



**PDP**U  
PANDIT DEENDAYAL PETROLEUM UNIVERSITY



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Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University  
Raisan, Gandhinagar 382007  
Gujarat, India  
Phone : +91-79-23275288/08/09  
[www.pdpu.ac.in](http://www.pdpu.ac.in)

**International Students'  
Handbook 2019**



## International Students' Handbook 2019



**PDPU**  
PANDIT DEENDAYAL PETROLEUM UNIVERSITY



# Welcome to **Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University**

This Welcome Guide will provide you with information and guidance on:

- Preparing for your stay in India
- Travelling to Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar
- Student life at Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDU); and
- Living in Ahmedabad and India.

It also includes important contact details and websites for both University services and external organisations.

We recommend that you read through the guide as you start to plan for your journey to Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar, and also remember to bring it with you so you can refer to it during your stay.

We hope the guide answers many of your questions and gives you a good start for your studies with us.



## Welcome from the **International Student Service**

We are delighted that you have chosen to study at Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU) and would like to offer you a warm welcome. The International Student Service provides advice and support to all international students as you prepare for your studies at PDPU, and also throughout your stay with us.

### What we offer?

#### **Welcome Guide:**

We hope that you find the guide both interesting and informative and that it answers many of the questions you have as you start your preparations to come to Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar. If you do have any further questions prior to your arrival in India, please contact us.

#### **Advice and information:**

We offer advice to all prospective and current international students on a range of issues including visas and immigration matters. You can contact us by phone, email or in person at the Office of International Relations. We provide individual and group advice.

#### **Host:**

We offer a scheme where you can apply offline to spend a day or a weekend with an Indian family and learn more about Indian culture. Contact Office of International Relations for more details. (The scheme is under process)

#### **International Student Service**

Tel: +91 79 23275288

E-mail: [intladmission@pdpu.ac.in](mailto:intladmission@pdpu.ac.in)

Web: [www.pdpu.ac.in/Internationalization](http://www.pdpu.ac.in/Internationalization)

We are based in the D Block Ground Floor



# Your Checklists

Here are some things you may need to think about **before leaving for India**:

## Before you leave

- Valid Passport  
(Minimum Validity should be at-least for the full duration of the program)
- Ensure that you obtain visa from Indian Embassy/ High Commission
- Make sure that you carry the originals, copies of your certificates/degrees and 10 passport size photographs.
- Letter of admission issued by the University  
(Should carry this in the hand luggage as will be required at the airport for the immigration purpose).
- Ensure that your fee has been received by the University and you should carry the fee receipt and the proof of transfer.
- Should carry the Yellow Fever Injection Card and Polio Drop Certification if you are travelling from Africa. (Should carry this in the hand luggage as will be required at the airport for the immigration purpose).
- If there are certain medicines that you are supposed to consume due to any medical reason prescribed by a doctor please carry them along. It is also suggested to carry the prescription of that medicine for any further reference.
- Residence proof issued by the government which clearly defines your address in English. In case the same is not available then please get the attested residential proof in English.
- International Medical Insurance (valid in India) for the complete duration of the program, also assures that you are medically fit to pursue the course before you leave your country.
- You can carry all your money in form of Travellers Cheques, which can be easily redeemed at the airport as well as a number of foreign exchange offices and banks.
- Fill Airport Arrival service from the Airport at least one week prior to arrival and provide the complete details of flight.  
(<http://www.pdpu.ac.in/International-Students.html>)

- Keep all the valuables, important documents (Passport, Visa papers) in the Cabin baggage, to avoid the possibility of their getting misplaced during transit.
- Keep all the contact phone numbers handy in case of need.
- Whilst everything is available in India, however try to get all that you would require during the initial few days. All the essentials can be availed from the University tuck shops.
- The electric standard in India works on 240 V. So, ensure that you have an adapter for your mobile or laptop if it operates on a different voltage in your country. Also the electric sockets are 2 or 3 pin so ensure that you carry a converter in case required.

## You should have following handy

- Passport
- Offer Letter and Acceptance Letter issued by the university
- Yellow Fever card (If travelling from Africa)
- Polio Drop certificate (If travelling from Africa)
- It is advisable that before you are out of the airport you should get some money exchanged at the airport to Indian currency. Not every shop in India or taxi service will accept credit/debit cards thus you should have some India currency on you as you leave the airport.



# Journey to PDPU

- Ahmedabad – Gandhinagar are twin cities, when PDPU is located in Gandhinagar, its airport is in Ahmedabad.
- There are 3 airports available around PDPU and many of the international flights are available to New Delhi from most of the origin countries.
- From New Delhi/ Mumbai: Students can take connecting flight from New Delhi to Ahmedabad. It is very convenient to travel from New Delhi to Ahmedabad and PDPU campus..

Location	Airport Name	Distance from PDPU	Travel time to campus by air (Approx.)
New Delhi	Indira Gandhi International Airport	934 Kms	100 min.
Mumbai	Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport	531 Kms	55 min.

## Free airport pickup service:

The University offers a free airport pickup service from Ahmedabad airport. Make sure you inform the college with your flight details and your arrival date well in advance.

