

**Offer from Manipal Academy of Higher Education (Karnataka, south India)**

**Where is your university or institution located?**

Manipal Academy of Higher Education, in Karnataka, India (South)

**When would you be able to host the annual SACP conference? Our preferred rotation by year is as follows (though we may make some exceptions to this rotation, depending on various factors): 2026: Asia / 2027: the Americas / 2028: Europe / 2029: Asia, etc.**

Yes, in 2026 Summer

**Do you have experience hosting major international conferences?**

Yes

**Are you able to host the annual SACP conference over a 4-day period between late-May and mid-August?**

Yes

**Expenses for the annual SACP conference can range from \$12,000 to \$25,000 USD. Would you have access to funds in this range, for putting on the conference?**

We would likely apply for external funding, but this is unreliable and time consuming. For the planning, in my experience, it is better to assume nothing and work out the costs from what is certain.

**While we will work together with the local host and appreciate their hospitality and hard work to help put on our annual conference, the SACP reserves the right to make final decisions regarding the conference program, such as keynote speakers, the managing of the final program, and so on. In the event that you are selected to host the SACP conference, do you agree to this?**

Yes

**Are you able to provide rent-free space for our conference (including 3-5 rooms for concurrent panels)?**

Space is available and of high quality, but we will still need to inquire about costs. It is possible that it would be free, but not guaranteed.

**Are you able to provide a large space for keynote events for up to 125-175 audience members (depending on the number of conference participants and special guests)?**

Space is available and of high quality, but we will still need to inquire about costs. It is possible that it would be free, but not guaranteed.

**Are you able to provide other basic facilities (bathrooms, a room or hall for setting up registration tables, etc.)?**

Yes

**Are you able to provide volunteer support (often students) to help run the conference (e.g., to direct conference participants to the correct locations, to set up and manage tech devices in presentation rooms, etc.)?**

Yes. We have students.

**Are you able to provide print-outs of conference programs, tables for registration activities, and other basic needs?**

Yes. Additionally, we can provide a welcome kit, meals, venues, transportation, etc.... everything except the hotel room.

**Are you able to provide information for how to properly welcome conference participants (e.g., maps about the local area, advice on accommodations and places to eat, etc.)?**

Yes. Please see above.

**Are you able to offer free or affordable housing (e.g., dormitory rooms, local hotels) for conference participants?**

We can offer a range of prices from very affordable (around 10-15US\$ a night) and comfortable to luxurious and reasonable (around 60US\$ a night)

**Are you able to provide or pay for 1-2 dinners (such as the Farewell Dinner) for conference participants?**

Possible (we will likely apply for external funding as well)

**Are you able to provide or pay for 1 opening reception (to include drinks, finger foods, etc.)?**

Possible (we will likely apply for external funding as well)

**Are you able to organize social events that help conference participants to appreciate and enjoy the local culture, arts, and other distinctive features of the host location and surrounding areas?**

We can have 1 different event per evening. Let it be noted that we are surrounded with several unique heritage sites of various philosophical traditions (Hindu, Jain, etc - even the children home of a lineage founder (Madhva)), we have clean and accessible beaches, a rich local culture and great artists, a unique night life, and are a pretty small, remote town almost entirely existing around the university, which makes it safe and easy to go about.

**Are you able to provide basic advertising to the local area?**

Yes, though we might already be quite busy with the conference schedule.

**Are you able to provide free catering for coffee and snacks (in the early morning, late morning, and the afternoon)?**

Yes

**Are you able to provide free catering for lunch on one or more days of the conference?**

Yes. Every day lunch and breakfast.

**Are you able to assist with transportation to and from the local airport or train station?**

We can provide transportation within Manipal from different venues if necessary. One needs to fly to Mangalore (Mangaluru) airport.... once there we will organize the taxi pick ups. Depending on traffic, the ride goes from one hour to one and half hour to reach Manipal. People already in India can come by train as well, and come down in Udupi. From there, an auto-rickshaw ride will not cost more then 100 rupees (2-3 US\$) and take about 5-10 minutes.

**If necessary, are you able to assist with participants who need to obtain a VISA?**

We will help participants with the VISA by registering everyone with the government. Participants will then be able to easily get a conference VISA, that is unless some have other tourism plans beyond the scope of the conference.