Free ticket

STEP UP Indulge in learning a new skill through the holidays – a language, a Latin dance form, music production or how to build a robot – at no cost

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Three months ago, banker Angad Saxena, 26, got the opportunity to visit Spain for business. In preparation, Saxena started looking for language classes in the city to learn the basics of Spanish, but with time constraints, accessibility issues and a limited budget, he had little luck. Through a friend, he found an online platform called LingosMio, which teaches languages including Spanish, Mandarin, English and Hindi, free of cost.

Like Saxena, you can use the summer break to experiment with learning a new skill — for free. Through various city workshops, dabble with a new language, learn the nuances of music production, take trial sessions on exotic dance forms such as bachata, or build a robotic piano.

"The idea of free entry is to encourage maximum participation and promote the idea of shared education," says Sudeip Nair, co-founder of The Hive, a cultural events space in Bandra that is hosting a free lecture series on music production.

BUILD A ROBOTIC SNAKE

At free design workshops held at a robotics fair, participants will be taught to build their own snake robots, electronic pianos and RFID cards, using their own creative designs. The workshops are part of the Robotics and Electronics Fair organised by TechShiksha, an IIT-Bombay alumni initiative that runs a weekly science club, electronics club and an Arduino club.

"We decided to keep the workshops free so they can act as a platform to connect scientists and science enthusiasts," says Amit Modi, founder and director, TechShiksha. "We will provide participants with tools and material as well."

The sessions, organised in collaboration with Indian Women Scientists' Association, will focus on the application of scientific concepts, design thinking and innovation.

"We want to generate an interest in youngsters to create something, and to design solutions to problems around them," says Modi. In the past week, the fair saw several interesting on-the-spot innovations from visitors, ranging from an electronic thermometer that beeped on attaining a specific temperature, to a project which switched on a blower at high temperatures.
Where: Vashi, Navi Mumbai
When: April 19 and 26, 11 am to 4 pm
Register: Techshiksha.org Prior registration is necessary.

SPEAK SPANISH, MANDARIN

Launched in September 2014, LingosMio teaches Spanish, English, Hindi and Mandarin through a website and an Android app. Through the app, only Spanish courses are available.

The courses are organised into chapters, which have explanations, interactive exercises and conversations that teach you basics, from the alphabet to more advanced concepts of the language. Each chapter ends with a conversation that the user can take part in.

"LingosMio taught me basic phrases and vocabulary quickly by listening to narrators who pronounce the words in a variety of intonations and speeds," says Saxena. "While in Spain, I realised that the accent is close to what I learnt through LingosMio. I'm now studying intermediate-level Spanish."

Bhopal-based Alok Arora, 26, founder of LingosMio believes that ever since he learnt Spanish, his life changed. He says his life has two phases, before learning a foreign language and after. "Over a year ago, I took a trip to South America. Whilst travelling across most countries was a breeze since I could speak Spanish, I felt I missed out on Brazil since I didn't know Portuguese," says Arora. "I came back and decided to learn Portuguese. It was difficult to find a good tutor or useful online resources. That's when the idea of LingosMio came up."

"Our mission is to make language learning accessible to everyone, and that's why it's free of cost."
Where: LingosMio.com or download the LingosMio app from the Google Play Store.

DO THE CHA-CHA OR THE BACHATA

Different Strokes Studio (DSS), a dance school in Thane, is organising free dance trials from April 14 onwards, to orient Mumbaiites to Latin ballroom dancing. The bi-weekly trials promise to introduce amateur dancers to international dance forms such as salsa, bachata, rueda salsa and cha-cha.

"In suburbs like Thane, access to international dance forms isn't so easy. We want to change this," says actor and lead instructor Nakul Ghanekar, who is also the founder of DSS. He also says heavy dance styles such as hip-hop and contemporary are growing in popularity these days, while Latin ballroom dancing still remains away from the public eye.