(<http://www.pdpu.ac.in/International-Students.html>)

A warm welcome awaits you in PDPU and numerous activities and orientation events are scheduled during Freshers' Week for new students.



# Your Checklists

These are all the things you need to do when you arrive in India and during your first few weeks at PDPU:

## On Arrival

- Customs Formalities : Foreign students in India are generally required to make an oral baggage declaration of the possession of baggage and foreign currency as soon as they land in India.
- Under this they are also required to obtain the Currency Declaration Form from the Customs. The students should also fill in the Disembarkation Card (Arrival card) handed over to them by the airline during the course of the flight.

There are two channels for clearance:

1. Green Channel : For passengers not in possession of any dutiable articles or unaccompanied baggage.
2. Red Channel : For passengers in possession of dutiable articles or unaccompanied baggage or high value articles. High value articles are to be entered on the tourist Baggage Re-Export Form.

- Contact your family and friends at home so they know you have arrived safely.
- Find out where your local supermarket is and buy your necessities.
- Make sure you've got the essentials for your new residence.

## During your First week

- Registration**  
All international students must register themselves with the International Office of PDPU
- Admission Formalities**  
The Office of International Relation should be contacted to take care of the admission formalities.
- Medical Examination and HIV Test**  
All international students coming to India for studies need to go through a medical test for HIV. The Foreigner's Regional Registration Office (FRRO) requires this test as a pre-requisite for obtaining the residence permit form.

- Registration with Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO)**  
It is mandatory for all international students to register themselves with local FRRO, within 14 days of their arrival in India (arrival date mentioned on Visa), from 15th day late registration fee USD 30\$ (Rs.1800/-) will be charged by FRRO Office. Student has to register him/her self by using the link <http://indianfro.gov.in/fro>

### Following documents are required for registration

Following documents are required for registration	Format	Max size
1) Passport (Photo and validity page)	pdf	200Kb
2) Visa (visa and immigration stamp page)	pdf	200Kb
3) Bonafide certificate for Registration	pdf	200Kb
4) Local address proof (Hostlers can upload Bonafide certificate)	pdf	200Kb
5) Photograph (passport size)	jpg	50 Kb

**AS well as FRRO/ e-FRRO has to be done, whosoever is staying more than 180 days in India**  
Office of International Relations helps you for this process.  
Feel free to contact them.

## During your first week

- Registration for Hostel Stay
- Welcome Week by respective schools
- Opening a Bank Account
- Course induction
- Registration for the course
- International student orientation

Note: Since many international students join after the start of the program, a special induction program is held for them.



# Facilities on the Campus

## Accommodation

University accommodation is available within the campus area. Separate hostels for Boys and Girls are available within the campus area. Each Hostel of the University offers a variety of Social and Academic oriented activities that make it possible to learn more not only about you but also about those living in hostel.

## Security

Hostels, both boys and girls are under the control of security 24x7. So don't worry about your stuff and yourself. Above all the whole campus is under CCTV surveillance 24x7. So feel free but follow the guidelines.

## Furnished Rooms

Rooms in the residence halls vary in shape and size. All are well furnished; some furniture is movable and some furniture is built in. All of the rooms come fully furnished with beds, desks, chairs. So just bring your stuff and fix it in.

## Open Lounges

Each residence hall is provided with ample lounges for kicking back, studying for the next exam, or just relaxing with each other. On the ground floor of each hostel has television facility where students can watch it in their leisure time.

## Wired Rooms

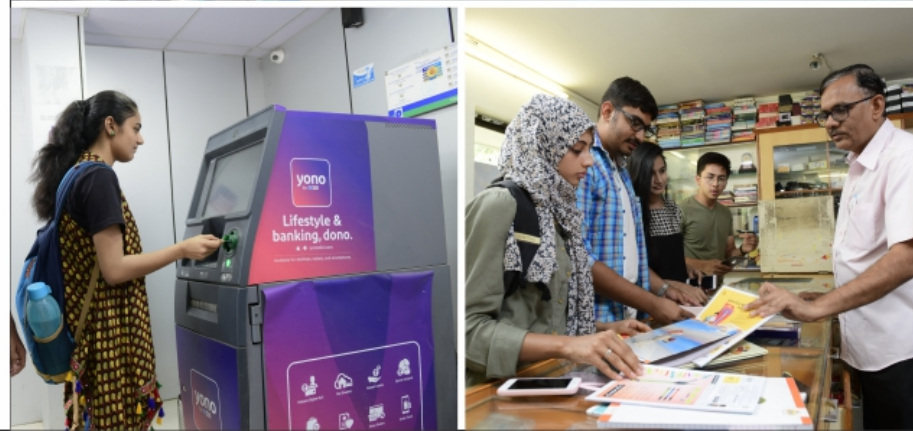
Each room in all of our halls has two Ethernet ports connected to the campus network and the internet. Students need to bring their own computer or laptop.

## Laundry

The laundry service is arranged at Hostel. Students can manage with their time schedule. They have to pay as per price lists.

