

The IIMB Survival Guide: A Student's Perspective[©]

The Official Blah-Blah....

Registration requirements: Exchange students are required to send a letter of nomination through the Students Exchange Coordinator at their Institute along with a resume and photograph. This should be done five months in advance of the arrival so that there is enough time to complete all formalities. We will send a letter of acceptance, visa request letter and information package once we hear from the exchange coordinator.

Medium of Instruction: English

Course Load : Students at IIMB take a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 credits. Courses are usually 3 credits each but can be 2 credit as well. One credit implies one contact hour per week in the classroom and about two hours of work outside the classroom in the form of readings, assignments, projects etc.

The number of credit hours taken by exchange students is determined by their school. Usually, exchange students find the program to be rigorous academically and take 4 to 5 3-credit courses.

Term Dates : Students can participate in the Exchange Programme during:

4th term : June 3rd week – Sept 2nd week

5th term : Sept 2nd week – Dec 1st week

6th term : Dec 3rd week – Feb 3rd week

A short orientation session is conducted for the exchange students prior to the commencement of the term.

The Actual Survival Guide!!

- **Reaching Bangalore:** A limited number of International flights from cities like Singapore/Bangkok come to Bangalore directly. However, the city is well connected and daily flights and trains come in from Bombay, Chennai and Delhi.
- **Getting to IIMB:** The best way to get to the campus from the airport/railway station is by a pre-paid taxi/auto.

The Airport/Railway Station: A taxi from the airport should cost around Rs. 800. Search for the pre-paid counter at the airport on arrival. If

there is no prepaid taxi counter ask for a CitiTaxi (usually white in color) and ask the driver to go by the meter. An autorickshaw is usually a cheaper option, but a little uncomfortable when carrying a lot of luggage. An autorickshaw should cost you approximately Rs.100.

Survival Tip: As far as possible try and find a pre-paid counter, to ensure that you pay the right fare (and to avoid being taken for a ride!!). In case there is no pre-paid counter and you have to deal directly with the taxi/auto drivers, **ask them to go by the Taxi/Auto meter.** Do not pay more than Rs.10-15 in excess of the meter reading.

The Ultimate Survival Tip: If Taxis/Autos refuse to go by the meter and want to negotiate a fixed price, bargaining is permitted. Start off with a price that is half of what the taxi/auto driver quotes and the rest is upto your negotiation skills!

- *Note:* After 10:00 pm, auto drivers are officially entitled to charge 50% over and above the meter reading. (Something of a late-night allowance)

Settling down at IIMB....

Buddy Programme: A student volunteer from IIMB is assigned to each exchange student as a 'buddy'. This helps the exchange students get over the hurdles in a new place with relative ease and also get student inputs on courses etc. before their arrival. The visiting students find the students at IIMB to be very friendly and helpful.

Host Family : Exchange students are assigned a host family. The volunteer families are usually of IIMB faculty members and most of them live on campus.

Housing: Exchange students can be accommodated in the students' hostel at the Institute on request. Living on the campus, apart from being convenient, facilitates easy interaction with the regular MBA students who are all required to stay at the hostel. This however is the best part of your stay, as you shall soon find out!

There is no married accommodation on campus and given the workload it is advisable for the student to come alone.

Each hostel room is equipped with a cot, mattress, linens, blankets, curtains, study table and a chair.

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Bathroom and toilet facilities are common for each hostel floor. The bathroom and toilet facilities are cleaned every day and every bathroom has a hot water facility.

Food: The student hostel has a mess where meals are provided at a nominal rate. In addition, there is a coffee shop and a snack bar on campus and numerous restaurants just outside the campus gates.

The student mess however takes fantastic care of most of your needs with the usual breakfast/lunch/dinner plus snacks between 3:30–5:30. The food is primarily Indian, which might prove to be a little spicy for the typical exchange student. However, if you're used to Mexican food and you love Mexican food, this shouldn't be a problem. Also, it is only in the first 3-4 days that you might find it a bit spicy.... Most exchange adapt very well after the first week.

And for the Italians (well actually for everyone!), you can also order pizza! Dominos, Pizza Corner, U.S. Pizza and Pizza Delite are 3 pizza chains that deliver to the IIMB campus. You will inevitably find a pizza delivery on campus almost everyday! Costs vary between Rs. 75- 150 per head.

One of the most notable features of the mess is the availability of tea/coffee almost 24 hours a day, which helps a lot with the wrong hours we invariably keep.

