fairy tales, including structures like Rapunzel’s tower and Red Riding Hood’s grandmother’s house. It was like stepping into a book by the Brothers Grimm.

No trip to Germany is complete without the delicious Swabian food we sampled. We were staying with German students so we often ate lunch at home-savouries like spaetzle, schnitzel, and of course, sausages. The Wasen, their beer festival was another once in a lifetime experience, filled with people singing and dancing on benches as one large group.

The open fields, pastures and vineyards harmoniously co-exist with the bustling hub of the city downtown, boasting of crowded student pubs, universities, cafes, shopping malls, theatres, museums and castles (with more castles). The infrastructure allows one to commute swiftly via bus, road or train. This amazing syncretism of natural beauty and urban bustle was something that compelled us to reflect on the state of our own city.

Our visit to rural spots in Germany, just outside of Stuttgart, was an experience in itself. Beyond the bucolic setting of animal rearing, historical mills and cozy cottages, one could detect the hint of a populace that was hard at work but at peace with itself, unlike the rural population in most other developing countries. Of course, with charmingly wondrous weather and a light breeze caressing the hand that holds a glass of wine/beer, the villagers have little to complain about.

Beautiful barbecues, impromptu adventures, long, purposeless walks and remarkable encounters with vivacious souls are what characterized our visit to Stuttgart.

All in all, it was a rather fulfilling cultural exchange, leading us to push the boundaries of what we know and to think globally. We will always be indebted to the Literature Department, and to our German hosts for having been so wonderfully hospitable and accommodating. We can only hope that we did justice to this valuable program as students and look forward to hosting more friends from across the globe again.

Prost!

Kavya Menon
Sarthak Karkare
SYBA
I have been very lucky this summer to have got the opportunity to do a two month internship at the University of Dundee, Scotland, through the Center for International Programs, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. As a part of the Program Prof Paul Crocker, Head of the Department of Cell Signaling and Immunology, College of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee interviewed me. I was selected to do an internship in his laboratory that works on various projects dealing with Glycoimmunology.

It was really a wonderful experience working in the laboratory with a batch of dynamic post-doctoral researchers. I assisted Dr. Gang Wu in his project titled “Proteomic Analysis of Sialoadhesin binding ligands present on T regulatory cells”. I gained a lot of experience in handling T cell cultures, CHO cell lines, insect cell lines etc. and performing various techniques including Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting, Mass Spectrometry, Western Blotting, SDS PAGE, PCR, chromatography and molecular cloning.

During my stay in Dundee I got a chance to attend a number of seminars from world-renowned scientists on various topics including the Adam Neville Lecture Series 2015, which was given by Dr. Molly Stevens from the Imperial College London. I was enthralled by the amount of work taking place in the field of nanotechnology, which is one of my personal interests. The lecture gave us an insight on the most recent research taking place in Nanotechnology which includes the invention of Nano needles and methods of generating new bone for transplantation.

I also had the opportunity to be an active participant of the public engagement program hosted by the Department of Cell Signaling and Immunology, College of Life Sciences, University of Dundee at the Dundee Science Center in the first week of May 2015. It had been a wonderful two day workshop for high school children coming from various schools in and around Dundee. We had the opportunity of teaching them basic techniques in Immunology and organize fun activities to enable them to learn more about the subject. During the process I got the chance to interact with a lot of people from the city and also other scientists from the university, and therefore it proved to be a wonderful time of interaction and scientific discussion.

Our regular lab meetings and day-to-day scientific discussions and interactions have truly helped me develop my interests and knowledge in the field of Glycoimmunology. Prof Paul's Lab organized a lab trip to Isle of May, on what turned out to be one of the best days of my stay in Scotland. As a laboratory we spent a lot of time together, having meals and meeting up at weekends. It was indeed like a wonderful home away from home and a family that will always remain close to my heart.

As a country, Scotland is very warm and welcoming. My stay was very comfortable and to my luck the weather was very pleasant throughout. Visiting Edinburgh and its beautiful Castles was memorable.

The internship overall has helped me grow as a person, rediscover my abilities and explore a new world. It has made a major impact upon in my career and helped me discover my aim for life. I would like to express my heart felt gratitude to Dr. Radiya Pacha Gupta, Head of the Center for International Programs, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, for having been the encouragement and major source of support throughout and also Thank the College for giving me the opportunity.

Caroline Paul
M.Sc. Life Sciences
2013-15

Students from University of Stuttgart, St. Louis and St. Xavier's College at Uttan, Dharavi Bhet