## Fitness Facility

The University has its Wellness Center Facility available on a charge basis. When living on campus, you are more likely to visit these facilities during specified hours.





## Food On Campus

- One of the things many international students worry about before they arrive is Indian food, but we think you will be pleasantly surprised! India is a multicultural society, and food from all over the world is readily available in both supermarkets and restaurants.
- In India, there are large number of vegetarian / vegan shops, delicatessens and international food retailers. f

## Meals and meal timings inside the campus:

- Breakfast timings in the campus mess is usually between 8AM-10AM
- The lunch timing is between 12 noon-2PM
- The snacks are available between 4PM-6PM in the evening time.
- The dinner timing is between 8PM-10PM.

## Food Hubs on Campus

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Havmor Ice-cream & Eatery    | 4. Amul Ice-cream       |
| 2. I-Contrast Ice-cream & Shake | 5. Wagh Bakri Tea World |
| 3. Jaiswal Juice & Eatery       | 6. Nestle               |

## Health care

There's on campus doctor along with a medical store for emergency purposes. University accommodation is available within the campus area. Apart from that the nearest hospital is Apollo hospital which is one of the best hospital services within India.

**Mental health support :** Our Mental Health Support Team provides support to students with mental health difficulties. Its focus is on the practical impact of your difficulties on you as a student. It can help to identify individual support needs and address these directly or through referral to other specialists. Mental health support staff can also provide indirect support such as liaising with statutory agencies, doctors and course tutors.

## Medical Doctors on Campus :

1. Dr. K.V. Mehta (MBBS); Mobile: +91 (0) 9879922275.
2. Dr. Gaurang Thanki (Psychiatrist); Mobile: +91 (0) 9825354579
3. Dr. Nisha Goswami (Gynaecologist); Mobile +91 (0) 9825734105

Ambulance service is available 24\*7.

## Medical Store

On Campus medication store offers most of the generic medicines. (Please keep generic prescription of medicines which you regularly take with the necessary composition).

## Important Contact Numbers

### Personal safety:

We hope your time studying with us will be enjoyable. Please take some time to go through our general safety advice to make yourself aware of the small things you can do to keep yourself safe.

Some important phone nos. are:

- 100 Police
- 102 Ambulance
- 101 Fire
- 108 Disaster management
- 181 Women's helpline

## Centre for Counseling Services

### 1.) What does the Centre for Counseling Services do?

The centre works to increase awareness of mental health on campus, and hosts activities and events that foster a sense of wellbeing and relaxation. It also provides free of charge counseling services to those who require it. Write to the counseling team- [ccs@pdpu.ac.in](mailto:ccs@pdpu.ac.in) if you wish to seek counseling

### 2.) What is counseling? What happens in a session?

Counseling is a process where the counselor helps the client to express, feel, understand and feel comfortable with their emotions, moods, memories and their self. A counselor does not give advice, instant solutions to your issues but works with you to help you understand and change your reactions, coping patterns and beliefs about the issues. Each session varies according to the needs of the person, as does the length of the process and follow up sessions.

### 3.) How do I know I need counseling?

You may wish to come for a chat if you are not feeling well and finding it difficult to cope with your daily tasks, academic goals or feeling disconnected in your relationships. If you have been going through a couple of weeks where you are crying frequently, and having feelings of hopelessness, worthlessness and helplessness or more intense anxiety or mood swings you will benefit from reaching out. If you have thoughts about ending your life or you feel like events which happened in your past keep affecting your present quality of life, it can help to speak to a counselor about this.

You may wish to speak with us even if your issues do not fit into any of this. Strict

confidentiality will be maintained, and whatever is shared with the counselor, whether written or spoken will not be shared with anyone else, unless in case of an emergency.

4.) I know I'm not going crazy, but I feel low and tired a lot of the time. Should I talk to someone?

It can always help to share and express what you are feeling. Talking the counselor does not mean you are "crazy" or that you have a severe mental illness. As humans, we all go through ups and downs- and during a sensitive or a low phase and it can help to speak to someone who is not directly involved with your life. Especially during this phase of transition to a new college, with new friends and different surroundings, many students experience ups and downs. This is normal, but if you find it tough to cope, seek help.

Remember that your emotional wellbeing is important and affects your academics, self esteem and friendships. Take care of yourself and seek help if you are struggling. Do not isolate yourself. Help is out there. You do not have to handle everything alone.

Stay connected to the Centre for Counseling Services through events and our facebook page or you can visit us on campus at Doctor's cabin, Amenities section.

### Office of Student Activities, Involvement & Leadership (OSAIL)

Office of Students Activities, Involvement & Leadership of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University encourages students to participate in different cultural, technical and sports activities throughout the year through student run organizations & Clubs.

The Office promotes students 'engagement on campus through different extracurricular activities; triggers their creativity in fields of Robotics, Aviation, Quizzing, Music, Dance, Theatre, Literature, technical chapters and a lot more. The office bearers work with student General Secretaries of the following committees:

- Social & Cultural Committee
- Science & Technical Committee
- Sports Committee

There are total 30 Clubs, 18 different sports and 7 technical student chapters active for the year 2019-20.



