
Global Perspectives: Social Innovation & Entrepreneurial Leadership

GHANA

Winter Session 2018



Study Abroad Program Guide

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DESTINATION: GHANA

(from Wikipedia)

Ghana, officially the **Republic of Ghana**, is a unitary presidential constitutional democracy, located along the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean, in the sub region of West Africa. Spanning a land mass of 238,535 km², Ghana is bordered by the Ivory Coast in the west, Burkina Faso in the north, Togo in the east and the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean in the south.

The territory of present-day Ghana has been inhabited for a millennium, with the first permanent state dating back to the 11th century. Numerous kingdoms and empires emerged over the centuries, of which the most powerful was the Kingdom of Ashanti. Beginning in the 15th century, numerous European powers contested the area for trading rights, with the British ultimately establishing control of the coast by the late 19th century. Following over a century of native resistance, Ghana's current borders were established by the 1900s as the British Gold Coast. On March 6, 1957, it became the first sub-Saharan African nation to become independent of European colonization.

A multicultural nation, Ghana has a population of approximately 27 million, spanning a variety of ethnic, linguistic and religious groups. Five percent of the population practices traditional faiths, 71.2% adhere to Christianity and 17.6% are Muslim. Its diverse geography and ecology ranges from coastal savannahs to tropical jungles. Ghana is a democratic country led by a president who is both head of state and head of the government. Ghana's growing economic prosperity and democratic political system have made it a regional power in West Africa.



Geography, History, Economy

(from Wikipedia)

Full Name: Republic of Ghana

Capital City: Accra

Area: 238,535 km²; 92,099 sq mi

Population: 27,043,093 (2014 estimate)

Official Language: English

National Languages: Asante, Twi, Ewe, Ga, Fante, Akwapim, Fafra etc

Government: Unitary presidential constitutional republic

Heads of State: President: Nana Akufo - Addo. Vice President: Mahamudu Bawumia

SPECIAL NOTES REGARDING OUR DESTINATION

Climate

The climate of Ghana is tropical and has two main seasons: the wet season and the dry season. January is in the dry season and temperatures vary from a low of 59 °F to a high of 88 °F.

Climate data for Ghana [hide]													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	31 (88)	32 (90)	32 (90)	32 (90)	32 (90)	29 (84)	27 (81)	27 (81)	29 (84)	30 (86)	31 (88)	31 (88)	32 (90)
Average high °C (°F)	27.5 (81.5)	27.5 (81.5)	28 (82)	28 (82)	27 (81)	26 (79)	25 (77)	24 (75)	26 (79)	26 (79)	27 (81)	27 (81)	28 (82)
Average low °C (°F)	23 (73)	23 (73)	24 (75)	24 (75)	23 (73)	23 (73)	22 (72)	21 (70)	22 (72)	22 (72)	23 (73)	23 (73)	21 (70)
Record low °C (°F)	15 (59)	17 (63)	18 (64)	19 (66)	21 (70)	20 (68)	19 (66)	18 (64)	20 (68)	19 (66)	21 (70)	17 (63)	15 (59)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	16 (0.63)	37 (1.46)	73 (2.87)	82 (3.23)	185 (7.31)	189 (7.45)	49 (1.93)	16 (0.63)	40 (1.57)	80 (3.15)	38 (1.5)	18 (0.71)	787 (30.99)
Average rainy days	2	2	5	7	11	14	7	6	8	9	4	2	77
Average relative humidity (%)	79	77	77	80	82	85	85	83	82	83	80	79	85
Mean monthly sunshine hours	214	204	223	213	211	144	142	155	171	220	240	235	2,372

Source: Climatepro.com^[6]

Local transportation

We will travel by road (rented bus) once we arrive in Ghana.

Food

Ghanaian cuisine and gastronomy is diverse, and includes an assortment of soups and stews with varied seafood and most Ghanaian soups are prepared with vegetables, meat, poultry or fish. Fish is important in the Ghanaian diet with tilapia, roasted and fried whitebait, smoked fish and crayfish all being common components of Ghanaian dishes.

Banku (Akple) is a common Ghanaian starchy food made from ground corn (maize), and cornmeal based staples, dokonu (kenkey) and banku (akple) are usually accompanied by some form of fried fish (chinam) or grilled tilapia and a very spicy condiment made from raw red and green chilies, onions and tomatoes (pepper sauce). Banku and tilapia is a combo served in most Ghanaian restaurants. Fufu is the most common exported Ghanaian dish in that it is a delicacy across the African diaspora.

Alcohol

All participants in the program will be of legal drinking age while in Ghana. It is absolutely mandatory that every participant behave responsibly in choices involving alcohol, as the abuse of alcohol endangers not only the individual, but the other participants as well. Alcohol abuse is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program, at the discretion of the program director.