For all those nightbirds, we have a Night Canteen that opens at 10:00 p.m. and closes at 2:00 a.m. and a 24-hour snack bar, "Athicas". The Night Canteen serves noodles, sandwiches, milkshakes, fruit juices and most importantly coffee!! Since an independent contractor manages the Night Canteen, you will have to pay for everything with coupons that can be purchased in the Mess. Athicas requires payment by cash.

The Night Canteen and Athicas, however, aren't just ordinary snack-bars - they're great social spots, as you will soon discover, since life at IIMB begins only after 9:00 at nite!

Water: While it maybe advisable that you use Mineral Water during your first couple days at IIMB, get used to the Water Cooler/Water Filter at IIMB. Some students have faced minor problems adjusting to the water in the past. Some reliable mineral water brands are Bisleri, Baileys, AcquaFina and McKinley. (*Author's Tip:* get used to the water as fast as possible!)

Laundry: Every floor in the hostels has one washing machine for students to use. This facility is provided free of cost.

Further there is a facility whereby students can get their clothes ironed. Ironing charges are extremely low.

Cooking: There are no cooking facilities in the hostel rooms.

Telephones: Every floor in a hostel has a telephone where students can receive calls. To make a local/long-distance call, you will have to go to one of the 3 telephone booths located within the hostel blocks. These booths are usually open late into the night.

Interested students can also hire/buy a cellphone for their private use. Users typically have to pay for outgoing calls. (Approx. rates: Rs. 3/min for outgoing calls. Rates vary depending upon the plan chosen by subscriber.)

(*Author's Tip:* The Indian Cellular Telephony System uses GSM technology, which is incompatible with cellphones in North America. While Europe also uses GSM technology, please confirm compatibility of your cellphone with Indian Standards as different frequencies are used in India.)

Computers: All hostel rooms are wired up and allow access to the IIMB network. However, the student has to make arrangements for his/her computer. One may bring along a laptop from his/her country. However, when you bring your laptop along, please declare it at Customs when entering the country. To get logged onto the network, one will have to contact the Computer Center Helpdesk.

For those of you without a laptop computer, hiring a desktop computer from agents in the city maybe a viable option. Students at IIMB will be able to advise you on the details. Students without computers can of course use the Computer Center, which is open 24 hours and contains more than 100 terminals.

Fruits/vegetables and general supplies: IIMB has a fruit/ vegetable store on campus as well as a privately-managed general store for essential supplies and stationery. However, the most convenient option for toiletries/stationery and essential supplies is what we call the MARS- Merchandising and Retailing Society, which is run by our students and is open every night from 8:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. The MARS is conveniently located in the hostel blocks and the prices are dirt-cheap!

The on-campus general supplies store is called Athica Stores and is located approx. 600 mtrs from the hostel blocks. Athica Stores also has a small cafeteria.

Text Books: Textbooks for any course are provided by IIMB.

Other Facilities on Campus:

- Computer Centre: 24 hour internet and e-mail access
- Library: One of the best libraries in India. Open 24 hours.
- Photocopiers in the library and in the hostel block.
- Bank & Post office.
- Bookstore.
- Travel Agency
- Medical Centre
- Barber
- ATMs: Citibank has an ATM at the institute premises that can be used by visiting students provided the terms and conditions of their accounts with Citibank in their country permits them to do so.

Activities on Campus:

Clubs: IIMB has clubs for social and professional interaction, such as the MASH- Marketing Club, Network- the Finance Club, StartUp- the Entrepreneurship, Vikasana- the social consciousness club etc. These clubs are actively involved in organizing various events for students and corporates, throughout the year.

Social, Literary and Cultural Activities: IIMB hosts an annual inter-collegiate literary/cultural festival called *Unmaad* in February, where colleges from all over India arrive to showcase their talent. Amongst the literary activities IIMB has a strong history in the quizzing arena with our quiz club conducting regular quizzes on campus every month. Various other literary clubs have mushroomed over the years that conduct events for IIMB students throughout the year. IIMB even conducts an Inter-hostel block literary festival for its students.

Our Cultural Committee is an extremely active body involved in organizing celebrations for our festivals (to give you a true flavor of Indian culture).