### Access Sports Facility

A healthy lifestyle will help you to focus on your studies, reduce stress and give you a positive outlook. Getting involved in sport is also a great way to make new friends. The University has a huge range of fitness facilities and sporting opportunities to encourage you to get involved. PDPU is proud to offer sporting opportunities for students and staff at all of its campuses.

You can easily access sports facilities and equipment by submitting your University Identity Card. You can contact OSAIL for the further details.

These committees organizes around 200 activities throughout the year including three major festivals – FLARE - Cultural Festival, Tesseract – Technical Festival and Petrocup – Sports Festival.

#### Contact:

Manager, OSAIL  
rinkal.bagadia@pdpu.ac.in  
Contact: 079-23275052/5058

### Specific support

Make sure you inform either your School Office or International Student Services if you require specific support or arrangements because of a disability.

*\* In case of any requirement from the facilities mentioned, it is best to contact the International Student Services or your Buddy.*

# Studying At PDPU

A typical course will have a mixture of lectures and seminars timetabled during your week. Lectures are usually in large lecture theatres and can be used to introduce new topics. A lecturer will talk through a new subject area, explaining important aspects, while you take notes.

Seminars take place in smaller groups and are used to discuss the topic introduced in the lecture and undertake group work, exercises or problem- solving activities to support your learning. Some courses, such as those based in Science or Arts, will also have laboratory, workshop or studio time scheduled when you'll be able to use specialist equipment under the supervision of tutors.

You will study a range of modules as part of your course with a set number each year. To see the full list of modules for your course, please visit our website. Modules are assessed via exams.

PDPU is a teaching-intensive university; we put our students ahead of any other priority. Our student satisfaction scores have been rising consistently over recent years.

The University community includes students from many different nationalities, cultures and backgrounds. Everyone who studies or works at the University is respected and valued. While you are a member of PDPU community, you can expect people to treat you in a respectful way and to be fair and reasonable in their contact with you. Equally, the University expects fair and respectful behaviour from you towards all students and staff regardless of their status, job or role.

Studying in India might be different to your previous learning experience in your home country. At PDPU, we encourage and expect students to take responsibility for their own learning. Your learning will be supported by your lecturers, your classmates and reading materials. You will be expected to attend all of your lectures, seminars and tutorials, and independently read and review your notes and think about your subject. Independent learning can mean working on your own, but also working in small groups discussing your lectures and seminars or preparing projects such as presentations. You may prefer to work in the library, or in your accommodation. We would encourage you to find the place and time that works best for you. you will be encouraged to read widely and to question and analyse what you have read on the subjects you are studying, at undergraduate and particularly at postgraduate level, you. It will help you to gain the most benefit from your studies by discussing your thoughts and ideas in seminars and tutorials. Not only will this help you to master your degree subject, but it may also be a valuable way of improving your spoken English.





## PDPU Library

PDPU Library will play an essential role in supporting your studies. The University has invested in ensuring its library and IT facilities are of the very highest standard.

The PDPU Library have been automated using Koha- an open source international user- friendly library package. The software facilitates automated circulation (issue-return) of books and speedy access to bibliographic, location and availability information of the books in the library.

Libraries @:

### School of Petroleum Management

A library is on the ground floor and centrally located at the SPM building with open access to collection of Books.

### School of Technology/School of Petroleum Technology

Library is situated on the second floor at C block of PDPU, Small signboards FoET Library consists of two library SPT and SOT open access to the collection of books.

### School of Liberal Studies

Library is situated on the second floor at D Block of PDPU, at SLS School building



# Finances

## Currency note & coin of India



## Planning your Finances

Make sure you have enough funds to cover your tuition fees, accommodation costs and living expenses for the duration of your course. Bring enough funds, in Indian currency, for the expenses in the first few weeks because it will take time to open an Indian bank account.

When you arrive in India you will be required to open a bank account to transfer funds as per your needs from overseas.

It can take several weeks to open an Indian bank account, so you will need to bring enough money to cover your initial expenses.

The campus provides with the facility of State Bank Of India (SBI), the national bank, within the campus which will be helpful for you to open an Indian bank account.

Coming to study in India is a considerable financial commitment and it is extremely important that you think carefully about all of the costs involved for the full duration of your course before you start your studies. Make sure you come in with sufficient finance needed to survive till your Indian bank account is ready. It is therefore essential that you secure funding to cover all your expenses prior to starting your course.

You will need to check with your bank at home to see if there are any restrictions governing the transfer of funds to India. There are several different methods of transferring money to India; some are quicker and more costly than others. Contact your local bank for further information about which method would be most suitable for you.

If you are planning to use a credit or debit card from your bank at home when you are in India, to either pay for purchases or to withdraw cash from an ATM (cashpoint), you should check with your bank before you leave to see if you can use it in India, and if there are any limits on the amount you can withdraw per day. It is also advisable to check how much money you will be charged each time you use your card. The most common credit cards in India are Visa, MasterCard, RuPay and Maestro.