USEFUL WEBSITES (IN ENGLISH)

- US Department of State, Ghana Information:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/ghana.html>
- Tourism: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/ghana>

THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Ghana Study Abroad / Experiential program will provide School of Management / UB undergraduate, selected graduate and Inter-professional UB students an experience that strengthens their core skill sets in Social Innovation & Entrepreneurial Leadership (SIEL). The University at Buffalo School of Management has partnered with several non-profit, education, government and entrepreneurial entities in Ghana to create UB's first ever global leadership experiential learning program. Through SIEL, a selection of undergraduate and MBA students will travel to Ghana and be exposed to organizations that exemplify social innovation and entrepreneurial leadership. They will meet with entrepreneurs, business leaders and non for profit organizations, educating themselves further on healthcare, economic development, community outreach, and social innovation.

Students will earn 3 UB credits for the MGG 495 (for undergraduate students)/MGO 605 (for graduate students) course. There are 3 phases to this program, in which each phase is intended to introduce the students to the grassroots organizational efforts that are the cornerstones of sustainable societies. Phase I provides students with a cultural overview of Ghana. Phase II divides the group into three tracks to explore diverse topics via a practicum experience. The three topics are education, healthcare and economic development. Phase III emphasizes the history of Ghana by visiting Elmina and Cape-Coast Castles as well as a tour of Kakum rain forest. There will also be guided reflection on the overall experience.

Graduate student participants (exclusively UB MBA LeaderCORE students & a couple of specialty specific students from other departments) have already been chosen. These graduate students will act as team mentors for the undergraduate students during the trip. All interested undergraduate students must be interviewed before acceptance.

All students will be required to maintain a journal to capture their daily experiences, compose a reflection paper upon their return, complete a research project, which includes interviews with 2-3 local / business leaders, complete a documentary piece and a poster presentation at the 2018 DEAL expo.

Program Description

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Course Description

A unique hands on experience providing 3 credit academic learning opportunity with an inter-disciplinary learning approach in a four phase model supported by graduate level mentors.

Objectives

1. Expose students to the global and diversity mindset by actively interacting with the global village.
2. Create opportunities for learning dialogue and student to student support learning and coaching.
3. Foster professional and self-development in a feedback-rich environment.
4. Communicate experiences through the traditional and digital channels of communicating

Assignments

All students will be required to maintain a journal to capture their daily experiences, compose a reflection paper upon their return, complete a research project, a documentary to be included in their e-portfolio which will include interviews with local business leaders, and a presentation at the 2018 DEAL expo.

Grading and Conduct

Students will receive a grade letter for the course. Conduct will affect the overall grade, hopefully in a positive way. While abroad, UB students are ambassadors to our university and our country, and are held to high standards and to all university regulations.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

All students are expected to arrive at Kotoka International Airport in Accra, Ghana on the morning of Friday, January 5th departing on Tuesday, January 16th.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We will primarily be living in Accra (Capital of Ghana) at the Ramada Resort, Coco Beach in Accra and the campus of Cape-Coast University while in Cape-Coast.

PROJECTED DAILY ITINERARY

Jan. 04 (Thursday): Depart JFK to Accra

Jan. 05 (Friday): Arrival in Kotoka, International Airport, Accra

Jan. 06 (Saturday): Orientation and welcome seminar

Jan. 07 (Sunday): Cultural Exposure – visit to a traditional house, naming & / or marriage ceremony

Jan. 08 (Monday): Theme Project Site

Jan. 09 (Tuesday): Theme Project Site

Jan. 10 (Wednesday): Theme Project Site

Jan. 11 (Thursday): Theme Project Site

Jan.12 (Friday): Theme Project Site / Depart for University of Cape-Coast

Jan. 13 (Saturday): Visit Kakum Rain Forest

Jan. 14 (Sunday): Visit Cape- Coast and Elmina Castles

Jan. 15 (Monday): Return to Accra

Jan. 16 (Tuesday): Depart Accra, Ghana for US

Jan. 17 (Wednesday): Arrival at JFK

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Program participants must have a valid passport and are responsible for checking the expiration date to ensure that it is no less than six months after the end of the program or travel dates, whichever is later.

US citizens and other nationalities will be required to apply for a visa to participate in this program and will be provided with visa application instructions. **Program participants are strongly advised NOT to purchase their flights to Ghana until after they have received the required visa to travel to Ghana!**

KEEP YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND ITEMS SAFE

Carry all important documents such as money, credit cards, passport, and plane tickets with you in your carry-on bag. One of the best ways to keep these items safe from harm is to purchase a holder that you wear under your clothes. These are available from most luggage stores, AAA, etc. and usually in two styles: with a string to wear around neck or with a strap to wear around your waist.

Make two photocopies of your passport and leave one at home with someone you can easily be in touch with should you lose your passport. Hide the other copy in your luggage, separate from your passport. In addition scan and/or copy all bank/credit cards you carry and leave a copy at home with someone easy to contact and also upload a pdf that you could easily retrieve online if needed. In the unfortunate event you were to lose your passport and/or bank/credit cards, you will be then able to retrieve the information and contact the appropriate companies.

