



# Is Woodstock Right for Me?

A guide to living and working at Woodstock

For over 160 years, Woodstock has touched the lives of young people from all corners of the globe who have come to this place to live and learn together. Is Woodstock right for you? Read on to find out!





## International Community of Learners

Faculty from all over the world including the US, Canada, Australia, Europe, S Africa, Korea and India form a caring community dedicated to helping students grow to reach their full potential. Living and working together on campus allows staff to form relationships that extend past the workday. We believe in life-long learning and every member of our community – leadership, teachers, dorm parents, administrative staff and students all strive towards our desired learning outcomes.

Visitors to our campus discover the friendly and dynamic atmosphere that makes this such a fascinating place. Staff and students have a purpose, a determination to succeed, to enjoy life, to enjoy each other's company — and most importantly, to discover that there is far more in each of us than we think.



## Educational Approach

The goal of a Woodstock education is for students to discover the greatness inside of them. Learn more about Eliciting Greatness by watching a brief video or by reading the complete document.

Woodstock School offers an international college-prep curriculum that culminates in a wide range of AP courses and a U.S. high school diploma. Woodstock fosters an interdisciplinary approach where students develop critical thinking skills in discussion-based classes and labs. In addition to core academic offerings, Woodstock is known for excellence in the Fine and Performing Arts, allowing young people to develop their talents in drama, art and music.

Enrichment and residence programmes are core aspects of student life at Woodstock. Students meet in PASSAGE activities throughout the week to pursue their interests in everything from climbing to cooking, robotics to religion and music to mechanics. The campus is also home to a myriad of sports activities, with competitive interschool play in football, cricket, cross country, table tennis, basketball and more.



## Our Campus

Spread over 290 acres of protected forest, Woodstock is located in the foothills of the Indian Himalaya at 7000 feet above sea level. The majestic mountains surrounding Woodstock provide the perfect amphitheater for education. Staff and students explore India and the Himalayas through art, environmental studies, nature walks, camping and trekking expeditions. Many teachers choose to hold their classes outside to take advantage of the clean air and inspirational surroundings.

Newly renovated residence halls provide a home away from home for students while the Hanifl Centre for Outdoor Education and the Win Mumby Gymnasium offer some of the best recreational spaces for students and staff in India.

## Challenges and Opportunities of Living and Working in India

Living and working in India is full of adventure and life experiences. As the second most populous country in the world, India is full of beauty and chaos and you will often find the best and worst aspects of humanity hand in hand. It can take new staff members several months to settle in and feel at home. Many families have found living in India to provide an invaluable experience for the formation of their children's character and worldview. We highly recommend Neil Miller's cross-cultural living resources at [www.learningindia.net](http://www.learningindia.net) as a resource for expatriates.

Living and working in a small community also presents challenges. Woodstock teachers come from diverse backgrounds deeply committed to their vocation. This provides us with opportunities to engage deeply with each other as our own worldviews expand. Relatively short semesters can make for packed schedules and eventful weeks. Teachers often use long weekends or the summer and winter breaks to explore India and the surrounding countries.







## Key Benefits and Considerations

- The Woodstock world is somewhat isolated and can easily become all-consuming during the intensity of semesters. This is true of all residential schools, and especially true of Woodstock.
- Teachers are expected to be involved extensively in activities outside of the classroom.
- Long holiday breaks and home-travel allowances allow for exploring India and the surrounding countries or spending time in your home country visiting with family and friends.
- Working and living in a small community at the top of a mountain requires commitment to relationships that extend well beyond the workplace. Staff members are frequently hosting neighbors or get-togethers for the Woodstock community, but there can be limited opportunities to socialize outside of this circle.
- Staff have a 15-25 minute walk to their offices and classrooms. Armed with umbrellas and rain boots, students and staff brave the monsoon months of August and September, learning to live in a cloud and enjoy the verdant ferns and forest that accompany the rainfall.
- Local and expatriate staff share the same salary scale. We have an Overseas Living Allowance for expatriate academic staff which begins on your first contract renewal and will allow you to accumulate a sizable amount of savings (from \$9000 to \$30000) that can be used to help with relocation expenses, student loan repayment, or other purposes as you see fit.
- The cost of living and your expenses will be minimal, as Woodstock provides housing for all staff. For an idea of how costs in India compare with your current country, view this [cost of living guide](#).
- Woodstock is a Christian school with a long tradition of openness in matters of spiritual life and religious practice. All staff must strongly support our [Religious Life Policy](#).
- Living in India can be exhilarating but also brings its share of challenges and frustrations as you learn to live cross-culturally.
- Teachers who have spent several years at Woodstock will testify that working at Woodstock is a deeply rewarding experience that requires a high level of commitment and engagement in the lives of students and colleagues.

## FAQ

### What is the faculty housing like?

The typical staff residence is a stone bungalow with a living room, kitchen and bedrooms and bathrooms depending on family size. Some residences are clustered together while others are more apartment-style flats. We are currently renovating our staff homes and some are more rustic than others. Homes stay cool during mild Indian summers and are heated with woodstoves during the winter months.

### Do I have to have a visa to work in India?

Expatriate staff must obtain an employment visa to work at Woodstock. The school administration will provide the necessary paperwork and assist employees and their families in this process. Due to changing regulations and government bureaucracy, the amount time and effort required to obtain a visa varies significantly from one application to the next and patience is often required.

### Are there any safety issues?

The Woodstock campus and Mussoorie are both very safe. Staff residences are spread over the hillside and we recommend that people walk in pairs after dark and be sure to lock their homes as a precaution. We have 24-hour security guards and a Health Centre on campus. The Landour Community Hospital is one kilometer from the school and larger world-class medical centres are located in Dehradun.

## Staff Reflections

"It has been an extended honeymoon for my wife and I, and a good place for a young couple that does not have any particular roots to a location - the (relatively) low cost of living means that we can subsist comfortably. It has also been an interesting experience living in another country with a drastically different culture. Finally, it is a good place to be if you are interested in travel - Asia is a massive continent, and it is much more accessible when you are already in the middle of it."

"Classroom management tends to be a non-issue at Woodstock, which gives me the freedom to focus on teaching and learning. I love incorporating a wide range of cultural perspectives into my lesson plans and encouraging students to examine their own perspectives critically while simultaneously exploring new ideas. The biggest challenge is helping students move beyond the desire for high grades to develop a passion for learning as its own reward."

"Working at Woodstock provides a great education for my children. For my family, it provides a chance to live in another culture and place. Traveling to foreign countries is nice and can be illuminating, but living in a place is a whole other level - there's no substitution for it."

