

Study Abroad Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the African American Studies Study Abroad Program?**

Students in the program take up to six credit hours of African American Studies courses that include lectures at the University of Ghana at Legon, University of Cape Coast and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi. This is part of our ongoing mission to embrace knowledge of African life on the continent and throughout the Diaspora.

Borrowing critical insights from scholar-activists such as Marcus Garvey and Zora N. Hurston, AAS views international travel as an imperative tool for examining the African experience from a systemic perspective. As such, student participation in the study abroad program provides a key measure of the program's strength in introducing students to advanced research opportunities and original sources within the discipline. In addition to conducting field research and oral histories, student participants in the study abroad program receive instruction and gain awareness of the everyday concerns and political economy of ordinary Ghanaian citizens.

- **What does the Study Abroad Scholarship include?**

The Study Abroad includes the following:

Ground Transportation to and from the airport \$75 per/per (average)

Roundtrip Airfare \$2,200 per/person (average)

Hotel Accommodations \$800 per/person (average, based on double occupancy)

Guided Tours & Ground Transportation 2wks (Ghana) \$500 per/person (average)

- **What are my financial responsibilities related to the Study Abroad?**

Tuition (6 hours) Current Tuition Rate per/credit hour *UH current rate

United States Passport \$110.00 (photo provided); Book & photo \$140.00

West African Visa \$60.00

UH Course Additional Fee \$500.00

Vaccination - Yellow Fever \$150.00 *rate subject to change

Vaccination -Malarone Pills \$75.00 *(30 pills / average cost)

International Studies Processing Fee \$50.00

Average Fees (does not include tuition) \$1071.00 *all rates are subject to change

- **What methods of payment are accepted?**

The University of Houston Bursar's Offices accepts: cash and check payments for tuition and \$500 deposit. Passport applications may be retrieved on-line or from the United

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States Post Office, cash, credit card and money orders are accepted, International Studies Office requires payment via Money Order.

- **What documents will I need?**

In order to participate in the Study Abroad you will need the following items?

1. Study Abroad Application
2. United States Passport
3. Visa
4. Vaccination Record

- **How much is a passport?**

There are several options when purchasing a United States Passport to travel abroad.

Adult Passport & Card Book \$140

Adult Passport Book \$110

Expedited Service (Rush) \$60 (in addition to above mentioned fees)

is available for an additional fee, check with the United States Passport Office for prices, as they are subject to change.

Passport Overnight Fee \$12.95, subject to change, please check with the Passport Office or United States Post Office for current rate.

For more information about securing a Passport: <http://travel.state.gov/passport/fees>

- **Where do I go to get a Passport?**

You may retrieve a Passport application on-line or at designated United States Post Office Locations. For a listing of Post Office Locations:

<http://www.us-passport-service-guide.com/houston-passport.html>

- **When should I expect to receive my passport after I have completed the application?**

Routine Service averages 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Expedited Service averages 2-3 weeks for delivery.

- **How much is a Visa?**

West Africa Requires a Visa upon entry. Below is the price list of options:

-Single Entry Visa(must be used within 3 months from date of issue) \$60.00

-Multiple Entry Visa \$100.00

-Single Expedited \$100.00

-Multiple Visa Expedited \$200.00

- **What vaccination(s) do I need?**

All travelers to West Africa are required to have both a Meningitis and Yellow Fever vaccinations prior to departure/arrival. Malaria is a concern in Ghana, so travelers

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should talk with their health care provider regarding anti-malaria precautions. Please contact your physician to assure you have taken all the necessary precautions. You may contact City of Houston Immunization for Adults and Foreign Travel, 8000 North Stadium Drive, Houston, TX 77054 Phone: 832.393.5427

- **How much do the vaccinations cost?**

The costs for vaccination vary depending on your healthcare coverage plan. Meningitis and Yellow Fever cost \$150 each. Contact your physician for actual cost. When consulting with your physician please request enough pills for one day.

