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 multilingual, spiritual and social understanding. Visva-Bharati, a university established by him in 1921, 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 at UC Berkeley is positioned to host the Tagore Program at UC Berkeley 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:

1. To fund 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 interests.

2. To augment student travel and study at Santiniketan or a university or library that houses the work of Tagore, host a bi-annual symposium on Tagore, and endow 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. Please make checks out to the UC Berkeley Foundation. On the memo line, please write “Tagore Endow #W8654”.
- 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:

Sanchita Saxena, Executive Director
Institute for South Asia Studies
10 Stephens Hall, Berkeley CA 94720
(510) 642-3608
sanchita@berkeley.edu