GHANA: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
EXPLORING COLLABORATION BETWEEN NGOS, MICRO-FINANCE AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Maymester Study Abroad Program: May 8-30 2016

Sponsored by Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

The Program

Are you someone who has said “I want to make a difference in the lives of others internationally” or “I am passionate about global sustainability and development” – then this study abroad opportunity is for you. If you want to translate your classroom teachings into real world application, then join us for Maymester Ghana. This three week opportunity will allow students to see how complex the world of international development is as it relates to eradicating poverty and helping communities become sustainable. We will look at how concepts such as Social Enterprise and Micro-Finance are widening the opportunities to invest in developing countries, and how the work of International Nonprofit agencies (NGOs) are on the ground improving the lives of individuals. It is the interplay of these efforts, along with government regulations, that impact the success of these “do good” efforts in countries like Ghana.

Often referred to as the “Switzerland of Africa” because of its democracy, political stability, and peace, Ghana is experiencing exponential economic and human development growth. Of particular interest to students is also having the opportunity to explore and experience historical artifacts from the African Slave trade which dominated Ghana from the 15th to 19th centuries.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Students interested in applying should find this program’s listing at mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and begin an online application.

Transient Students: please see the Transients Student section under the Explore & Apply tab on our website mystudyabroad.gsu.edu.

Week One: Travel to Accra, Ghana and participate in locally led lectures on the topics of the history of Ghana, role of nonprofits/social enterprise in Ghana’s development, and numerous site visits to local agencies working in these areas. Tourist visits include Aburi Botanical Gardens, Rural/Private Forest Reserve, and a day at the local beach.

Week Two: Students shift to staying in local family homestays, and lectures and site visits to agencies focus on the role of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund on Ghana, opportunities and challenges of conducting business in Ghana, and the role of privatization and the State in Ghana’s development. We will also meet with a Village Chief and complete a community service project. Tourist visits include touring Elmina Castle and visiting Cape Coast, as well as Kakum National Park.

Week Three: Lectures and site visits will focus on challenges and opportunities of Micro-Financing, education, and culture. Visits include an international school, art galleries, visits to various small towns/rural villages, and African Drumming & Dance Farewell dinner.

Please note: Georgia State University reserves the right to alter travel and other arrangements if required by circumstances.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 7, 2015 (priority deadline);
FINAL DEADLINE: February 1, 2016
ACCOMMODATIONS

The accommodations for this trip allow us to bond as a group and also live among the locals. For week one, students will stay in double-occupancy rooms with air conditioning and meals provided. Weeks two and three, students will then be put into pairs, and placed in homestays with local families (meals provided), offering the opportunity to discuss first-hand the realities of living in Ghana (politics, economics, social status, education, health, etc.). While travelling outside of Accra, students will spend a few nights in hotels in more rural locations.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations during their study abroad experience should discuss these needs with the Program Director and the Office of Disability Services at the time of application.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students from Georgia State University and other universities and colleges. Program size is limited to 15 students and participation is contingent upon acceptance by the Program Director. Students must be in good academic standing at their university.

CREDITS AND COURSES

Students will register for 3 credits of Independent Study/Directed Reading. If students are majors from outside of the Andrew Young School, they will be required to register for PMAP 4901 (undergraduate) or PMAP 8911 (graduate). This course provides the opportunity for students to focus attention on a specific area of interest. It may not be used to substitute for a course that is offered on a regular basis. Because the directed reading course is student focused, based on their academic major/area of intellectual pursuit, all class assignments will allow the student to tailor their writings and reflections through the lens of their interest areas. Students from other institutions should follow their institution’s regulations concerning transfer credits.

COST

Program cost may vary at any time according to currency fluctuations and changing travel arrangements. The program cost is tentatively set at $4500, PLUS regular Georgia State University tuition and fees. Non-resident/out-of-state students will pay in-state tuition plus a $250 fee in addition to the program cost.

FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Georgia State University students are eligible to apply for the IEF Study Abroad Scholarship and may be eligible to apply for the Global Experience Scholarship. Visit mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and select the Scholarships & Financial Aid tab or call the Study Abroad Programs office at (404) 413-2529 for more information.

COST INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare
- All ground transportation, excursions and entrance fees
- Breakfast and dinner meals
- Hotels, homestays
- Souvenir t-shirt
- Health/Evacuation/Repatriation insurance

COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Georgia State tuition and fees
- Public transportation/food on “free” days
- Passport, travel visa and immunizations
- Personal expenses and excess baggage charges

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

December 7, 2015: $1000 Deposit with application
February 1, 2016: $1000 First Payment
March 1, 2016: $2500 Remaining balance

All payments are non-refundable upon receipt.

Program Deposit Payments: Participants will pay program deposits by logging into PAWS. Please contact your Program Director to confirm that a Program Deposit Account has been established for this purpose before you attempt to make a payment in PAWS.

Program Payments and Remaining Program Balance: Other than the initial program deposit, all program payments—along with the remaining program balance—will be billed directly to your student account. Please refer to the Academic/Registration calendar for the tuition and fees deadline.