About this trip:
India Resilience and Adaptation

CERES Global run a number of international community engagement journeys to India annually. This particular trip is exploratory in nature with a view to further develop key themes and relationships on future trips. The trip will explore India’s response to key development challenges including health, population, climate, environment and politics.

The journey will take us from Kolkata, meeting with environmental, health, and civil society organisations to understand the key influences and challenges facing the people and infrastructure of the city of Kolkata. From Kolkata we’ll travel through West Bengal to understand the regional migration and refugee challenges, the impact of climate change, and the importance of the ongoing stability in the region. We’ll travel to the Bangla border region, to Darjeeling and remote Himalayan communities, and to recently opened and politically sensitive Assam & Sikkim. There will be an option for participants to visit Dhaka in Bangladesh.

We will meet with social and community leaders, people who understand resilience and India’s ability to adapt. We’ll speak with scientists, health professionals, political leaders, and academics; from remote tribal Himalayan Hill stations to the mega-city of Kolkata, the city expected to feel the greatest force of climate change globally. Throughout the journey, we’ll experience the impact of the current environmental crisis and learn about West Bengal’s previous ability to adapt and meet challenges. We will explore possible solutions to current and future environmental, and social challenges.
This will be an incredible journey, and we are excited that you will be coming along!

CERES Global Internship opportunities:

CERES Global are offering a number of internship places in 2018/19 for post & undergrad university students. As a requirement of the internship, students will undertake pre-departure, in-country, and post-trip activities.

- **Pre-Departure** – Work with CERES Global to identify a relevant research topic based on the upcoming international engagement, and in response to the needs of the partner organisation. This phase will require planning, meetings, and activity conducted on site at CERES in East Brunswick, as well as home based research.
- **In Country** – Engagements with our partner organisations require thoughtful contribution to discussion, cultural consideration, data collection, and sharing our CERES story.
- **Post trip** – Reporting on the international engagement, findings, recommendations, and details on issues explored and the various needs of communities to meet challenges.

In designing your specific internship, we encourage you to contact CERES Global and we can meet to explore your study interests and skill set to ensure you’re gaining the most from the experience, and that you’re adding real value to the program partners and beneficiaries. These trips are multi-disciplinary in nature and your internship or research experience can run concurrently with others in quite different fields of enquiry.

**Suggested themes:**

Biomedicine: Disease, Polio eradication, Leprosy, Population, health.
Climate Change: Resilience, Adaptation, Himalayan Ice Caps.
Politics: Refugees, Population, Border control.
Community: Civil Society, empowerment, spirituality, cohesive communities, social enterprise.

**India Partner Organisations and engagements**

**Engagements in Kolkata:**

**Ankur Kala**

With an old and established relationship with Annie Joseph, we are very excited to be heading to Kolkata to visit a national treasure. Annie has worked tirelessly with women in domestic violence situations, establishing handicap social enterprise and working closely to support her community. This will be an extraordinary engagement and we’re honoured to be able to spend some time with Annie and her Ankur Kala family.

http://ankurkala.org/
Mother Theresa’s Mission

Visiting the Mother house, we will learn the history of the legendary institution that is the support network of the mother Theresa community. Establishing the Hospice for the terminally ill and destitute in Kalighat, among many other missions for those suffering in the Kolkata community, we’ll understand the strength of the devotees and the ability to build the safety net of support in one of the most poverty affected communities in the world.

http://www.motherteresa.org/

CARE India

CARE is a not-for-profit organisation working in India for over 65 years, focusing on alleviating poverty and social injustice. They do this through well-planned and comprehensive projects in health, education, livelihoods and disaster preparedness and response. Their overall goal is the empowerment of women and girls from poor and marginalised communities leading to improvement in their lives and livelihoods.

https://www.careindia.org/

BRAC

Is a Social enterprise that lies at the intersection of business and traditional non-profit. BRAC Social enterprises are self-sustaining cause-driven business entities that create social impact by offering solutions to social challenges and reinvesting their surplus to sustain and generate greater impact. BRAC is recognised as a leader in start up social enterprise supporting multiple communities in the region.

http://www.brac.net/enterprises

Grameen Bank / Grameen Capital

A first-of-its-kind financial advisory firm with a mandate to catalyse inclusive growth and facilitate capital market access for impact-focused enterprises across sectors. Grameen Capital clients are microfinance institutions, affordable healthcare providers, low-cost education firms and other dynamic and sustainable organisations.
with a social development focus—from early-stage enterprises to established industry leaders.
http://www.grameencapital.in/

**Udayan & The Steve Waugh Foundation**

UDAYAN provides children with the opportunity to grow up as children were meant to—free of the scourge of leprosy and its associated poverty, with the chance to learn, play and live life to the fullest. The healthy and peaceful setting of UDAYAN is very different from the environment these children were born in. They leave UDAYAN’s doors with the education and self-confidence necessary to be productive members of society. The name UDAYAN means rising, and for the 300 children who call it home, UDAYAN does indeed represent the dawning of a new life for them.

http://udayan.org/

**Takdah**

Lava, Rishop and the Neora valley areas have become the prominent tourist spots of West Bengal for pleasure trips, biological and geographical excursions and medical research works. In spite of getting so much attention in recent times, the areas are not adequately developed. Some of the possible management strategies have been suggested for maintaining the social, environmental, economic and ecological balance of the region.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/279742282

**Darjeeling**

The Darjeeling Himalaya as a whole and in particular Darjeeling town is facing a long and ongoing period of severe water crisis particularly during non-monsoon months, and climate change is accelerating the processes. Temperature rise along with a lowering atmospheric humidity increases the biological demand of water, at the same time the gradual decrease in the number of rainy days and amount of precipitation further complicates the scenario. Rapid population growth coupled with heedless deforestation, unscientific and unplanned use of land has led to the establishment of a vicious cycle of degradation.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-32649-8_12
South Lhonak Glacial lake

South Lhonak glacial lake, located in the extreme Northwestern parts of Sikkim, is one of the fastest growing lakes in Sikkim Himalaya. The rapid increase in its size is unprecedented due to the melting of the South Lhonak glacier attached with the lake and addition melt water from adjoining North Lhonak glacier and main Lhonak glacier. The abnormal growth of the volume of the lake is a great concern in terms of glacial lake outburst floods. The lake is purely a glacial moraine dammed lake which is vulnerable in terms of GLOFs.


Additional research and travel options are available for small groups to work together on issues and themes specific to Bhutan and Bangladesh. Specifically, a special interest group will explore wellbeing and the happiness index in Bhutan, and a separate group will look at sustainable fashion in Bangladesh. For further info on both of these additional engagements, please contact CERES Global.

For more information contact Sophie or Ben
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We are really happy to be taking this amazing journey with you. Keep in touch during your pre-departure preparation and ask any questions as they come up.