

## Delaware Welcoming

The School of International Studies & Diaspora had the privilege of hosting a distinguished student delegation from the University of Delaware, USA, accompanied by the Coordinator of the Study Abroad Program, Dr. Mahasveta Barua. The visiting delegates were accorded a warm and heartfelt welcome that reflected the essence of Indian culture, where hospitality is not merely a gesture but a deeply ingrained value. Guided by the timeless philosophy of *Atithi Devo Bhava*—which translates to “The guest is equivalent to God”—the reception embodied respect, warmth, and a spirit of inclusiveness.

The welcome programme was thoughtfully organized to provide the visiting students with an authentic experience of Indian traditions. The atmosphere was marked by a sense of cultural vibrancy, where gestures of greeting, symbolic rituals, and interpersonal warmth came together to create a memorable first impression. Faculty members, students, and staff participated enthusiastically, ensuring that the guests felt valued and comfortable from the very beginning of their visit.

Beyond the ceremonial aspects, the occasion carried significant academic and intercultural importance. It marked the beginning of a meaningful engagement between the two institutions, fostering opportunities for intellectual exchange, collaborative learning, and cross-cultural dialogue. Such interactions are vital in today’s globalized world, as they allow students to broaden their perspectives, appreciate diversity, and develop a more nuanced understanding of different societies and cultures.

The presence of the delegation also provided a platform for informal interactions, where students from both institutions could engage in discussions, share experiences, and build connections that extend beyond the classroom. These exchanges not only enhance academic learning but also contribute to personal growth, empathy, and global awareness.

Overall, the welcoming of the University of Delaware delegation was more than just a formal reception—it was a celebration of cultural harmony and academic partnership. It set a positive and inspiring tone for the days ahead, laying the foundation for a fruitful collaboration and a shared journey of learning, understanding, and mutual respect between the two institutions.





