



Cornell in India

LOCATION

- Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve
- Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu

PARTNER INSTITUTION

- Keystone Foundation

HOUSING

- Guest House on Keystone Campus

ELIGIBILITY

- 3.0 GPA
- Completion of prep seminar in prior semester

PROGRAM TERM

- Spring

COSTS

- See website for current costs
- Includes tuition, fees, housing, meals, activities
- Personal expenses and travel not included

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Rolling; May 15 preferred

FACULTY LEAD

- Dr. Neema Kudva

PROGRAM ADVISOR

- Dr. Kristen Grace

SOCIAL SITES

- facebook.com/nilgirisfieldlearningcenter

WEBSITES

- blogs.cornell.edu/nflc
- keystone-foundation.org
- www.cuabroad.cornell.edu/?go=NFLC

WWW.CUABROAD.CORNELL.EDU



Nilgiris Field Learning Center

The NFLC is a unique partnership that aligns Cornell faculty and students with experts and community members in the Nilgiris, the “blue hills” of southern India.

- The NFLC learning community explores nutrition and health, land use, and livelihoods in a region recognized for its biodiversity.
- Students develop research skills in an engaged, field-based environment.
- Projects address community-identified issues:
 - Community wellness and changing approaches to healing
 - Dietary diversity, eating habits, and sourcing patterns in local food systems
 - Contested forest lands as space for food, farming, and trade
 - Infant feeding practices in the context of maternal health and social networks
 - Water and waste infrastructure in an urbanizing environment



Where in the world?

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) is a United Nations biodiversity “hotspot” where culture, community, and biodiversity meet. Coffee, tea, and spice plantations abound, and small towns and tourist areas are interspersed with forested land and national parks. The NBR is home to several tribal communities.

Who is our partner?

The Keystone Foundation works with indigenous communities in the NBR with a focus on livelihoods, conservation, and market-based social enterprise. The vibrant Keystone campus is located in Kotagiri, a hill station in the Western Ghats. It is a hub for honey production, education initiatives, and research. Two new buildings provide housing for NFLC students and a canteen for the entire campus.

What is the NFLC?

The NFLC is an engaged learning and research program where Cornell students and members of local communities live, study, and research together for 16 weeks each spring. Cornell students earn 15 credits in this innovative study abroad program, which requires completion of a fall prep course.

How does it work?

- In weeks 1-7, field trips and classroom modules will focus on the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve. Enjoy a spring break in week 8!
- In weeks 9-15, you’ll team up for field work on community wellness, environmental governance, infant nutrition and diet diversity, and waste management issues. Together you’ll analyze what you’ve learned.
- In week 16, you’ll make presentations in the local communities in which you’ve worked and to members and friends of the Keystone Foundation. A debrief and a celebration of your accomplishments round out the experience of a lifetime.

What will you learn?

- ANTHR 1520: *Tamil Conversation in Context*, A. Willford, 2 credits
- ANTHR 4520: *Society & Culture in the Nilgiris*, A. Willford, L. Ramberg 3 credits
- CRP 3850: *Planning & Sustainability, the Case of the NBR*, N. Kudva, 3 credits
- NTRES 4520: *Land use in the Nilgiris*, S. Wolf, 3 credits
- INDEPENDENT STUDY: *Anthropology, Urban Planning, Natural Resources, Nutrition, or Global Public Health*, 4 credits

Who is the leadership team?

Cornell faculty develop the education modules, direct field work, and teach on site. The team includes Neema Kudva, City and Regional Planning; Rebecca Stoltzfus, Nutritional Sciences; Andrew Willford, Anthropology; Steven Wolf, Natural Resources; Lucinda Ramberg, Anthropology; and Shubh Swain, Nutritional Sciences

Keystone professionals co-teach the learning modules and direct field work. Pratim Roy, Snehlata Nath, and Mathew John are directors of Keystone. Anita Varghese directs research.

Cornell Abroad staff facilitate the administration of NFLC. Marina Markot, Director; Kathy Lynch, Financial Manager; and Kristen Grace, Associate Director support the faculty, students, and Keystone partners to make the program run smoothly for all.



Cornell Abroad