

**2010-2011
Application Information for**

Maharashtra and Goa Students

Part A: Information on the OMG Exchange Program

The Ontario-Maharashtra-Goa (OMG) Student Exchange Program

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Ontario/Maharashtra-Goa Student Exchange Program

Application Information for Maharashtra and Goa Students

2010–2011 Exchange Year

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Ontario/Maharashtra-Goa (OMG) Student Exchange Program. The exchange is a collaborative initiative of the Ontario universities consortium and universities and colleges in Maharashtra and Goa, supported by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

In Ontario, the Program Office – which also coordinates Ontario’s exchange with the French region of Rhône-Alpes, the Chinese region of Jiangsu and the German region Baden-Württemberg – is at York University in Toronto. The Academic Director for OMG is Professor Lalu Mansinha of the University of Western Ontario.

This booklet offers a brief introduction to applicants and potential applicants to the 2010–2011 exchange year. **For up-to-date information, it is essential that you consult the OMG website at <http://www.omgprogram.org/>.** You can also download and print a pdf-version of this booklet from this site.

We refer to the college or university that you are currently studying for a degree as the **Home University**. Under the OMG Exchange program you go on to studies at a **Host University** among the 16 universities in Ontario.

1. Structure of the Exchange

Here is a summary of the structure of the OMG Exchange Program:

1. Each year there is a total of 25 spaces available in Ontario universities for students from the colleges and universities in Maharashtra and Goa.
2. The exchange is open to Maharashtra and Goa students in all fields of study. However certain high demand professional programs such as management, medicine, dentistry have restrictive requirements. Individual Ontario universities may have further restrictions.
3. Students are nominated by their Home University in Maharashtra and Goa based on that institution’s selection processes and criteria. Application forms should contain a list of three Ontario universities at which the applicant wishes to study. Whenever possible, the OMG office will try to place in their first-choice institution. In the last step, the prospective Host University has to agree to admit each applicant.
4. All admitted OMG students are considered non-degree students at the Host University in Ontario.
5. While the OMG office is committed to try to help, the students are responsible for all aspects — academic, legal, medical, etc. — of their participation in the program.

2. Frequently Asked Questions

6. *What does the OMG exchange offer me?*

The OMG exchange offers Maharashtra and Goa students the following benefits:

- Each OMG student receives a stipend of C\$2000 (for one term) or C\$2500 (for two terms or one academic year).
- You do not pay tuition in Ontario, in effect giving you a scholarship worth between \$10,000 and \$16,000.
- A system-wide exchange (covering 17 universities) gives you the choice to attend universities with particular academic strengths in your areas of interest.

7. *Which universities participate in the OMG program?*

In Maharashtra and Goa, eight colleges and universities participate and are able to send and receive students. In Ontario, 17 universities participate: Brock (St. Catharines), Carleton (Ottawa), Guelph (Guelph), Laurentian (Sudbury), McMaster (Hamilton), Nipissing (North Bay), Ottawa (Ottawa), Queen's (Kingston), Ryerson (Toronto), Toronto (Toronto), Waterloo (Waterloo), Trent (Peterborough), Western Ontario (London), Wilfrid Laurier (Waterloo), Windsor (Windsor), and York (Toronto). The universities are located in the city given in the (parentheses).

8. *How can I find out which Ontario university is best for me?*

There are three main ways through which you can inform yourself. (1) This Application Information booklet contains a concise overview, with a listing for each university. (2) The OMG website has links to all participating universities in Ontario, where (in the Academic Calendar) you can find full information on the range of programs offered. (3) The OMG Program Office in Ontario has information on many Ontario universities, and contacts at those institutions.

You may seek the advice of the Professor in charge of the OMG Program at your Home Institution.

The main thing to remember is that, except in special cases, there are probably many universities that meet your needs. Just because you have not heard of a university (or the city in which it is located) does not mean it is not an excellent choice for you. In setting your list of priorities, think about your academic goals for the year, your level of study, prospective universities' course offerings, and the size and location of the city and university you would prefer.

9. *How can I be sure the program will place me at my first-choice university?*

The short answer is: You can't be sure. We will do our best to accommodate your wishes, and we will not place you at a university at which you cannot carry out your proposed program of study. We may have to place you at a university that you have not requested. We will contact you by email or phone before placing you at a university you have not listed on your application.

If you have an invitation from a professor in an Ontario university, please enclose a copy of the email or letter with the application.

10. *Do I have to take TOEFL?*

If the medium of instruction in your Home Institution is in English, most Ontario universities do not require a TOEFL test.

11. *Can I earn a degree while in Ontario?*

One of the firm principles of the OMG exchange is that students remain degree candidates at their Home University, not at their Host University. In other words, you cannot earn a degree while participating in the exchange. If you wish to change from non-degree to degree status, you will have to go through the regular admissions process and pay full tuition fees. You will also cease to be a member of the OMG Program.

12. *How long can / must I stay in Ontario?*

The Academic Year in all Ontario universities is from September to May. The academic year is divided into the Fall Term (September to December) and the Winter Term (January to May). There is also the Summer Term, from mid-May to end of August. When you are admitted to the OMG exchange, you confirm your intention to study for one or more terms: Fall, Winter or Summer.

13. *Is it hard to find a place to live in Ontario?*

It depends on the city. In Toronto, Ottawa, and Kitchener-Waterloo it is sometimes difficult to find an off-campus (or in some cases, an on-campus) room at an acceptable price very near the campus. In

smaller cities the situation is less difficult. Many Ontario universities offer residence rooms to Maharashtra and Goa students. Individual universities' policies are listed on the OMG website and the Application Information booklet.

14. How much will studying in Ontario cost?

Some of the things to consider are: (1) you do not have to pay tuition in Ontario, but (2) you do need to purchase health insurance in Ontario (in 2009–2010:C\$63 per month, C\$252 for one term and C\$504 two terms). (3) You need to figure in your flight, rent, meals, and books, as well as telephone, local transit, and entertainment costs. It will probably cost you about C\$1000 (about Rs40,000) per month, excluding airfare. All students selected in the OMG Program will receive a stipend of C\$2000 (for 1 term) or C\$2500 (for more than one term). This covers the travel expenses.

15. Can I work or participate in an internship while in Canada?

You may take a job, but only on the campus of your host university. You may also participate in an internship / practicum. Prior correspondence and permission is necessary. You will have to arrange this by yourself. The OMG Program cannot help in this.

16. Where can I get an application form and more information?

Application forms and information are available from the OMG website.

17. What is the administrative structure and who are the people behind OMG?

OMG is a consortium of 16 Ontario and 10 Maharashtra and Goa universities. Professor Lalu Mansinha of the University of Western Ontario is the Academic Director, Ms. Agnes Poleszczuk is the Program Coordinator and Ms. Dagmar Todd is the Program Assistant. The OMG Program Office is housed at York University. In India OMG has a Program office at the University of Pune with Vaishali Potnis as the program coordinator <vaishalipotnis@hotmail.com>.