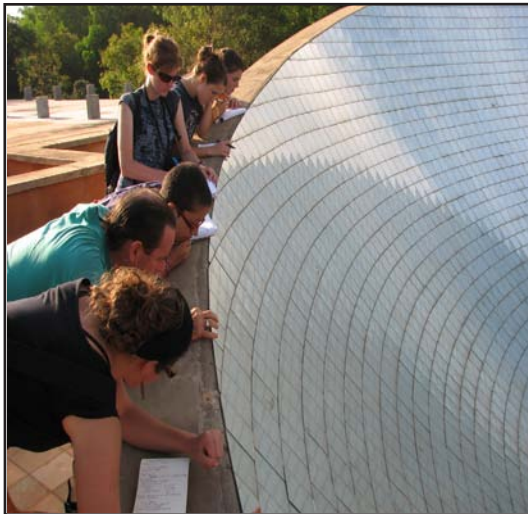


Build ecological and sustainable living skills and learn about the culture of tropical Tamil Nadu, India, and Auroville, an international city dedicated to the realization of human unity. Examine and explore sustainability through multiple lenses in one of the world's largest and most diverse intentional communities. Design and complete a service learning project in renewable energy systems, organic farming, women's empowerment, teaching, medicinal use of indigenous plants, or another topic of interest, and take part in holistic living practices such as yoga, non-violent communication and consensus decision-making. The program offers an integrated model of sustainable and spiritual living for the 21st century that unites ecological, socio-cultural, and contemplative practices.



Habitat regeneration, carbon consciousness and Service Learning are integrated topics in the Auroville curriculum.



Learning firsthand from experts at Auroville's Center for Scientific Research (CSR) about Solar Dish technology.

Program Highlights

- Explore Auroville, home to one of the world's most successful eco-reforestation efforts, the Center for Renewable Energy, and the Matrimandir Peace Gardens and meditation sanctuary
Engage in Service Learning that benefits local communities. Opportunities include: supporting habitat restoration, interning at an organic farm, teaching in a village school, and working with village action groups to build understanding of local and global sustainability issues
Visit Sri Ramanamaharshi's Ashram and climb Arunchala Mountain, locally believed to be the body of the Hindu God Shiva
Experience a guided sacred solo at Honey Valley, in the Coorg, amidst verdant valleys, imposing mountains and teakwood forests

Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 16 transferable credits through University of Massachusetts Amherst

Spring Semester Late Jan. - Early May (see Website for dates)

Fall Semester Sept. - Dec. (see Website for dates)

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.



Auroville as “Ecovillage”

Founded in 1968, with the vision of realizing human unity, Auroville is home to 2,300 individuals from 40 nations. Inspired by the vision of the Indian mystic, Sri Aurobindo and Mira Alfassa (the “mother”) Auroville is a spiritual community and a pioneer in India in many emerging fields such as the evolution of consciousness, reforestation, green technology, alternative architecture, organic farming and integral education. Designated an eco-village in 1995, Auroville’s larger vision is to be a living laboratory for research, exploration and experimentation toward the evolution of humankind.



Mindfulness practices help cultivate personal sustainability.

Application Deadlines

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

Fall March 15
 Spring September 30

Cost

Tuition, room and board, travel insurance, and in-country travel. . . See Website
 UMassAmherst credit included

Faculty (for full list of faculty, please see www.LivingRoutes.org)

Bindu Mohanty, Ph.D., Comparative Studies in Integral Yoga & Transpersonal Theories, CIIS
 M.A., English Literature, University of Kentucky

A writer and teacher, Mohanty has lived in Auroville since 1994. As the senior faculty member, she has taught six semesters at Auroville. Committed to the practice of Integral Yoga, she believes that social change requires a radical transformation of the individual. She is passionate about promoting social justice and ecological sustainability in a globalized world through an integral and transdisciplinary approach to education. Her current research interests include interpersonal dynamics and social evolution.

Andrea Vecchione, Ph.D. (ABD), Asian Comparative Religions, California Institute of Integral Studies
 M.A., Education, Mills College

Vecchione’s love of nature and science began in Brazil and in the Pacific Northwest conducting wildlife surveys of rare and endangered animals. Her master’s thesis focused on how organic gardens can create a greater sense of community in public schools. For 13 years she has taught environmental science, Permaculture, and systems theory. She is completing her Ph.D. dissertation on the topic of, “Sacred Groves and Traditional Environmental Knowledge” fusing both environmental ethics, and spirituality.

Ethan Hirsch-Tauber, M.S., Environmental Education, Audubon Expedition Institute/Lesley University
 B.A., Environmental Studies, New College of Florida

Hirsch-Tauber spent four years working in the field of green building and energy efficiency through a non-profit in Atlanta and then leveraging US government efficiency initiatives with a consulting company in Washington DC. In 2007, he returned to graduate school to focus on experiential and community-based environmental education. Hirsch-Tauber joined Living Routes in 2008 and continues to teach and be a teacher-trainer for the Auroville program. He has developed a strong passion for transformative, ecological, and integral education. More recently, he has begun visiting ecovillages around the world to explore the different ways that communities are approaching the present sustainability challenges humanity faces. His core goal as an educator is to inspire students on their personal journeys to create positive social and environmental change.

Courses

Global and Local Sustainable Living (Environmental Design 592A) 4 CR
 Study the role of human history, language, education, physical landscape, society, and world view on shaping human-place relations. Explore ways of strengthening these connections through use of ecological footprint analysis, ecological literacy, mindful awareness, community/societal action, and systems thinking.

Group Dynamics (Communications 352) 4 CR
 Learn to recognize and analyze the physical, social, economic, political, ethical, and spiritual elements that make up sustainable communities. Students build strong conceptual frameworks and have opportunities for real-world experience by developing a learning community and engaging with established host communities.

Applications and Practices of Sustainable Living (Service Learning 397i) 4 CR
 This field-based experience, combined with readings, dialogue, reflection and a project paper, introduces you to the history, methods, and meanings of sustainable development. Students select, implement, record, and evaluate an internship project in sustainable development.

Body, Mind, and Spirit: Cultivating Personal Sustainability EDUC 292C) 4 CR
 Study the importance of world views and how they affect human behavior and the earth, and gain an appreciation for the historical role of religions and spirituality in creating culture. In addition to seminars, readings, reflective journaling, and discussion on philosophical and spiritual movements that link inner transformation with political and environmental action, this course explores how practices such as yoga and meditation, holistic health, and rituals expand perceptions about who we are and how we live.