

**GLS 3900 + Internship: Six credit program**

**Global Social Responsibility Practicum in Ghana**

**May 28 - July 27, 2014**



***The purpose of The Ghana Project is to offer opportunities to work collaboratively in***

***1. inter-cultural settings to apply***

***2. business and arts & sciences knowledge and skills to***

***3. complex social problems.***

**Program Description**

The GSR Practicum is a six-credit program that contributes to the overall purpose of The Ghana Project by giving students 8-week internship assignments with Partner Organizations in Ghana and a service-learning project that requires weekend time. Students get exposure to the complex social problems Ghana faces, and opportunities to work collaboratively with Ghanaians. Course instructors, in consultation with accepted students and Partner Organizations, assign students to internships.

**GLS 3900** requires you to read, study, reflect and write about social issues in Ghana and to participate in the service-learning project that will require 2-3 weekends. In addition, you must apply with one academic department for internship credit, based on working in one of our Partner Organizations for 8 weeks. Departments that have granted internship credit in the past include AC, FI, EC, MK, MG, GLS, CFI. Some departments require junior status. All students must have formal approval from their departments by April 1, and notify both Diane Kellogg and Christine Lookner of the Department that has accepted you for summer internship credit.

**Characteristics of the 8-week assignments**

* work alongside Ghanaians and build working relationships across cultures
* live and work in a safe environment
* work outside an office setting for at least some of the 8-week period
* make a modest contribution toward improved business practices and/or social conditions
* have a local mentor who works closely with Bentley faculty to define and develop projects
* AC internships require junior status.
* NGO internships are all business-related and will have elements of FI, MG, MK, EC, GLS

**Partner Organizations**

Partner Organizations are engaged in work on one or more of the following issues:

* sanitation, public health, access to clean water
* composting, organic farming
* micro-finance
* responses to climate change and environmental degradation
* sustainable agriculture, poultry and business practices
* social enterprises and corporate social responsibility programs
* accounting (for AC and CFI majors only)

**Pre-Requisites**

**Class Status:** NGO assignments are for Sophomores and Juniors. Accounting firms assignments require Junior status.

**Attitude:** Students must be ready, willing and able to accept the living conditions of the developing world.

**Early withdrawal from the program**

You may choose to withdraw from the program at any time. Faculty members may withdraw you from the program before Ghana travel if you are not showing the kind of commitment to pre-travel preparation that we feel is necessary to succeed in Ghana. The $500 deposit is non-refundable, as is an airline ticket with your name on it. The balance will be refunded.

Faculty members may send a student home from Ghana at the student’s expense for disrespectful behavior of any kind, including excessive emotional outbursts, excessive drinking, use of illegal drugs, failure to behave responsibly or putting themselves or others at risk. The course fee will not be refunded.

**GLS 3900 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Pre-Travel Requirements:**

* **April 1:** Complete all Bb pre-travel assignments (readings, videos & questions).
* Attend mandatory pre-travel preparation seminars on selected Friday afternoons 2:15 - 4:15.
* Respond to all email communications from faculty within 48 hours, sooner is better.

That you are already taking a full course load for Spring 2014, whether on campus or studying abroad, is not an excuse for being fully engaged with the pre-travel preparation necessary for your 6-credit summer. When faculty members send an email to all students, we expect to get a response from each student, to acknowledge receipt of the information or to respond promptly to requests for information or input.

**While in Ghana:**

* **Daily reflection journal.** Faculty members will not read this but may ask you to show them your journal to assure that you are taking seriously the task of reflecting on your experiences daily.
* **Weekly reflection email.** At least weekly, students will correspond by email with their assigned instructor, to reflect on their experiences of the week.
* **Weekend reflection trips** will bring all students together for educational weekends. Attendance is required.
* **By July 27 a**ll students will submit their final paper and/or assigned work related to the **Weekend Service-Learning project**, which will be determined and described early in the program. Students will have plenty of time to complete this project ***before they leave Ghana***.

**Post-Travel Requirements:**

* **By August 31: S**ubmit a Personal Essay that describes one or two experiences that, upon reflection, contributed to your ability to work collaboratively in an inter-cultural setting or to understand yourself or the world better.
  + Learn more about the Personal Essay genre at this link:

<http://davehood59.wordpress.com/2010/05/02/what-is-a-personal-essay/>

* **By August 31:** Submit 3-5 ppt slides that you could use for a presentation at the Grant Thornton reception. Talk with Dr. Kellogg about what you have in mind. She will use these slides as a basis for finalizing a plan for the reception, so that topics don’t overlap.
* **September 22, 2014** Attend a rehearsal during an Activity Period for the Grant Thornton reception.
* **September 24, 2014** Grant Thornton Reception to report on your GSR experiences. Bring at least two friends to this event. Activity Period: 12:45 – 2.

**INTERNSHIP COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

All students will complete requirements 1-4 below, and some students will have additional requirements from their departmental internship supervisor.

