

Things to Bring with you to MUWCI

Our current MUWCI students and the Head of Admissions have created this suggested packing overview to help you determine what to bring to MUWCI. The list is general advice on what will be helpful, especially for students from overseas who may not have a chance to return home for a while. Please keep in mind that you can buy most things in Pune! To understand what things are available in India and their comparative costs, please visit www.amazon.in.

Note: We recognise students who come to MUWCI are from various socio-economic backgrounds and have different budgets and ideas of what items are 'essential' and what are 'luxuries'. Excessive displays of wealth and overly consumerist attitudes have no place at UWCs. When budgeting and packing for your UWC experience, you are encouraged to consider what living in a community with such differences will mean.

Clothing:

Most students wear summer clothes that are light and breathable, including cotton t-shirts, blouses, leggings, dresses, skirts and shorts. Jeans, pants, and lightweight sweaters are preferred in the evenings and cooler winter months (Dec – Jan). It is encouraged to bring activewear to engage in sporting activities (and activity Trivenis). These could be any cotton/synthetic breathable shirts, shorts and trousers. One set of formal clothes is nice to have for festive occasions, as well as a national costume for regional celebrations.

Clothes should be modest and make you comfortable participating in activities on campus, in the villages, or further afield. When going off campus, it's best to ensure clothing covers shoulders and knees and that necklines and waistbands are not too low. Clothes should also be easy to self-laundry in the washing machines without complicated fabric care instructions.

Student Pro Tip: It is recommended to bring lots of underwear and socks so you can go longer without having to do laundry! 😊. Having some clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or torn could be useful for events like Holi, project weeks, and more.

Shoes:

Open-flat shoes are popular with many students, but having a pair of closed shoes (eg. sneakers or loafers) is helpful, especially when traveling. Running or other athletic shoes are necessary, depending on your preference for sports activities. Hiking shoes are also highly recommended, especially in the rain and during the Orientation Programme at the start of the year. (These shoes are also available for purchase in India). A pair of formal shoes to go along with clothes for special occasions is optional.

Student Pro Tip: Sturdy rain-proof shoes (hiking shoes, rain boots or water-proof sandals/flats) will be indispensable during the monsoons (Aug – Sept). Also, a pair of slippers/slides inside your room can help keep the floor clean. Crocs are a pretty good choice, though. We would not recommend white shoes, as they will get dirty.

Special Clothing & Accessories:

- Monsoon: You will want to bring a raincoat (should have good rain protection, but not too warm), a sturdy umbrella (very useful!), and rain boots or rainproof shoes/sandals with good tread.
- Sports: specific sports shoes depending on activity, sports clothes, cap, and socks.
- Swimming shorts/briefs or one-piece swimsuits (**two-piece suits aren't allowed at the MUWCI pool**). A swim shirt can be beneficial to avoid sunburn or if you have sensitive skin.

Toiletries & Medication:

Most big multinational cosmetic brands are available in India. Bring some toiletries to get you started for the first few days. The nearest town is Paud, where you can purchase soap, shampoo, toothpaste, laundry detergent, and other essentials. If applicable, bring sanitary products of your choice, though tampons (OB non-applicator type) and sanitary napkins are available in department stores. You must bring a towel, but more can be purchased in Pune.

Student Pro Tip: Bring menstrual hygiene products that you are used to and comfortable with, which will last you until you find products here that you like.

Carry a small amount of over-the-counter medication you're familiar with and use to treat everyday ailments like headaches, cuts, indigestion, etc. If you are on prescription medication(s), please bring your own supply or follow instructions about ensuring availability with the doctor for procuring these locally via the Medical Center (bring the prescription or a copy of it with you, just in case).

Student Pro Tip: Insect repellent is essential but can be purchased from Pune. Feel free to bring any haircare or skincare products you use daily at home. SUNSCREEN is a must

Room:

The college provides bedsheets, pillowcases, and blankets. Also helpful (but not necessary!) is a small blanket you can use on trains and buses.

