



WOODSTOCK SCHOOL

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 19th April, 2010

Subject: Leading International School Offers Unique Gap Year Experience to UAE Students

If looking for tigers, climbing a Himalayan peak or sharing a meal with Buddhist monks sounds better than being cooped up in class, let the dream become a reality...



UAE students are being offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend a school semester studying in the Himalayas at Woodstock School, India's longest established international education facility, and a leading residential school in South Asia.

The gap semester is open to students between the ages of 18 and 25, and is ideal for those that are looking to use their time productively before enrolling in higher education. The first semester for participation will run from August 11 to November 28, 2010 followed by the second semester from February 16 to June 5, 2011. Participants will also be immersed in a different culture and forge bonds with other students from different backgrounds, ethnicities and religious traditions.



As part of the experience, attendees will study Indian culture, learn to communicate in Hindi, trek up snow peaks in Garhwal, explore the picturesque settlements of Kaza, stumble across



millennia-old monasteries, spot tigers in Corbett National Park and go white-water rafting on the Ganges. Personal and physical skill development includes service-learning projects and home stays in Himalayan villages, advanced first aid, basic mountaineering and introductory rafting, wildlife safari and an introduction to human-animal conflict.

According to alumni coordinator Chris Starr, 'This is an outstanding experiential education opportunity and very different from what is typically available to UAE students. Students are being given a window to a truly unique world, exposing them to environments, skills and situations that will stay with them throughout their adult life. At the same time, they will be familiarising themselves with one of the world's great and rising economies – a great asset for future global players.'

For further information please contact:

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The gap semester is based at the Hanifl Centre (www.woodstockschool.in/haniflcentre/), the home of Woodstock's outdoor education and environmental study programme. For more information email admissions@woodstock.ac.in or visit www.woodstockschool.in/gap.

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About Woodstock School

Founded in 1854, Woodstock School is India's longest established international school. Located on the first range of the Indian Himalaya, the campus covers 300 acres of protected forest at an altitude which ranges from 6,000 – 7,000 feet above sea level. **Woodstock's mission** is to develop responsible global citizens and leaders by providing a world-class international education, rooted in the school's Christian heritage and values, for a diverse group of students.

Woodstock staff and students are recruited from both within India and around the world, bringing the distinctiveness of their own culture to the school community. The 480 students are from many backgrounds, ethnic origins, and religious traditions, and represent over 20 nationalities. Mutual respect and learning from one another are key elements of the school.

In 2007 Woodstock was the first school in Asia to be recognised with the Middle States Association's International Credential, as a school with a genuinely global quality and style of education. Woodstock has been accredited by the MSA since 1958. In 2008 and 2009 Woodstock was voted number 1 international school in India in a parent- and peer-review poll conducted by Education World magazine.

97% of Woodstock graduates go on to full-time higher education. About 60% go to colleges in the US, and the rest to the UK, Canada, Australia and various parts of Asia. Woodstock offers a large range of US College Board Advanced Placement examinations, as well as the Cambridge IGCSE.

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