

LETTER FROM A PARENT TO PRESIDENT ROSE AND PROVOST BROWN

“My daughter Jessica just completed her sophomore year at JMU and also just returned from a 3-week trip to Accra, Ghana after completing a summer intern program under the direction of Dr. Owusu-Ansah. I cannot begin to tell you what an invaluable experience this was for her! A lot of which she learned could never have been taught as adequately in a textbook or lecture hall!” Jessica’s experience “taught her about the diversity of people in our world, about appreciation for ...so many things in the U.S. that she never stopped to think about, and about how to be nurturing in a way that she never thought possible...She learned that she had resilience within herself that she would never have learned without having had this experience.

“One of the many benefits of a higher education is to learn and share what we learn with others. Jessica was able to learn in a ‘hands-on’ environment and come back to her home and share all of this with her family, friends and other students! Thanks to JMU and your staff, she was able to expand her horizons! Thank you for giving her this wonderful opportunity! I know it will be one she will never forget.”

Mrs. Peggy Stafford



9/23/11

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

SUMMER IN GHANA



Panfest festival in Cape Coast

THE GHANA PROGRAM



Located in western Africa bordering the Atlantic Ocean near the Equator, Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to receive political independence from British colonial rule. Ghana is also well endowed with natural resources, with twice the per capita output of most other West African countries. Ghana’s rich history, friendly people, tropical climate, marvelous beaches, ancient fortresses from slave trading days, and unique culture make it a popular destination for international travel.



Fishing boats at Elmina

The interdisciplinary JMU Summer in Ghana program lasts four weeks and allows students to earn 6 credit hours, with an option of earning 3 extra credit hours for an additional 2-week internship. The University of Ghana, Legon, which serves as the program’s host institution, has a long history of enrolling foreign students, U.S. students in particular. English is the official language of the country and also the medium in which lectures are presented to JMU students. Before beginning classes, students participate in a 3-day

orientation, followed by 3 weeks of academic activities led by the on-site coordinators, more than 18 professors from the University of Ghana, Legon, and representatives from local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Presentation and discussion topics range from traditional political structures to policy issues to women and economic development in Africa.

Local travels to visit museums, eco-walks, traditional craft demonstrations, and historic heritage sites provide equally rich learning environments. Students have opportunities to explore the city with some organized sightseeing included. Students spend about 2 weeks in Accra, the capital of Ghana, but also travel to Akosombo to visit the Volta Dam as well as Ho for several ecological trips. For the final week of the program, students visit historic and cultural sites throughout the country, including the Elmina and Cape Coast Castles, the historic Asante capital of Kumase, the Aburi Botanical Gardens, the rainforest canopy walk at the Kakum National Park, and traditional textile and carving villages.



Students traversing the rainforest canopy walk at Kakum National Park

CREDIT HOUR OPTIONS

The JMU Summer in Ghana Program has broad-based inter-departmental support. Participating students come from a range of academic disciplines. While all students in the program participate in the same lectures and program activities, students may choose credit hours from a wide variety of programs, and may also opt to earn additional internship credit. Internship programs take place at inner-city locations in Accra and at a Plan-International medical-affiliated clinic. Students may select 6 credit hours from the following menu of JMU pre-approved 3-credit courses. Students participating in the internship select from the same list of courses:



Elmina Castle

- **ANTH 391** Study Abroad
- **ARTH 210** African Art and Culture in the Humanities
- **ARTH 320** Travel Study in Art History
- **ARTH 412** African Art History
- **EDUC 310** Teaching in Diverse Society (Per College of Education approval)
- **EDUC 490** Special Topics in Education (Per College of Education approval)
- **ENG 430** Advanced Studies in Comparative Literature
- **GART 200** Art in General Culture



Students visiting a pineapple plantation

- **GEOG 350** Topics in Geography
- **GHUM 252** Cross-Cultural Perspectives
- **HIST 263** Africa
- **HIST 391** Travel Studies Seminar
- **HIST 470-670** Modern Africa
- **IBUS** Special Topics in International Business
- **POSC** Topics in Comparative Politics
- **PSYC 200** Topics in Psychology
- **REL 490** Special Studies in Religion
- **SCOM 395** Study Abroad Seminar
- **SOCI 391** Study Abroad
- **THEA 303** Topics in Theatre
- **WMST 495** Special Topics in Women's Studies



Weaver making traditional Kente cloth

INTERNSHIPS

Students may apply for a Summer Internship following the Summer in Ghana program. JMU has arranged for the placement of students in customized internships with Plan-Ghana, which is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) that operates in partnership with government and non-governmental agencies to improve the lives of children, families and communities. The goal of Plan-Ghana is to develop sustainable ways to end the cycle of poverty (see <http://plan-international.org/where-we-work/africa/ghana> for more information).

Plan officials determine the work interns perform based on their skills and interests. Some JMU students have interned at Apam Hospital and at other locations near Apam (See video at <http://www.apamhospital.com>). Some stu-

dents with computer skills have helped the hospital to input medical data and develop websites. Others have volunteered at a local school to educate children on HIV/AIDS and other health-related topics. Some internship opportunities might include working with local nurses to educate the community on nutrition issues or even observing births and surgeries. Others have included volunteering at schools for students with special needs.



School girl



Students touring Cape Coast Castle

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students in the Summer in Ghana program will reside in hotels in Ghana. Breakfasts, dinners and some group meals will be provided.

PROGRAM COSTS

Current projected costs for this program are available at <http://www.jmu.edu/international/abroad/fees.shtml>

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms are available at: http://www.jmu.edu/international/abroad/forms_jmu_shortterm.shtml

Interested students should clearly indicate on the application form which programs they are interested in, by writing "Summer in Ghana Program" and/or "Summer Internship in Ghana" on the form. Internships are available for a limited and committed few.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, or if you would like to request copies of past participants' evaluations of the program (or to speak with a past participant, etc.), please contact the program director:

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