



## THE TAGORE PROGRAM ON LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE AT UC BERKELEY

Institute for South Asia Studies  
University of California, Berkeley  
[southasia.berkeley.edu](http://southasia.berkeley.edu)



*Rabindranath Tagore with UC Berkeley students when he passed through Berkeley in 1929. From "Echoes of Freedom: South Asian Pioneers in California, 1899-1965," Online Exhibit: <https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/echoes-of-freedom>. Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley*

### Why a Tagore Program?

Rabindranath Tagore (1861 - 1941), India's iconic literary and spiritual polymath whose teachings and philosophy are just as relevant today as they were when he was alive. Tagore was a poet, novelist, a short story writer, playwright, musician, composer and painter. He was honored with the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. A humanist to the core, Tagore was also a political and social reformer and educator who worked ceaselessly to promote multicultural, spiritual and social understanding. Visva-Bharati, a university established by him in 1923, was particularly intended to embody these values. Tagore's wide-ranging intellectual interests and passions led to many deep and lifelong friendships with, among others, luminaries like Mahatma Gandhi and Albert Einstein. The Tagore Program on Literature, Culture and Philosophy at UC Berkeley honors Rabindranath Tagore by fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of his life, legacy and the historical moment in which he lived.

### Mission & Future Goals

The Institute for South Asia Studies aims to raise a minimum of an endowment of at least \$1 million dollars in support of two goals.

The first is a visiting professorship in Tagore-related studies at UC Berkeley. Using money generated from the endowment, the Institute will invite a professor to Berkeley for up to a semester to teach a course on some aspect of Tagore. This person can be from any discipline and will be affiliated with the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies. In addition to teaching a class, the visiting faculty person will also organize a symposium/workshop focused on their area of research and interest.

The second goal of the Tagore Program is to fund student travel and study at Santiniketan or a university or library that houses the work of Tagore, host a bi-annual distinguished lecture and/or performance series featuring prominent Tagore scholars, artists and performers, offer a triennial prize for the best doctoral dissertation or book on Tagore or his legacy, promote translations of his works, and create a regular speaker series on Tagore's literary persona.

### Ways to Give

The University of California at Berkeley invites alumni, parents and friends to join in supporting the Tagore Program at UC Berkeley. Gifts from families, businesses, and other organizations are also encouraged. Gifts may be given in the following ways:

- Outright cash contributions, tax-deductible within certain limits of the law
- A pledge to be paid over several years
- Gifts of securities
- Matching gifts by employers (many companies match gifts from retirees and board members as well as employees)
- Bequests

All donations are tax deductible. All individuals donating above \$500 will be acknowledged on the Institute's webpage. All individuals donating above \$1000 will also receive a personalized certificate of appreciation from the Institute acknowledging their support.

For more information on giving opportunities, please contact:

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*Rabindranath Tagore*

## THE TAGORE PROGRAM at Berkeley

UC Berkeley is uniquely positioned to host the Tagore Program on Literature, Philosophy and Culture.

UC Berkeley offers both language-focused and content-based courses in Bangla. Since its inception in 2005, the Bangla program has fulfilled its unique potential through sustained student participation and scholarly engagement with Bengali language, culture and society across the borders of both Bengals. The distinguished Bangla teaching program is a particularly important part of the Bangla eco-system at UC Berkeley. Through it students are exposed to the depth and range of Bangla language and culture. Students who learn Bangla invariably encounter Rabindranath Tagore's writings. The Tagore Program will offer them additional opportunities to learn about and appreciate his work.

The Tagore Program will augment other allied programs at the Institute for South Asia Studies such as the Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies. It will also provide many future opportunities for collaboration with institutions in Bangladesh, where Rabindranath Tagore spent many years in his long and creative life.

### UPCOMING IN FALL 2019

Sponsored by the Tagore Program at UC Berkeley, a six-part course focused on different aspects of Rabindranath Tagore's life and legacy.