1. Attend any pre-travel meetings called by your instructor to:

a) gather together people assigned to the same Partner Organization;

b) introduce you to interns previously assigned to the same Partner Organization;

c) meet with you individually.

2. Have a phone conversation with your Partner Organization and Host Family, if applicable. 3. Keep a **Daily Work Log** to document and keep track of how you are spending your time.

4. Arrive at your work site daily and complete tasks and projects as assigned.

**Course Fee**

The course fee of $6300 is to be paid in full by May 15. Students are responsible for purchasing their own airline ticket to Accra, departing from the airport of their choosing, and arriving on May 28.

1. Lodging in homestays (Accra) or guest houses (rural areas), with most meals included.
2. Meals, lodging and all ground transportation for educational weekends and service-learning project. We use hotels and inns for weekend trips, and house students in doubles. Bentley covers all meals, but not alcoholic beverages, when the whole class is together,
3. Visa application fee if you submit application materials to the Cronin Office by **March 25.** Students must apply individually, at their own expense, if they do not get their passport, signed visa application form, and 2 photos submitted to the Cronin Office by March 25.

**Sources of Financial Support**

* **Grant Thornton Global Social Responsibility Award:**  Students completing internships with Bentley’s not for profit Partner organizations in Ghana will receive a $1,000 stipend (in lieu of summer income) from Grant Thornton on September 24, assuming they have completed the six-credit program.
* **Grant Thornton Micro-Finance Internship:** US Citizens and permanent residents may apply for this $6300 scholarship. The selected student will spend about two weeks with each of our Partners who have microfinance funds from Bentley, and the intern will be responsible for overseeing the BMG/Ghana microfinance program, writing the BMG/Ghana annual report to the Bentley Microfinance Group, and overseeing the project during the 2014-15 academic year.
* **Santander Awards:** US citizens and permanent residents with a FAFSA on file with the Financial Aid office may apply for a Santander Award of up to $3,000 by going to the website for the Cronin Office of International Education. Students must apply for both the Ghana summer program and the Santander Award at the same time.

**Important Dates**

**February 7: Applications Open.** Complete the application in full, including your “letter of intent” and $500 deposit. Be sure and indicate whether you are applying for a not for profit internship or an accounting internship. You may then schedule an interview with Diane Kellogg.

**February 28: Application Deadline (for Ghana Program and for Santander Awards)**

Award decisions will be announced no later than February 28.

**March 7:** Decisions will be announced as they are made, but no later than March 7.

**Other FAQs**

**Are there any other sources of financial aid?**

Check with the Financial Aid Office, as they may be able to help you apply for a student loan.

**If I'm studying abroad for Spring Semester, can I still apply and do the pre-travel work?**

Yes, we can do a skype interview. If accepted, you would be expected to complete the reading and writing assignments on the course Blackboard site and to be available by skype for pre-travel meetings in April. However, applicants for the Grant Thornton Microfinance Internship must be on campus Spring 2014 to work with Dr. Kellogg to prepare for their role in Ghana.

**How much money do I need to bring?**

Students should be prepared to buy some food on their own, as not all Ghanaian dishes will appeal to everyone. Host families make every effort to appeal to Western taste buds.

**Where will we live?**

Bentley works in four areas of Ghana:   Adenta, Asutsuare and Ada-Foah are rural; Accra is urban. Accra interns are housed in singles with host families. Rural interns are housed in doubles in small guest houses. Fans and refrigerators are available in all living situations.

**How are students assigned to Partner Organizations?**

Faculty will make final decisions based on compatibility and "fit" with (1) the Ghanaian host supervisor; (2) the internship project itself; and (3) the team of students assigned to that Partner.  Each project is different; each living situation is different.  Changes in projects and in Partner Organizations do occur, so assignments are not finalized until May. Students who are right for this program need to be flexible enough to accept the unexpected. Students can choose between an AC internship in Accra, or a rural internship with a not for profit, but cannot apply for a specific firm or partner organization.

**What skills do I need for the projects we will be doing?**

General business skills is what we promise our Partner Organizations. In 2012, students wrote a profitability plan for the poultry industry, analyzing the question: “At what point in time (age of the hen) does it cost more to feed a hen than you are making in the eggs that it lays?” (I describe it as recommending a “kill by” date.) Another student wrote a report for a donor organization on how one woman used the $500 grant she received to help her start a business. One student launched a website for a Partner Organization, and another still maintains the Facebook page he started in 2010.

**Will I get to visit Mmofra Trom?**

Even though we do not place interns at Mmofra Trom, you are welcomed and encouraged to visit on your own. Call the Olan family in advance to arrange a good time to visit.

**How much free time will I have?**

The first weekend you will stay close to home, and get to know your new community and/ or host family. This is an opportunity to make friends where you will be living. The Weekend Reflection Trips and service-learning project will be scheduled and announced in advance.