You will also find that Indian banks do have very specific requirements about the documents you will need to provide in order to open a bank account. Opening a bank account in the first instance, we suggest you check with a few different banks to see which one can offer the most suitable account for your purposes. As an international student, you may find that you are not able to access the full range of banking facilities which are normally available to Indian residents such as overdrafts.

## Student's Bank Account

PDPU has tie up with the State Bank of India – a largest bank in India and has its branch on the campus. International Students can open a Non Resident Indian (NRI) Savings Account with the Bank. The following documents are required to open a bank account:

1. Copy of Passport
2. Copy valid Visa
3. Copy of PIO / OCI Card (applicable for PIOs / OCIs only)
4. Copy of FRRO

Students can avail The Account Opening Form (AOF) from Office of International Relations. If required, student can request OIR team member to process their forms. With the opening of the account, student gets ATM cum Debit Card and a cheque book for their domestic use.

### Banking terminologies

'ATM', 'cash points' - are the ways to describe the machine to get your money out as and when required and to check your bank balance even when the banks are closed because these ATMs provides 24\*7 operation service.

### PIN number

This number will be provided by the bank when you will open the bank account. This PIN number is important and will be required whenever you access to ATMs or use your debit or credit cards.

### Tuition fee payments

Make arrangements to ensure that you will be able to pay your tuition fees and advance payment (if necessary) by the appropriate date of each semester.



## Top tips for handling your money

### Plan ahead

- Draw up a weekly budget and stick to it! Work out what your weekly costs are, so you can see what you have left over to spend on the non-essentials.
- Take advantage of the money handling apps available to manage your expenses.

### Take advantage of student discounts

- Take advantage of all the students' discounts available at various places and transportation services in the city. Always ask if they give student reductions otherwise you may lose out!

### List of ATMs on/near campus

- State Bank of India
- Central Bank of India
- Corporation Bank
- HDFC Bank
- Union Bank
- Axis Bank

### List of Banks Nearby

- State Bank of India – On Campus
- Oriental Bank of Commerce:  
Vinayak Riverside, Raysan,  
Gujarat 382421 - 079 2928

### The Main Banks in Gandhinagar

- State Bank of India  
Main Branch- Gandhinagar Sector 10  
Website: [www.sbi.co.in](http://www.sbi.co.in)
- ICICI Bank Limited  
Main Branch: M.B. Patel Estate,  
sector 16, Gandhinagar  
Website: [www.icicibank.com](http://www.icicibank.com)
- Punjab National Bank  
Main Branch: Ground Floor, GH Road,  
Sector 16, Gandhinagar  
Website: [www.pnbindia.in](http://www.pnbindia.in)
- Bank of Baroda  
Main Branch: CHH Road, Behind  
Vegetable Market, Sector no 21,  
Gandhinagar  
Website: [www.bankofbaroda.co.in](http://www.bankofbaroda.co.in)
- Oriental Bank of Commerce  
Main Branch: Suman Tower Sector 11  
Gandhinagar Po, GH Rd, Gandhinagar  
Website: [www.obcindia.co.in](http://www.obcindia.co.in)
- HDFC Bank Limited  
Main Branch: 448, Sector 16, Next to  
Pragna Petrol Pump, Gandhinagar  
Website: [www.hdfcbank.com](http://www.hdfcbank.com)

## Cost of living

*(This is a suggestive list to give you an idea about the cost of Living)*

Content	Price	Price Range
Milk (regular), (1 liter)	50.95 Rs	44.00 - 60.00
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	35.40 Rs	25.00-50.00
Rice (white), (1kg)	48.93 Rs	30.00-100.00
Eggs (regular) (12)	64.50 Rs	60.00-84.00
Local Cheese (1kg)	373.21 Rs	200.00-550.00
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	244.17 Rs	180.00-400.00
Apples (1kg)	130.71 Rs	80.00-200.00
Banana (1kg)	37.88 Rs	25.00-60.00
Oranges (1kg)	66.31 Rs	50.00-100.00
Tomato (1kg)	34.62 Rs	20.00-60.00
Potato (1kg)	19.69 Rs	15.00-25.00
Onion (1kg)	30.20 Rs	15.00-50.00
Lettuce (1 head)	33.38 Rs	20.00-60.00
Water (1.5 lt bottle)	26.07 Rs	20.00-30.00

You can also browse some online stores to get an idea on the cost of daily necessities:

<https://www.bigbasket.com/>

<https://www.amazon.in/Gourmet-Specialty-Foods/>

## Travel to Nearby Hangout places (Round Trip)

From PDPU to Infocity - Auto	200 Rs
From PDPU to Ahmedabad - BRTS Bus (Visat Junction)	250 Rs
From PDPU to Ahmedabad - Auto	600 to 700 Rs
From PDPU to Ahmedabad - In Private Cab ( Uber or Ola )	600 to 900 Rs

## Insurance

Make arrangements to take out insurance for your personal belongings. This can be done on arrival, but you may want to take out travel insurance to cover you for your journey and the first few days in India. Check if you require health insurance to cover the cost of any medical treatment you might need during your stay in India.

