Need to Know: Ghana

Objective of the “Need to Know” Document
The Need to Know document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student’s decision to apply for an EAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. The best source of detailed program information is always the UCEAP Program Guide from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have have not been addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or Need to Know document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/contact/advising

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA (Semester and Year-long program)

Required Courses for Selection to Semester Program*
*Summer in Ghana does not have a course prerequisite
All students must have successfully completed a prerequisite course in African studies (history, politics, or sociology preferred) prior to departure. The course must be at least 3 units and may be taken on a letter grade or P/NP basis. Courses that have been approved previously include:

- African American Studies (AFRICAM) 4A “Africa: History and Culture”
- African American Studies (AFRICAM) 4B “Africa: History and Culture”
- African American Studies (AFRICAM) 115 “Language and Social Issues in Africa”
- Anthropology (ANTHRO) 123B “Archaeology of Africa”
- Anthropology (ANTHRO) 183 “Topics in the Anthropological Study of Africa”
- Geography (GEOG) 165 “Africa: Ecology and Development”
- History (HISTORY) 10 “African History”
- History (HISTORY) 103H “Africa”
- History (HISTORY) 112C “Colonialism and Nationalism in Africa”
- Letters and Science (L&S) 150A “Global Transformation and Cultural Change: AIDS and Sub-Saharan Africa”
- Political Science (POL SCI) 146A “African Politics”
- Political Science (POL SCI) 146B “African Politics”

Please prepare for the fact that only a fraction of these courses may be offered in a given term. Other courses may be eligible to meet the coursework prerequisite. Students should consult the UC Berkeley online schedule of classes and the Center for African Studies for potential courses. Language or Music courses and previous work or volunteer experience may NOT be used to satisfy this prerequisite.

If the course of interest is not on the previously approved list (above), students are required to email a copy of the course syllabus to the BSA adviser prior to or at the time of application to determine if the proposed course will satisfy the prerequisite.

The Summer in Ghana program fulfills the course pre-requisite for the Ghana fall/year/spring terms.

Curriculum
Universities in Ghana are based on British higher education in structure and method. For some courses, this may be more lecture-based instruction requiring effective note taking of lectures and the ability to demonstrate understanding of material based solely on lectures. Students must be prepared to assume more responsibility and independence in completing readings, be assessed for a course through a single paper or exam, and be able to seek out assistance from instructors and Ghanaian students. Students should expect a reliance on oral rather than written communication in Ghana, including instructions regarding coursework.

Courses in Ghana typically carry fewer units of credit than UC courses, so students should be prepared to take more courses than they take in a semester at UC Berkeley. When reviewing courses, students should carefully note the University of Ghana course levels (100, 200, 300, 400), required prerequisites, duration (year vs. semester), and term (fall
vs. spring semester). Odd-numbered courses are offered in the fall semester and even-numbered courses are offered in the spring semester. Courses labeled 100/200/300/400 are year-long and therefore not available unless you are staying a full year.

The majority of courses at the University of Ghana are equivalent to 4 UC quarter units (2.667 UC semester units). Some UC Berkeley departments require a minimum unit level for courses to count towards major or minor requirements. Check with your departmental adviser to confirm their policy on course units and degree requirements.

Students take courses with local and international students. Students interested in taking courses alongside Ghanaians should note that courses with topics on Africa and Ghana are generally more popular with international students than Ghanaians. The UC Study Center in Ghana offers beginning Twi language courses. Although not required, students may also wish to consider a language course in one of the official Ghanaian languages.

Internships and Research
Independent study opportunities, called EAP Special Study Projects, are available for students wishing to enrich their experience in Ghana with fieldwork, independent research, and/or an internship. Students may design a project on a topic related to West Africa, especially Ghana, which may include research or internship activities. You will submit an Internship Proposal with your University of Ghana application materials prior to departure. Instructions and additional information will be posted to your UCEAP Pre-Departure Checklist. Final arrangements for your Special Study Project are made at the Study Center after arrival.

See the UCEAP Ghana Program Page for links to examples of internships and research projects that past students have done in the Overview, Courses & Credit and Internships (all three!) tabs.

Students may also pursue community service and volunteer activities independently on a non-credit basis through local organizations.

Housing
Students will be able to give preferences for their housing in one of the following dormitories prior to departure: Legon Hall (male), Volta Hall (female), and International Student Hostel (co-ed). Most students will be placed in the International Student Hostel. Students can review the dorm comparison document provided by the UC Study Center in Ghana. There is a video of the housing options on YouTube. We recommend that you consult with returnees when determining your dorm preference.

SUMER IN GHANA
This is a new program, commencing Summer 2016. Up-to-date information about the program can be found on the UCEAP Ghana, Summer in Ghana Program Page. This program will run between the regular spring and fall semester terms at the University of Ghana. It is an intense program with travel between several locations.

The Summer in Ghana program fulfills the course pre-requisite for the Ghana fall/year/spring terms.

Space Limitations
This program has limited space. Admission may be competitive if we get more applications than our allotted number of spaces. Since this is the first year the program is being offered, we do not know how many students will apply. Please do not let this deter you from applying. Students interested in this program are encouraged to speak with the BSA Adviser prior to applying. You may be able to obtain permission to apply to a back-up choice. Otherwise, you will be notified of your selection in February. If you are not selected for the program, you will have the opportunity to submit an application for another available summer program if you wish.

The selection criteria we will use for this program include:
• GPA and Academic Record
• Whether the student intends to take courses for major-related requirements on the program
• Class Standing
• Statement of Purpose: priority will be given to students who successfully convey an understanding of the program; and can articulate thoughtfully why this program in particular is a good fit for them and how the program will benefit them academically, professionally, and/or personally.

Curriculum
All students take an Introduction to Ghanaian Society and Culture course (2.66 semester units) which features concentrated study, lectures, roundtables, field trips and interactions with the people of Ghana. Students also choose one of two tracks offered: Contemporary Public Health in Ghana OR Gender and Development with a focus on agriculture. Each track includes seminar classes and 100-120 hours of fieldwork (4 semester units).
Students attend classes with UC students only. As part of your track, you will participate in local hands-on initiatives to help rural villages work to improve their access to adequate health services, develop sustainable agriculture, provide sufficient energy resources and meet other basic needs.

Housing
Students will stay at the International Students Hostel (ISH) while in classes at the University of Ghana. During the field visits period, students will stay in local guest houses and hotels.

Special Demands of the Ghana Programs
Students should be prepared to encounter physical hardships while in Ghana—for example, loss of electricity and water are common and can last for several days at a time. Students should review this document which presents some the Challenges of Living and Studying in Ghana.

Health and safety remain primary issues of concern for study in Ghana, particularly malaria, crime/security, and transportation. Students must be prepared to monitor health needs and avoid malaria exposure, parasites and meningitis. Students are required to take malaria prophylaxis while on the program. Students should review the Program Guide and Risk Assessment to familiarize themselves with risks associated with participation on the program.

Students should also familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Ghana, and develop appropriate expectations according to personal backgrounds and self-identification. LGBTIQ students are invited to reference the UCEAP LGBTIQ Community Resource Page to learn about host country laws and norms.

Given the special demands of the program, it is highly recommended that applicants meet with the BSA adviser prior to submitting an application.

Visa and Entry Clearance
Due to the late issuance of entry clearance documents and the time required for visa application processing, travel after the UC term ends and before the official program start date is not recommended.