

Studying through a Year Abroad

The year abroad program in Ghana is part of the International Development Studies curriculum and combines third-year university coursework with valuable hands-on experience through a community placement. Participants learn about the history and culture of Ghana, acquire skills in community development, engage in a cross-cultural living experience, and develop friendships in a new community. Students typically participate in the third year of an honours degree, though some do so in their fourth year. Many past participants have found it to be a transformational experience, the defining moment of their undergraduate studies. Working and living in another culture challenges one's assumptions and opens new avenues of thinking and understanding.



The Trent-in-Ghana Program

The Trent-in-Ghana (TIG) Program enables undergraduates to deepen their understanding of international development by living, studying, and working in Ghana. The program is based in Cape Coast, a sea-side community in the South and Tamale, in the Northern Region. Exposure to these different regions familiarises students with the diverse cultures and people of Ghana. Students spend a full academic year abroad, from September until the end of April, participate in several field trips, and complete a twelve-week placement with a local organisation. Participants register in the equivalent of five full-year courses taught by Ghanaian academics and development professionals. TIG also selects a number of Ghanaian students to join the program.



Applications & Further Information

International Development Studies Program
Trent University
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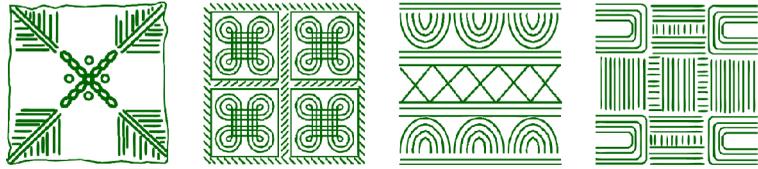
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Twitter: twitter.com/TrentIDSabroad
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International
Development Studies





Eligibility

The Year Abroad is designed primarily for students in the third year of honours degree majoring in International Development, Anthropology, Politics or a related field, who have a minimum standing of B- (70%) in at least eight full-year courses. Students from outside Trent with a similar academic background are welcome to apply. Non-Trent students transfer to Trent as Letter of Permission students for the academic year and take Trent University courses in Ghana.

All applicants are interviewed to assess their suitability for the program, in particular their capacity to function in an environment which may be outside one's comfort zone. The interviews take place in January-February. Candidates are notified shortly thereafter of the outcome. Final confirmation of acceptance in the program occurs after marks are released in late May.

Experiential Learning

TIG provides students with the opportunity for intense personal growth, enriched by interactions with many generous and wonderful people of Ghana. It also offers opportunities for students to develop the skills necessary to live, study, and complete a placement in the context of a country in the Global South where they are privileged to be guests. In meeting these challenges, participants can rely on support provided by program staff, their Ghanaian hosts, and fellow students.

Academic Program

IDST/ANTH 3770 – Society, Culture & Development in Africa

This course examines the major historical dimensions and socio-cultural diversities in sub-Saharan Africa, the changing economic relationship of the area to the global economy, and recent trends toward democratization and the strengthening of civil society (term 1).

IDST/ANTH 3781 – Ghana Seminar

This course examines contemporary Ghana in the light of its historical background and its patterns of stratification, religion, ethnicity and gender. Attention is given to the processes of structural transformation, including economic policy, social and political change (term 1).

IDST/ANTH 3790 – Local Dynamics of Change

This course examines the impact of national development processes at the local level and ways of enhancing citizens' capacities to claim their rights. In addition, it exposes students to applied research methods at the community level (term 1).

IDST/ANTH 3800 – Community Development (two credits)

This course is comprised of an intensive (twelve week) field placement with a development organisation (term 2).

Students also participate in an intensive Fanti language course in the early weeks of term 1.

Students from Canadian Universities typically receive full year course credit for TIG participation.

Related departments have been willing to accept one or more courses for credit towards their own requirements, in order to facilitate the participation of joint majors.

Orientation & Living Arrangements

All successful applicants participate in an orientation in Peterborough in March/April and Cape Coast in September. Details on visa applications, travel arrangements, security, health requirements and so on, are contained in the *Handbook for Participants* issued to all students and reviewed in detail at orientation. Students live with a host family in Cape Coast and typically in a guest house in Tamale.

Organization

The Trent program is based at the School for Development Studies, University of Cape Coast. IDST 3770 and IDST 3780 are offered at the School and are taught by University of Cape Coast faculty. IDST 3790 is based in Tamale, in the Northern Region of Ghana. There is also a non-academic coordinator who is in charge of operational activities in-country.

Costs

- Trent tuition fees are the same as those paid by on-campus Trent students, minus certain ancillary fees.
- A program fee of approximately \$4,000 to cover operational, administrative, and non-academic staff costs and some of the costs of orientation and field trips.
- Airfare of around \$1500 (Toronto-Accra return).
- Living costs in Ghana (well below Canadian levels).
- Misc. costs (e.g. visa, medical, insurance).
- Many students have been awarded bursaries from Trent to offset some of these costs.