## Your official documents

Take photocopies of your important documents (passport, visa, etc) in case you lose them in transit or while in India, and keep these copies in a safe place.



# Living in India

## Settling into Indian life

Coming to study in a different country is a very exciting experience and one which most students find extremely rewarding. It can, however, also be quite challenging during the first few weeks. The range of emotions you can experience when you move from a familiar to an unfamiliar environment is commonly called culture shock. Culture shock is a very normal experience and even if you come from a country with a way of life very similar to that of India, you may still find that there are small differences which will have an impact on your day-to-day life. In addition to living and studying in a whole new environment, the fact that you are away from your family and friends who would normally support you through new and difficult situations can be an added strain.

Differences between your country and India can impact on your life in many diverse ways. On a practical level, you may not be able to buy some of the goods you could buy in your home country, and may find it difficult to adapt to the weather in India. If you are from a country which has very different customs and beliefs from those held in India, you will probably find that you are more affected by culture shock. It is important to remember that it is usual to experience a mix of emotions when you move to a new environment, and that these feelings will pass; it is a normal part of adjusting to new foods, customs, languages, people and activities.

## Weather and clothing

The weather in India is very variable and December to March can be particularly cold, so make sure you pack clothes which are suitable for all seasons, especially the winter.

It can be particularly cool from mid-January to March and if you come from a warm climate, you must be prepared to dress warmly when you arrive. The temperature usually don't go below 7 degrees during winters here in Gandhinagar particularly. During the months of April to mid-June the temperature goes as high as 45 degrees so make sure you pack your light summer clothes and all the summer essentials. The months of July to August are known as monsoon months and thus pack your monsoon essentials.

Many people dress casually in India, and this is certainly true for students.

## How to cope with culture shock

As you start to prepare for your studies in India, we would encourage you to keep an open mind about what you expect the Indian people and India to be like. If you find that there are situations which confuse you in India, remember that individuals may be following social rules which you do not know about. Here are some tips to help you settle in.

- Where you do come across differences between Indian and your own culture, try not to see one as better or worse than the other, but try to think of them as different.
- Ask for help if you need it. Asking for help is seen as a usual action for someone to take and is viewed positively.
- Ask questions about social customs – this is often a good way to find out more about Indian culture.
- Exercise and maintaining a healthy diet helps to reduce stress. It is important you eat properly as a student and achieve a healthy balance between your studies and your social life.
- Language can be a barrier to people understanding each other clearly, so continually improving your language always helps. Although it can be difficult, allow yourself to see the humour in misunderstandings.
- Make friends with a broad mix of people, both Indian and international.
- Keep in touch with home and bring familiar things with you, such as photos or keepsakes.

## Some insights into Indian culture

Although India has a very diverse population, the following few insights into Indian culture may be helpful as you start to settle into Indian life.

The vital components of the Indian culture are good manners, etiquette, civilized communication, rituals, beliefs, values, etc. Even after the life styles of everyone has been modernized, Indian people have not changed their traditions and values. The property of togetherness among people of various cultures and traditions has made India, a unique country. The national language of India is Hindi however there are almost 22 official languages and 400 other languages are spoken daily in India in its various states and territories. According to the history, India has been recognized as the birthplace of the religions like Hinduism and Buddhism. Huge population of the India belongs to the Hindu religion.

People of various religions in India have their own culture and tradition. They have own festival and fairs and celebrate according to their own rituals. People follow variety of food culture like different flat breads like Roti, Thepla, Paratha, Bhakari, Side dishes made of different vegetables and breakfast like bread omlette, poha, also paratha, puffed rice, upma, dosa, idli, etc. People of other religions have some different food cultures like sevaiyan, biryani, tandoori, mathi, etc.



The traditional food of India has been widely appreciated for its fabulous use of herbs and spices. Indian cuisine is known for its large assortment of dishes. The cooking style varies from region to region and is largely divided into South Indian & North Indian cuisine. India is quite famous for its diverse multi cuisine available in a large number of restaurants and hotel resorts, which is reminiscent of unity in diversity. The staple food in India includes wheat, rice and pulses with chana (Bengal Gram) being the most important one.

The word "curry" isn't actually used very often in India. Rather, there is a huge diversity of curry dishes, each with their own regional characteristics.

Indian food is incredibly diverse, with each of the 28 regions having its own particular ingredients, spices and cooking methods. In the north, the cuisine is less spicy, and commonly features red and green chillies, saffron, ghee (or clarified butter) and yoghurt.

Indian food covers six different tastes: sweet, sour, salty, spicy, bitter and sharp. Dishes attempt to balance each of these flavours.

Rice is the country's staple ingredient, and is eaten every single day. Popular types of Indian rice include basmati, Poniya, Daudkhani etc.

India is well known all over the world as a country of cultural and traditional festivals as it has many cultures and religions. One can enjoy the festival celebration in India every month. As it is a secular country full of diversity in the religions, languages, cultures and castes, it is always crowded with the people involved in the fairs and festivals celebration. People from each religion have their own cultural and traditional festivals. Some of the festivals are celebrated by the people of all religions in the entire nation. Each and every festival is celebrated uniquely in different ways according to the rituals, beliefs and its significant history behind. Each festival has its own history, legend and significance of celebration. Diwali, Holi, Eid and Christmas being the most celebrated festivals all over the country and world wide.