“Work Hard, Party Hard” – that’s our motto, and when we party we live it up with “wine, women and song”!! The wine and song are usually aplenty and most importantly free! Parties, are the most important area of responsibility of our Cultural Committee. Our parties begin at 12:00 midnight and last through the night! This will undoubtedly be one of the social highlights of your stay at IIMB!

Sports: IIMB is equipped with a gym, tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball courts and football (soccer)/cricket field. Football (soccer) and cricket

are regular features at IIMB, however, IIMB is famous for its *Tsepak*- a variant of the Malaysian game Tsepak Takraw. At IIMB Tsepak is a passion and it won’t take you too long as well, to get addicted! Once a year, the Sports Secretary organizes and Inter-hostel block sports tournament in various sports.

Estimated cost of living on Campus for the term of study (The official part!):

- Tuition, library / computer / course material etc. : N/A
- Hostel room rent and service charge per term : **Rs. 20000** per term
- Students’ mess: About **Rs. 3000/-** per month (veg food) non-veg food can be purchased at an extra cost.
- Students are required to make a deposit of **Rs.40,000/-** at the beginning of the term and the balance will be refunded at the end of the term after deducting outstanding dues towards the night canteen, students’ convenience store at the hostel, library, laser printing at the computer center, etc.

Estimated cost of living off Campus for the term of study (The official part!)

- Tuition, library / computer / course material etc. : N/A
- House rent and service charge: A 3- BHK house will cost about **Rs. 15,000** per month. Accommodation can be arranged, if need be, within a radius of 2 km from IIMB. To save on costs the house can be shared by three students.
- Students’ mess: Students will have the option to make their own food arrangements. If they take food in the Hostel Mess, it costs around Rs.3000/- per month for vegetarian food.
- Students are required to make a deposit of **Rs.50,000/-** at the beginning of the term and the balance will be refunded at the end of the term after deducting outstanding dues towards the night canteen, students’ convenience store at the hostel, library, laser printing at the computer center, etc.

Estimated cost of living (The unofficial part!)

(Disclaimer: A large part of this expenditure depends on an individual’s capacity to eat/drink and make merry! As a result we would not like to hazard a guess, but we do provide you estimates of each item!)

- **Visit to an ordinary pub:** Beer- (approx.) Rs.30-50/mug and Rs 150-200/pitcher. Cocktails range from Rs100 to Rs 300 depending on the

pub. The more expensive and “happening” pubs are – 180 Proof, Urban Edge, Mars 21, Sparks. If you like good rock music (Floyd etc..) go to Pecos – spartan place, cheapest beer but the best music. Purple Haze is also a haven for rock lovers- a more expensive version of Pecos.

- **Visit to a restaurant:** Can range from Rs.100/head (at an ordinary restaurant) to Rs.350/head (at one of the finest restaurants). Restaurants attached to a 5 star hotel are typically more expensive and one could end up spending close to Rs.500-700 per head at such places.

Wanna Explore the city??

The City: Bangalore the capital of Karnataka is known as the Silicon Valley of India as well as the Garden City. Bangalore is an extremely cosmopolitan city and is also famous for being the Pub City of India!

Some of the places in Bangalore that you must visit are:

- The Vidhana Soudha: The Legislative Assembly of the Government of Karnataka- an exquisite piece of architecture.
- The Lalbagh Botanical Gardens: These beautifully landscaped gardens covering hundreds of acres Bangalore are Bangalore’s pride.
- Cubbon Park: Acres of greenery, with lots of historical buildings in the vicinity.
- Brigade Road/M.G Road: The nerve center of Bangalore. This is where one would find most of the pubs, restaurants, cafes, malls and shops. For most youngsters in Bangalore, this is the preferred hangout joint! Something of an entertainment district.
- Commercial Street: This is for all the shopping buffs. Loads and Loads of shops to keep you busy all day.
- ISKCON Temple: Located in Rajajinagar, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness has built what is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful temples in the city.
- Temple: To get a true flavor of Indian culture, the Raggiguda temple (approx. 2-3 Km from IIMB) and the Bull temple are a must-see.

Commuting: The campus is located around 30-40 mins from the nerve center of the city – MG Road. Every evening the IIMB bus leaves around 5:15 pm for MG Road. Students can utilize this facility free of cost. The bus leaves MG Road at approx. 8:15 pm for IIMB. Public buses are not advisable for commuting to MG Road. They are extremely cheap and quite uncomfortable as well! Many students on campus own motorbikes/scooters and would be happy to give you a lift while going to MG Road/Brigade Road. You can also take an auto to the Brigade road from outside our campus gates (approx. cost Rs.65). Returning to IIMB at night after around 10:00 pm by auto would entail a 50-100% increase in auto fare. (Autorickshaws are authorized to 50% more after 10:00 pm, but since our campus is located at the outskirts, the auto driver maybe unwilling to take you there unless you give him a 100% increase.)

