

# Web Science CDT Trip to Bangalore

By Maria Priestley



Thank you very much to the CDT for sponsoring this trip to India. I had a great time and will be returning to my research with a refreshed perspective.

There are many aspects of this trip that I enjoyed, I found it particularly interesting to see how elements of the local culture were incorporated into academic life and the workings of the IIIT.

On entering the Institute, we passed a Shrine to Saraswati - the Hindu goddess of knowledge and to the launch of Brave Conversations, which was marked by a small fire ceremony in the lecture room, where academics expressed gratitude and set the intention for a productive time ahead.

Each day we experienced the hospitality of the local students and academics, as well as the catering staff who prepared delicious traditional Indian food for us.

The trip provided a great opportunity to meet other students and academics in Bangalore, to discuss our interests and find connections between our areas of research.

It was hugely beneficial to spend more time with my fellow Web Science students and academics from Southampton and travelling together enabled us to network and share our areas of research with each other. This would have been difficult to anticipate and coordinate without the trip.

