**Why Study Abroad in Africa?**

Studying abroad can be a wonderful opportunity for personal and intellectual enrichment – and programs in Africa are no exception! CIPA programs in Africa fit perfectly with a major or minor in African Studies, giving you a chance to develop geographically focused international expertise and to experience first-hand the fascinating diversity of Africa’s 55 nations. Study abroad combined with the African Studies major/minor provides you with essential background and foundational skills for graduate work in the humanities and social sciences, as well as careers with NGOs, government and policy organizations, or the private sector in Africa. Many programs incorporate study and internships in health or development, making your experience in Africa one that prepares you for careers in global health or medicine with vital cultural contexts for future work overseas.

Both courses and language study abroad can count toward your major (9 courses) or minor (5 courses) — one preparatory course and a semester abroad put you well on your way to the major or minor!

**FAQ for Study Abroad in Africa**

**What classes do I need to take before going abroad?**

You must take one course about Africa to be eligible to study abroad on an African program.

**How many courses taken abroad can count toward my major?**

Typically two classes taken during study abroad count toward the major/minor, pending approval by the DUS.

**Are there opportunities for independent research while studying abroad?**

As long as the student receives departmental approval from a faculty advisor for a directed reading or independent research course, such classes will receive a varying number of credit hours. Many study abroad programs in Africa encourage and facilitate independent study projects. Some programs, such as the SIT Mali, SIT Uganda, SIT Rwanda, SIT Morocco actually require that the student enroll in a class devoted to the pursuit of an independent project as part of the core curriculum.

**Financial Aid**

Semester/Year Programs: Your Financial Aid, scholarships and grants are automatically carried over while you study abroad. Work Study Students are eligible for stipends as well, CIPA can also offer you additional grant and aid opportunities.

Summer Programs: Please contact the Office of Financial Aid to see what options are available to help supplement the costs. CIPA offers some forms of possible aid (i.e. CIPA Summer Travel Grant) to help as well.

**Scholarships**

- CIPA Study Abroad Grant (must be on financial aid)
- Work Study Replacement Grant
- Benjamin Gilman Scholarship for Pell Grant Recipients
- NSEP Boren Scholarship
- SIT, CIEE, Bard College & SFS

**Student Experiences**

These experiences, especially in a new country, helped me gain perspective about global health issues and medical care in general. Also, Swahili is a relatively accessible language, and I benefited both intellectually and experientially from spending the time to learn the basics. Otherwise, the people are exceptionally friendly, the food is great, and there are many fun and adventurous activities that occupied my time.

-Ethan Sobol, Independent Undergraduate Project Abroad Kenya

While I was in Senegal, I managed to experience a presidential election, hang out at a Pular wedding lasting 8 hours, and climb inside of the largest banyan tree in Western Senegal (there’s a bat colony inside!). It was absolutely a worthwhile experience and I would recommend it to anyone who wants something different than the typical Western European study abroad experience.

-EEmily Chapman, CIEE Dakar: Language and Culture Program
Semester/Year Study Abroad Programs

**Egypt**: American University of Cairo

**Ghana**: CIEE Ghana: Arts and Sciences
SIT Ghana: Social Transformation and Cultural Expression

**Kenya**: SFS Kenya/Tanzania: Wildlife Management Program
St. Lawrence University Kenya

**Morocco**: SIT Morocco: Multiculturalism and Human Rights
Al Alkhawayn University

**Rwanda**: SIT Rwanda: Post-Genocide Restoration and Peace Building

**Senegal**: CIEE Dakar: Language and Culture Program

**South Africa**: University of Cape Town
Duke OTS South Africa

**Tanzania**: SIT Tanzania: Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology

**Uganda**: SIT Uganda: Development Studies
SIT Uganda: Post Conflict Transformation and Community Building

Summer Study Abroad Programs

**Botswana & Namibia**: Emory Environmental Field Studies in Africa Program

**Morocco**: Arabic Language and North African Studies Program

Student Experiences

During my village stay, my host mom taught me how to carry a baby on my back. I was so nervous that I was going to drop him because she only used a small sheet to tie him around me. However, it was surprisingly comfortable and easy, and my little host brother fell right to sleep while I walked around the village. All of the neighbors thought it was so funny that I was carrying my host brother like the Malian women do. I loved the village stay; it was so fun to try something different. It was definitely one of the best things I did while abroad.

-Tess Komarek, SIT Mali

My time living and studying abroad in Rwanda was one of the defining moments of my life. SIT's Rwanda program was intellectually, emotionally, psychologically, socially, and physically challenging in ways that forced me to grow as a student, a person, and a member of the global community. Mine was a deeply humbling experience that moved me from a theoretical, classroom understanding of the world's problems to a realistic and shocking conception of how complex those problems truly are. If you let it, this experience will change your life, your outlook, and your dreams.

-Laura Withers, SIT Rwanda