Tip: Under any circumstances do not pay more than twice the fare given by the meter.

Food & Entertainment: Bangalore has an umpteen number of pubs and restaurants serving everything from Chinese to Italian food (and of course Indian food!). Students on campus will be able to give you a good idea about the pubs to go to. (Depending on your choice of music and your budget!).

Some of the good restaurants in town are:

- ✓ The Only Place (Italian food- great steaks! Amazing apple pie!)
- ✓ Ebony (Located on the 15th floor of Curzon Court on MG road- offers an excellent open air view of the city by night)
- ✓ Topkapi
- ✓ Queens (on Church Street, off Brigade Road- excellent Indian food)
- ✓ The Bangalore Bistro (Good place for Italian food)

For good South Indian food, one must visit MTR in Jayanagar. Also, Nagarjuna Savoy is a great place for Andhra food. To get a true flavor of South Indian food, it is recommended that ones tries some of the small restaurants that typically serve idli-dosa. However, if you would like to take your date out to a fairly expensive place that serves South Indian food, try Karavali at the Gateway Hotel, which serves excellent Keralite food.

Discotheques are fewer in the city, but one would find quite a few located at the outskirts of the city. “The Club” is one of the popular haunts for Bangaloreans.

Bangalore also has bowling alleys and entertainment complexes where one can play pool/snooker, bowl and play some video games.

“Mega-Bowl”- next to the airport is one such entertainment complex.

For coffee lovers, Bangalore has its own version of coffee pubs like Starbucks. Café Coffee Day, Barista and JavaCity are worth visiting.

(Author’s Tip: Try the Banana and Whole Wheat Bread at Java City and the Café Frappe at Café Coffee Day)

Ice-cream lovers needn’t feel left out! The “Corner House” located on Residency Road, Airport Road and in Jayanagar should keep you happy with those amazing sundaes.

(Author’s Tip: Try the “Death by Chocolate” at Corner House)

Note: However, due to an official rule, most places close down by 11:00- 11:30 at night.(including the pubs!) But for all those nightbirds, there are always a couple of discotheques that remain open late into the night, (These are typically towards the outskirts of the city.) as well as the coffee shops at most of the hotels. Coffee Shops are usually quite an expensive affair. A coffee at these places can set up back by Rs.75 to Rs. 150!

Now do u wanna see Karnataka??

Some of the typical tourist attractions around Bangalore are:

- *Nandi Hills:* At the outskirts of the city, this is fine picnic spot.
- *Pearl Valley Resort:* a nice getaway from the city, with a small waterfall.
- *Mysore City:* A 5-6hr drive from Bangalore, Mysore with its historic palaces is a must see!
- *Belur and Halebid:* Historic ruins of the Hoysala dynasty - the bedrock of Karnataka’s culture.
- *Shravanabelagola:* Enroute to the historic ruins of Belur and Halebid, a 100ft tall monolithic statue of Lord Gomateshwara - truly exquisite.
- *Hampi:* Another must see for history buffs. This is another example of Karnataka’s glorious past.
- *Jog Falls*
- *Bandipur Wildlife Sanctuary:* One of the best wildlife sanctuaries in the country.
- *Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary*
- *Kabini River Lodge:* Exquisite/Exclusive and Expensive river lodge located in the forests. For those who can afford it, this is a must-see.

- *Coorg:* The coffee growing region of Karnataka. These plantations are beautiful getaways.

The Karnataka State Tourism Department conducts some excellent package tours to all these tourist attractions in Karnataka. Their office is located on Kasturba Road.

Some web-sites that may be useful:

www.traveljini.com, www.indya.com, www.tourindia.com seems to be a generic site.... a google search (with a string like India tourism) would give you a better idea of the tourism office in your country, such as:
www.india-tourism.de / (for Europe),
www.indiatouristoffice.org

Bangalore: www.bangalorennet.com,
www.bangalorebest.com, www.bangalorecity.com

Karnataka www.karnatakaturism.com
The site on Bangalore will also have links to Karnataka and vice-versa.