Smoking is banned in all places of work including restaurants and bars, shopping centres, trains and buses. When eating or drinking in a group, especially in someone's home, it is polite to ask your companions first whether they mind if you smoke.

India has a very diverse and multi-ethnic population. Men and women have equal rights. In India, it is unlawful to discriminate against anyone for reasons relating to race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, religion or belief, and marriage or civil partnerships.

### Some frequently used Slang words and their meaning

English word	Hindi	Gujarati
Hello	<i>Namaste</i>	<i>Namashkar</i>
How are you	<i>Kaise ho</i>	<i>Kem cho</i>
Thank you	<i>Shukriya/dhanyawad</i>	<i>Aabhar</i>
See you soon	<i>Jald milenge</i>	<i>Malye</i>
Good bye	<i>Alvida</i>	<i>Aavjo</i>

### Living in Twin City - Gandhinagar - Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, in western India, is the largest city in the state of Gujarat. The Sabarmati River runs through its centre. This 600 year old city is India's first UNESCO World Heritage City and the commercial hub of the state of Gujarat, though it is not the state capital, which is its twin city, Gandhinagar, 30 km to the north. The cities are a must visit place in India, if you are inclined to explore history, crafts, architecture and food. Incredible architecture, ranging from centuries-old mosques and mausoleums to cutting-edge contemporary designs are enough to give you the glimpse of co-existing contrary in the country.

The twin city is proud to have institutions like Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad, Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar, National Institute of Design, PDPJ, MICA, EDI, and Nirma University, Gujarat Law society, CEPT (Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology) University, NIFT and a few others. The place has become a landmark for good education practices.

You can visit websites of the following organizations which organize heritage walks in Ahmedabad. The walks take place every morning and night.

- Gujarat Tourism  
[www.gujarattourism.com/destination/details/6/10](http://www.gujarattourism.com/destination/details/6/10)
- Ahmedabad Heritage Walk  
<https://heritagewalkahmedabad.com>
- Heritage tours by House of MG  
[www.houseofmg.com/explore/heritage-walks/](http://www.houseofmg.com/explore/heritage-walks/)
- A4AhmedabadTours  
[www.a4ahmedabad.com](http://www.a4ahmedabad.com)

### Gandhi Ashram

Gandhi Ashram also known as the Sabarmati ashram is located on the banks of the Sabarmati river. This ashram is one of the important tourist attractions. This Ashram was set up by Mahatma Gandhiji in 1915. It was Gandhiji's headquarter during India's freedom struggle. The Ashram still makes handicraft, handmade paper, spinning wheels. His living quarter is still preserved as a small museum and there is a library and a memorial center.



### Sidi Saiyyed Mosque

Sidi Saiyyed Mosque also known as Sidi Saiyyed ni Jali was built in 1572-73 AD. The mosque is entirely arcuated and is known for its ten intricately carved stone latticework windows (jalis) on the side and rear arches. The rear wall is filled with square stone pierced panels in geometrical designs.



### Akshardham Temple

Akshardham is majestic, intricately carved stone structure which stands amid sprawling gardens set in a 23-acre plot at Gandhinagar (Gandhinagar district). The monument enshrining the seven foot high, gold-leafed Murti (idol) of Lord Swaminarayan is the focal point of the complex. It's Sound & Light show in evening is the major attraction.

So far millions of people have visited the monument since its inception on November 2, 1992. They have been able to savour the story of Hinduism and to imbibe the message of universal peace and brotherhood.

### Adalaj Step well

The Adalaj step well or 'Vav', as it is called in Gujarati, is intricately carved and is five stories deep. It was built in 1498. The history of the Adalaj step-well is established by an inscription in Sanskrit found on a marble slab positioned in a recess on the first floor, from the eastern entry to the well. It is a must visit place for its unique architecture with huge artistic edifice and to understand cultural value of water in this semi-arid region.



## Commuting From Ahmedabad to PDPU

### Yogi Transport

The service is provided to all students who are day boarders from Ahmedabad. The buses pick you up at a point near your home and drop you back there. At the starting of the semester, the students can always get make a pass made for their commutation. The validity of a pass is for one semester.

### Public Transport

The state transport buses can be easily accessible to commute from any part of Ahmedabad to the bus depot of Gandhinagar- Pathik Ashram.

(Bus Timings: 8:30AM/10:30AM/12:30PM/2:30PM/4:30PM/5:30PM)

One can easily reach RTO circle in Ahmedabad through BRTS circuit from any corner of the city. From RTO circle, auto rickshaws are easily available to commute to the University.

## Commuting From PDPU to Infocity

### Bhaijipura

The area where PDPU road connects to knowledge corridor. From Bhaijipura the connectivity is better and it has many food joints where students usually hangout. Autos are easily available from Bhaijipura.

To reach info city from PDPU, you can avail autos, cabs from PDPU gate.