You are strongly advised not to bring irreplaceable or expensive items, such as jewelry, with you while participating in this program.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Guiding Principles:

- Only pack what you can carry without outside help! Travel light.
- Plan on carrying the luggage with you on board to ensure you and your luggage arrive together.
- Check with your airline for baggage allowances and carry on regulations (particularly in terms of fluids, etc.)
- Only bring what is necessary.
- Dark clothing may be easier to keep clean.

- Technically you only need 7-8 outfits. Anything else is extra. Remember you don't need to impress anyone and you will be in a different place every day, so no one will know or care that you are repeating outfits!
- After you finish packing, pick up your luggage and go up and down a flight of stairs. If you can't do it with ease or if it is cumbersome, rethink your packing until you are self-sufficient. There will be no porters assisting you once you are abroad.
- You are representing your university and your country abroad, so do your best to not create situations that will inconvenience you and the rest of the group!

Additional Observations:

- January in Ghana is cool but dry in the mornings
- You must bring your own towels. Sheets however will be provided.
- Plan on bringing something that says UB! A shirt, a hat, etc., so you can take photos for the UB Study Abroad Annual Photo Contest proudly displaying our colors and logo.

Recommended Clothing:

- Business casual recommended for most of the site visits
- Hat or at least earmuffs!!!
- Shirts long sleeves, T-shirts, turtlenecks, etc., for under layers
- Jeans/long pants
- Comfortable shoes preferred (not high heels but comfortable)
- Re-read the guiding principles above

Personal Care:

- Travel size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, moisturizer and other creams, etc.)
- Antiperspirant
- Make-up, shaving needs, if needed
- Vitamins, and other medical needs
- If you wear prescription glasses, bring a 2nd pair in case you lose or break your 1st pair.
- Contact lenses and contact solution, and your glasses for when you are not using contacts. Actually it is best not to travel on a plane with contact lenses on because eyes dry out very much. Use your glasses for the flight instead.

Other Necessities:

- Your UB student ID
- Don't forget to pack towels!
- Neck wallet that hangs inside your shirt to hold passport, etc.
- Important addresses and phone numbers for contacting friend and relatives
- Camera/i-device/
- Small folding umbrella
- Prescription medication in original container carried on plane with you. Depending on the prescription you may need a doctors' note to import prescribed drugs or medical equipment in Ghana. If in doubt check directly with the Consulate General of Ghana.

ADVICE ON MONEY, COMPUTERS, PHONE, ETC

Your UB Student ID can save you money!

Do not forget to bring your UB student ID to obtain any available discounts for students at theatres, attractions, etc. Of course, there is no guarantee, but it is never a bad idea to be prepared for the possibility!

Money for Students from the US

Your credit card is not used as frequently but could be a good alternative to be used in transit but not necessarily in Ghana unless you absolutely need to withdraw cash. However, make sure you contact your bank before departure to set a “travel alert” and to check on how to use your debit card/ATM in Accra, Ghana if needed and what it will cost. Additionally, be aware that there could be two service fees per transaction: one charged by your bank and then another one charged by the Ghanaian bank cash point you may be using in order to avoid the 2nd service fee check with your bank and ask for a list of “sister” or “partner” institutions that will not charge a 2nd fee.

Do not buy traveler’s checks, almost no one uses them. Do not carry large amounts of US currency, but have some as a back-up that you can exchange in a pinch, in case of difficulties with your credit. To summarize: Use cash whenever possible (hopefully using an ATM card to withdraw cash will not be necessary unless you absolutely need to) and keep very close track of your credit card usage and fees. Upon arrival in Accra, you will have the opportunity to exchange your cash (dollars) into cedis which is the local currency in Ghana

Computers and Personal Electronics

In Ghana the electricity runs on 220 volts, which is not what we use in the USA. Additionally, they use a different kind of electrical outlet. So you will need two things: 1) to find out if your electrical computers and personal electronics have a built-in converter that makes them safe to use with 220 volts (otherwise they will fry upon connection). If the answer is yes, you are OK, if the answer is no, then you need to purchase an electricity converter. And 2) you need to buy an electrical outlet adapter for the UK (used in Ghana). Outlet adapters are available at AAA, Wal-Mart, Target and most electronics stores for less than \$10. Electricity converters however are more expensive.

Phones Generally

Contact your cell/mobile phone carrier and find out if your phone is locked. It will need to be unlocked in order to use it as a local phone in another country. You can also use phone cards to call the US. Skype, WhatsApp, and Facetime are convenient ways to check in with home. Ghana country code: +233 and the + sign = 011, so someone from outside of Ghana would have to dial 011 233 and the phone number in Ghana that they are trying to call.

Time

At this time of year there is a 5-hour differential between Ghana and the US Eastern time. That means that noon in Buffalo will translate to 4:00pm in Ghana.

Water

You are advised to use bottled water at all times. Purchased water bottles will be provided at our hotels but having the local currency to purchase extras as needed will be helpful.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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In Ghana:**Police/Fire/Ambulance emergencies:**

Police	Tel. 191
Fire Service	Tel. 192/999
Ambulance	Tel. 193

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