"We have introduced free workshops mainly to create awareness about such interactive dance forms and also to promote dance. Fortunately or unfortunately, whenever something is free, people flock to it," says Ghanekar.

The previously held session of free dance trials in February saw a great response, with more than 140 registrations, across age groups. Aishwarya Krishnan, 18, a salsa student from the institute who attended the previous workshop says, "Ballroom dancing requires a lot of interaction with the partner, which helped me to open up as a person. These styles help in improving one's posture."
When: April 16, 21 and 23; Tuesdays 8 pm to 10 pm; Thursdays 9 pm to 10 pm
Where: Dr Kashinath Ghanekar Auditorium, Rehearsal Hall no 2, Pokhran road 2, Thane (West)
Call: 9619720064

DABBLE IN MUSIC PRODUCTION

Learn about acoustics over a series of interactive sessions on music technology, hosted by The Hive, a cultural events and co-working space in Bandra. At these sessions, experts will teach various aspects of music technology, through topics including human perception of sound, immersive 3D sound, audio coding, gestural control, and paradigm shift in music broadcasting and consumption. The sessions will also cover understanding of acoustics (the science of sound techniques or behaviour of sounds) in different environments.

The event will be conducted by Sound.Codes, an internet-based music tech start-up in Mumbai. It is also supported by Bohemia Junction Limited, a UK-based company which provides equipment, recording services and consultancy to musicians and other audio and video artists.

"The series is an initiative to build a platform for people who are involved in various stages of music production and technology development," says Akash Sharma, founder, Sound. Codes. "This is an open platform where we encourage innovation, experimentation and sharing of information."

According to Avinash Tewari, 23, a musician and an attendee, "I'm looking forward to learning about acoustics clearly, which will help me develop a career in music."
When: April 26; May 10 and 24 and June 7 and 21
Where: The Hive, Bandra
Register: bohemia.st/mts-registration/
(With inputs from Ria Date)

PHOTO: JAY SANGOI/THE HIVE

■ Sound.Codes's founder Akash Sharma takes a session on acoustics.

THINKSTOCK

■ Students learn interactive dance forms at Different Strokes Studio, Thane.

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SUDEIP NAIR, co-founder of The Hive, a cultural events space in Bandra

■ Learn Spanish and Mandarin, for free, on LingosMio.

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shortstories

GET A UK DIPLOMA AT TSCM, IN INDIA

Thadomal Shahani Centre For Management in Bandra is offering a post graduate diploma in business management (PGDBM) from the Association Of Business Executives (ABE) in the UK. Students can obtain ABE's PGDBM along with getting specialisations in streams like marketing, finance, human resources and entrepreneurship.

During the PGDBM course, students will get an opportunity to interact with industry leaders, on a weekly basis, who will give them exposure to the world of business. Among the 50 prominent industry achievers who interacted with the students last year were Niraj Ambani (president, logistics at Reliance Industries Ltd), PR Ramesh (chairman, Deloitte) and Anand Sharma (chairman, Leo Burnett).
Course begins: August 17
For more information, email: info@centreformanagement.com
Call: 2658-6666

ATTEND A MASTERS' AND PHD UNIVERSITIES FAIR ORGANISED BY QS

■ University of Warwick – one of the participants at the fair.

Quacquarelli Symonds, a British company specialising in education and study abroad, in partnership with Thomas Cook (India) Ltd, an integrated travel and travel related financial services company, is hosting an international masters and PhD fair at Vivanta by Taj President in Cuffe Parade on Tuesday, April 21.

The fair will offer advice on admissions procedures, funding and provide an opportunity to meet with admissions directors from top universities around the world. Students can also access comprehensive foreign exchange and travel guidance.

Some of the participating universities include the University of Warwick, Woodbury University, Durham University Business School, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Jonkoping University, Griffith University, Hult International Business School, University College Dublin, among others.
Register: www.topuniversities.com/thomascook