- **When should I get the vaccination(s)?**

Vaccinations should be scheduled for no later than one month prior to departure, June 15th. If you require more information contact the City of Houston Immunization for Adults and Foreign Travel, 8000 North Stadium Drive, Houston, TX 77054 Phone: 832.393.5427

- **When should I begin taking my Malarone pills?**

We recommend you begin taking the Malarone pills July 1st, please consult your physician or City of Houston Immunization for Adults and Foreign Travel, 8000 North Stadium Drive, Houston, TX 77054 Phone: 832.393.5427

- **When should I pay the deposit?**

All deposits must be received by June 15th.

- **How long is the Study Abroad?**

The Study Abroad trip to Ghana is two weeks plus two travel days.

- **How long is the flight from Houston to Ghana, Africa?**

The average travel time from Houston to Ghana is 13 hours, which will include a connecting flight. The actual travel time may be 2-4 hours longer, depending on airline connections and layover time. The flight will include a connecting flight.

- **When will I be leaving?**

Plan for a departure from the Houston during Summer I (between: July 1-July 19 and returning no later than August 4). The exact dates of travel are not determined until one week after the last day to registrar for the Study Abroad Course. In order to secure the group rate, **All** travelers' information must be provided to travel agency prior to booking. Other factors include airfare and hotel availability.

- **When will we be returning?**

The return date is determined based on flight cost and availability.

- **What do I need to pack?**

The Study Abroad includes a variety of settings, classroom, excursions as well as hiking. We encourage students to dress appropriate to the climate. Most students pack the following items:

Clothing: 4 bottoms (jeans, slacks, 2 shorts); 5 tops; undergarments

2 pair shoes- causal & pair of comfortable walking shoes (tennis)

Toiletries: toothbrush; toothpaste; deodorant; lotion; sunscreen

Miscellaneous: small back pack; poncho; cap, shades; mosquito repellent

*The hotels have laundry facilities.

- **How many pieces of luggage can we bring?**

You may bring multiple bags, we recommend one carry –one bag with personal items and one check-in bag. Please keep in mind there are baggage fees. The fees vary based on the airline. Baggage prices will be provided upon booking airline tickets.

- **Should we bring our own bottled water or soft drinks?**

No, there is no need to bring any bottled drinks. If you would like bottled drinks, they may be purchased at local stores.

- **Will we leave from the University to the Airport?**

The Study Abroad Program provides all ground transportation, University of Houston Hilton Hotel is the designated departure and return location.

- **How much spending money should we bring?**

The currency used in West Africa is Cedi. Check the current exchange rate at www.exchangerate.com. Prices for retail products vary. You may obtain Ghana currency upon arrival in the airport.

- **What will we do while in Ghana?**

The Study Abroad includes lectures at three Universities in Ghana: University of Cape Coast, University of Ghana, and Kwame Nkrumah; and excursions throughout Ghana. Students enrolled in the Study Abroad Course will receive a complete itinerary seven day prior to departure.

Study Abroad Timeline At-A-Glance

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| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Apply for Passport \$110•United States Passport Office• http://www.us-passport-service-guide.com/houston-passport.html |
| March 1st | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Study Abroad Application Deadline (passport required)•http://www.uh.edu/class/aas/students/funding/index.php•African American Studies•Agnes Arnold Hall 633•International Studies Office Scholarships Deadline:•http://www.uh.edu/academics/intlstu/•HJCC•IEFS |
| April 30th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Sign Study Abroad Award Letter•African American Studies Office•Agnes Arnold Hall 633 |
| May 1st | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Scholarship Banquet•University of Hilton Hotel•Waldof Asoria Ballroom |
| June 1st | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Study Abroad Registration:•(6 hours) Tuition: AAS 3330 Oral History & Field Research & AAS 4300African Philosophy• Check University of Houston for Tuition Rate & Fees•Meningitis & Yellow Fever Vaccination \$ 300.00•Malarone Pills \$75.00 |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Begin Malarone Pills |