

Kumasi, Ghana & Paris, France



Trisha Enriquez

Program: Global Public Health in Ghana and Paris - Summer 2019

Major: Honors Biology

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



The most impactful part of my trip was that I was surrounded by people from an incredible culture. Because of this, as I got to know the people around me, I also learned about the Ghanaian culture of kindness, generosity, and hard work. During my short trip, I was able to develop

incredible relationships with the Ghanaian KNUST students; such great friendships, in fact, that it was heartbreaking to bid them goodbye. In addition, during our field work, we were constantly interacting with community members. They invited us into their homes, gave up time to help us with our research, and showed a love like nothing I had ever experienced before. The community children greeted us with wide grins as they taught us songs, games, and dances. Every single day ended with a smile and a journal full of new memories and lessons learned.



Earning the Research Experience Badge:



I wanted to experience conducting research in a setting where I could directly interact with the environment and the community I was working with. This trip was perfect because we were able to visit various communities and sample directly from the water sources used by the community to wash, drink, and cook. We were able to make observations of environmental factors that affected how we interpreted the results once we studied them in the laboratory; we would not have been able to do so had we just been sent these samples without any context about the life and environment around the water source. These observations will undoubtedly be valuable in properly understanding our

research in its context and effectively presenting it to the people of the community in order to make proper improvements in their public health systems.

Transferable Skills:



My experience in Ghana was valuable in multiple ways. First, I was able to learn how to conduct research ethically within a community setting. I learned how to respect the environment, the people, and the community's needs. The obstacles we faced, such as language barriers, competing interests, etc., taught us how to take each challenge one step at a time and how to properly process our experiences in an unfamiliar setting. In addition, being able to participate in field work in a rural community strengthened my desire to pursue medicine on a global level. My love for learning about how people in different cultures live grew, and I cannot wait to live my life working in these communities.

“My learning abroad experience has been impactful in shaping who I want to be as a student, professional, and person. My desire to help, in all the ways I possibly can, has grown exponentially, and the relationships I formed have taught me to be thankful, kind, and generous, even when it seems impossible in the presence of insurmountable obstacles.”