

Kumasi, Ghana

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Program: Global Public Health in Ghana, Summer 2019

Majors: International Studies & Linguistics

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



In Ghana, I worked with an awesome team to collect samples and data to discover any antibiotic resistance in the communities. Our teams consisted of Utah students as well as Ghanaian students from KNUST. Together, we explored over ten communities in Kumasi, Ghana. Before collecting samples from the

communities, we needed to request permission to conduct our research in each area. Asking for permission is one of the highest forms of respect in these communities. The people really appreciated that we cared enough to ask before barging into their living spaces. Our particular group didn't work as directly with the people as some of the other groups on this trip. However, we had quite a social team who loved getting to know the people in the towns that we worked in. Every day on the bus ride to our field locations, we would sing Ghanaian and American songs together. Bonding on a personal level really allowed us to bond on a professional level as well.



Earning the Research Experience Badge:



Our whole trip was dedicated to research. Every day we would spend hours collecting samples. Every day we brought our samples back to the lab to incubate. Every day we streaked petri dishes so that we could isolate bacterial colonies. And every day we would record our findings. We discovered that every community was resistant to one of our most common antibiotics. We learned through research that a lot of the antibiotic resistance stems from overuse of small doses of antibiotics which are obtained through the black market. After completing our research, we put together a presentation of our findings and opened the floor for questions so that we can further research ways

to improve the communities we visited.

Transferable Skills:



Having research, field, and lab experience will greatly help me in the future. Once I complete my second bachelors and, shortly after, my Master's in Public Health, I will be able to apply the skills I've learned over the course of this study abroad to my future career. I hope to work in South Korea with an expert in malnutrition and obesity. I know that this field of work will require a lot of research and field experience as we will have to visit different schools and public areas to gauge the health status of the community members. I am excited and have more confidence that I will be able to do my job to the best of my ability.

“Nobody can discover the world for somebody else. Only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a common bond and we cease to be alone” – Wendell Berry