The normal fare for private auto is between 80 to 100 rupees.

And if you want a economy ride, you can always take a shuttle auto which will charge you 10 rupees for PDPU to Bhaijipura from where you can take another one which will drop you off at Infocity in 30 to 40 rupees. You reach info city in half of the fair if you board a shuttle auto.

**Note :** The shuttle autos which charge you less would often take other passengers. For the first time, it may be a different experience.



# On Campus Resources

## Office of International Relations

-  Office of International Relations,  
D-Block, Ground Floor, Faculty Wing
-  maulik.shah@pdpu.ac.in, rohit.mishra@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 2327 5209 / +91 -79 - 2327 5208 / +91 -79 - 2327 5288

## School of Petroleum Technology

-  School of Petroleum Technology,  
Admin Office, C-Block, Ground Floor
-  Admin.Spt@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 2327 5081




## School of Technology

-  School of Technology  
Admin Office, E - Block, Ground Floor
-  Admin.Sot@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 2327 5405 / 06

## School of Liberal Studies

-  School of Liberal Studies  
Admin Office, D-Block, First Floor
-  Admin.Sls@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 2327 5240

## Office of Students Activities Involvement and Leadership

-  Office of Students Activities Involvement and Leadership  
IIC Left Wing, C-104, First Floor, C Block
-  Rinkal.Bagadia@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 2327 5058

## Dean, Students Affairs

-  Dr. Tajinder Pal Singh  
Ground Floor, C-Block
-  tajinder.singh@spt.pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 -2327 5071




## Office of Research and Sponsors Programme (ORSP)

-  Mr. Praveer Upadhyay,  
Ground Floor E - Block
-  praveer.upadhyay@sot.pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 2327 5308

## Career Development Cell

-  Mr. Vineet Bagaria  
Ground Floor, E-Block
-  Vineet.Bagaria@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 -2327 5395

## Hostel

-  Mr. Ashutosh Vyas / Mr. Vipul Parekh / Mr. Dheeraj Sharma  
Ground Floor, Amenities
-  Ashutosh.Vyas@spt.pdpu.ac.in / vipul.parekh@spm.pdpu.ac.in / dheeraj.sharma@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 23275155 / 5154 / 5153




## Cafeteria

-  Mr. Vikas Jaiswal  
Canteen
-  canteen@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 2327 5171

## Information Centre

-  Mr. Suvik Patel  
119, Ground Floor, C-Block
-  suvik.patel@sot.pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 -2327 5060

## Emergency on Campus

-  Mr Dheeraj Sharma / Mr Chetan Thakor / Mr Yogesh Jadeja  
Ground Floor, Amenities
-  dheeraj.sharma@pdpu.ac.in / chetan.thakor@spt.pdpu.ac.in / yogesh.jadeja@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 - 2327 5153 / 5159

## Health Centre

-  Dr. KV Mehta  
Room no. 5, Amenities, Ground Floor
-  ---
-  +91 98799 22275

## Centre for Counseling Services

-  Centre for Counseling Services  
Doctor's Chamber, Amenities
-  ccs@pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 -2327 5190

## Student Stationery

-  Mr. Rasik Patel  
Stationery Store
-  studentbookagency@gmail.com
-  +91 94276 04550

## Transportation

-  Mr. Gunvant Rathod  
Ground Floor, Amenities
-  Gunvant.Rathod@sot.pdpu.ac.in
-  +91 -79 -2327 5158

## Off Campus & Emergency Resources

Emergency	Contact
Police	100
Ambulance	102/108
Fire	101
All Emergencies	112

### Transit Resources

Transit	Website	Address/Phone
GSRTC Central Bus Station	<a href="http://www.gsrtc.in/site/">http://www.gsrtc.in/site/</a>	Sector 11, Gandhinagar, Gujarat 382011
OLA Cabs	<a href="https://www.olacabs.com/">https://www.olacabs.com/</a>	+91 -79 3355 3355 Booking service from Mobile App/ Website
UBER	<a href="https://www.uber.com/en-IN/">https://www.uber.com/en-IN/</a>	Booking service from Mobile App/ Website

### Nearby Hospitals

Hospital	Address	Phone
Apollo Hospital	Plot No.1, Bhat GIDC Estate, Gandhinagar, Gujarat 382428	+91 -79 6670 1800
Hi-Tech Hospital	Plot No. 1180, Near Gh-1 ½ Bus stand, GH Road, Sector 3D, Sector 3, Gandhinagar, Gujarat 382006	+91 -79 2324 0666

### Police Stations

Police Station	Address	Phone
Police Station Sector 7	Sector-6, Near Apna Bazaar, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, 382006	+91 -79 2322 0827
Police Station Sector 21	Rd no 5, Sector 21, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, 382021	+91 -79 2322 1021

### Fire & Safety

Department	Address	Phone
Gandhinagar Fire and Safety Services	1139/2, Sector 1, Gandhinagar- 382007	+91 94263 67005
Gujarat State Disaster and Management Authority	CHH Road, sector 18, Gandhinagar, 382018, Gujarat	+91 -79 - 23259220