Student Pro Tip: Although the school will provide bedding, you may want to bring your own single-bed-sized fitted sheets or comfortable blankets. Alternatively, you can purchase these items in Pune to avoid overstuffing your suitcase.

Items like a laundry basket, shower caddy, decorative lights, desk organisers, etc., can be bought in Pune. Some students also like to bring small portable speakers for music (This is recommended).

Student Pro Tip: Bring photos, mementoes, wall hangings, flags, artwork, and so on to decorate your room and make it feel familiar and cosy.

Documentation:

Keep your valuable documents safe in your personal room. When you are off campus, you can carry photocopies of all your documents (passport, visa, national ID, etc.) and digital scans stored in your email or the cloud in case of loss. You should also keep details of any ATM/Debit cards you will bring, including information to report a loss.

Student Pro Tip: Ensure your debit card is compatible with Indian banking systems and is recognized internationally, or plan to get a card with an Indian bank through the school upon arrival.

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Technology:

MUWCI requires every student to have the following (if you are a scholarship student and unable to afford any of these items, please contact the Admissions Office for details about items available on loan):

- Laptop or Netbook
- Scientific Calculator: The IB Mathematics courses require a graphical display calculator. Calculators will be loaned to the students for whom the College bears the additional expenses mentioned in the Offer of Admission letter. Students are generally recommended to bring their own calculators; the preferred calculator brand is TI Nspire CX II (non-CAS).
- Mobile Phone: All students are expected to have a smartphone. Phones should be functional on GSM networks. This is part of the safety requirements for students to travel without supervision.

Student Pro Tip: Although some bedrooms have universal outlets, you will need adapters that fit Type D plugs for any appliances you bring from home. These can be purchased in Pune or from the school's IT centre.

Food:

Bring foods from your country that you won't find in India! Non-perishable foodstuffs (tinned, dried, packaged, or pickled) can be a wonderful treat to share with your friends. Bring any speciality cooking equipment or utensils (e.g. coffee press) that you use regularly. You can buy basic cutlery, mugs, plates, and pots in Pune.

Student Pro Tip: Bring enough snacks to last the first few days on campus if you need to adjust to the food. Sharing snacks from home is also a great way to bond with your roommates!

Student Pro Tip: A mug, spoon, and fork are nice to have upon arrival (though not necessary), and any coffee, tea, or other packaged hot drinks can be of comfort during the monsoon season and are pleasant to share with friends

Student Pro Tip: A water bottle is a necessity to own, and its value cannot be understated, especially during the summer season

Odds & Ends:

Some other valuable items:

- English Dictionary for translations from your native language. (The IB allows you to use a hard-copy translating dictionary for non-language examinations. The dictionary should not contain notes and is only permitted if English is not your best language. Electronic dictionaries are NOT permitted, so bring a paper version from home.)
- Camera (DSLRs are also available on short-term loans from school, but bring one if you have it — there are active photography and videography clubs on campus.)
- Backpack for school.
- More giant Hiking Backpack for travels (can be borrowed from school; only bring if you want to use your own).
- Earphones/headphones are excellent to have
- Insect Repellent / Bug Spray

- Locks
- Spare chargers
- Small purse or wallet (crossbody sling for safety)
- Musical instrument (if small and portable)
- Some favourite stationery supplies to get you started
- Non-marking adhesive hooks or tack to attach things to the wall and a Flag of your country/region
- Energy & enthusiasm for many adventures!

Student Pro Tip: If you play a musical instrument that isn't small, consider bringing it (keeping in mind the cost and effort of travel) if you play it regularly and it brings you joy.

Student Pro Tip: A small game from your country can be excellent when bonding with other students.

Student Pro Tip: Any unique art supplies that may be hard to find and are used regularly can be excellent.

What NOT to bring: large amounts of cash, expensive clothes or accessories (including jewellery), too many electronic devices, pets, live plants, and items against the UWC Code of Conduct.