

Ghana Special Study Projects and Internships

UCEAP Ghana students may enhance their classroom experiences with special study projects in research, independent study, and internships.

Special Study Projects are under the general direction of the Resident Director and the supervision of a local faculty member or other qualified person on site. They are normally worth 6.0 UC quarter units, but may vary depending on the type and amount of work involved. Many students combine internship and research into one special study project.

If you're interested in participating in a special study project, you must submit a preliminary proposal.

STEP 1: Pre-Departure Preparation

Research possible topics or internships and consult appropriate UC campus faculty members for advice. It may be possible to develop a project related to the research interests of a UC faculty member's research or to your longer-term research or honors work at your home UC campus.

You must submit a preliminary proposal to UCEAP so that it can be forwarded to the Resident Director before the term begins. Ideas for research topics can be gleaned from previous projects which are listed below.

Internships and volunteer work are available at one of many locations. See the list of [past internship and community service providers](#) for possible locations.

STEP 2: On-site in Ghana

Once in Ghana you will complete a [Special Study Project form](#) in consultation with the Resident Director, host university faculty member, or other designated supervisor. At this time the topic will be refined, revised, or possibly shifted to better fit the resources available or the cultural-political environment in Ghana.

RESEARCH METHODS TEXTS

Many University of Ghana faculty require students to have some familiarity with research methodology. Here are a few possibilities from the hundreds available. Some are slanted toward specific fields, but are still useful for general social science research. To find more titles, search the California Digital Library or your UC campus library for subject "Social sciences—Research—Methodology."

Kumar, Ranjit. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS. 3rd ed. Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington DC: Sage Publications, 2014.

Robson, Colin. HOW TO DO A RESEARCH PROJECT: A GUIDE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.

Bailey, Carol A. A GUIDE TO QUALITATIVE FIELD RESEARCH. Thousand Oaks, Calif., Pine Forge Press, 2007. Ethnographic.

Jackson, Bruce. FIELDWORK. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1987.

UCEAP Sample Special Study Projects

African Studies	
HIV Prevention and Awareness in Ghana	Researched the relationship of the West Africa AIDS foundation and the Ghana AIDS commission in the greater sphere of HIV prevention and awareness in Ghana. Examined the various programs and their effectiveness in teaching people about HIV and effective testing methods.
Black Homosexual Identity in Ghana	Researched homosexual male identity in Ghanaian social institutions. Also looked at the dangers of ranking identities and how the homosexual community resists mainstream heterosexual culture.
Child Trafficking in Ghana	Sought to make distinctions between the cultural definitions of child trafficking and the traditional Western perception. Studied three forms of child trafficking: fisheries, commercial sex exploitation and hawking in order to discover the motivations behind child trafficking and the effect it has on education in Ghana.
Feminization of Poverty in Poor Urban Areas	Researched link between environmental justice, women's empowerment and development in Ghana by focusing on the causes of poverty in urban areas, the status of women in Ghana and the gender gap in Ghana. Interviewed women in a poor urban area to understand their experiences with poverty.
Ghanaian Voices	Collected life stories from several Ghanaian people and creatively combined them in order to create an art book depicting the voices of the people themselves.
The Green Revolution in Africa and Farming Extension Services	Interned at GAABIC (Ghana Agricultural Association of Business Information Center) which provides training to farmers, agriculture input retailers and technology providers. Compared extension techniques that failed during the last Green Revolution in Africa with the Green Revolution they are currently attempting to start.
Child Labor and the NGO Response	Researched the way child labor is portrayed through government policies and NGO missions and actions.
Formation of Ethnic Identities in Ghana	Examined how the different ethnic identities in Ghana changed throughout time and space in Ghanaian society creating social attitudes of exclusion and inclusion. Research looked at Ghanaian history, including the eras of slavery, colonialism and independence.
Effects of HIV/AIDS on Gender Inequality, Internship at West Africa Aids Foundation	Researched connection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS. Conduct research through internship activities on power dynamics, income distribution, contraceptive use, etc.
Anthropology	
Medical anthropological study of organ trade	Researched the availability of organs and donation, Ghanaian public health, and the black market.
Art History	
Kente Cloth	Researched Kente cloth by talking to weavers in Kumasi and the Volta region and write a children's book that tells the story.
Internship at The National Museum	Learned curating methods from museum curators and head archeologist and researched the curating cultures of non-western museums. Gave museum tours to school children.
Biology	
Red Weaver Ant	Participated in ongoing research of the red weaver ant to gain field experience and understanding of the use of biological control and its social implications in Ghana.
Business Administration	
Ghana's Entrepreneurial Environment	Studied Ghana's business and entrepreneurial environment by attempting to open a nonprofit coffee stand on campus. Conducted studies on feasibility with locals, competition, major Ghanaian corporations and university administration.
Communication	
Media access and use among University of Ghana students	Studied media usage by students at the University of Ghana to find out what the students primarily use media for and why. Explored the needs that are satisfied by students when they are using media.
Earth Science	
Water Quality in Southern Accra	Researched the surface water quality in Southern Accra to determine the major pollutants and make a conclusion regarding how safe it is both to drink and to use for industry or agriculture.
Education	
Primary Education for Girls in an Urban Environment	Identified the struggles and disadvantages of young girls going through primary education in urban areas of Ghana, primarily Accra. Looked at the school system in general as well as the ways the government attempts to promote education for girls.

How Creative Use of Technology Can Address Education Disparity in Ghana	Primarily concerned with limited access to education in rural Ghana, the research examined the current educational system in Northern Ghana, identified problems, and recommended a creative private-public partnership solution to help address these issues with limited funding.
Engineering	
Water Supply in Ghana	Researched the challenges to providing a cheap and adequate water supply for Ghana's urban poor.
Understanding the Water Sachet	In Ghana, water sachets (plastic bags) are often used as an alternative to water bottles. Researched this method and the hazards involved with it, such as from the pollution of the water by low quality plastic.
Environmental Studies	
Timber Resource Management Act	Examined the Timber Resource Management Act and its amendment to understand the reasons that the forests are being undervalued and overexploited. Identified the inadequacies of the act and amendments and its effect on deforestation.
Climate Change and Migration in Ghana	Researched how climate change in the northern part of Ghana has induced migration to the south (especially Accra).
Coastal Erosion in Ghana	Researched how much of an impact human activities have on coastal communities and how these issues differ in developed versus developing countries.
Plastic Pollution in Ghana	Researched the environmental and social consequences of plastic in Ghana focusing on both small-scale, community recycling programs and large-scale, industrial recycling.
Health Science	
Children and Nutrition in Ghana	Attempted to gain a better understanding of the development of children's nutrition in Ghana by looking at the history of any successful nutrition intervention programs as well as conducting field research both in hospitals and residential settings.
Creating Health-Based Behavior Change in Urban Slums	Focused on understanding how to successfully create behavior change around water and sanitation issues in urban slum communities to improve health. Compared two theoretical approaches to behavior change, education based interventions and social marketing based by examining two specific interventions.
Socioeconomic Status And Malaria Treatment in Ghanaian Children	Investigated the relationship between socioeconomic status and pediatric malaria treatment in Accra, Ghana. Used surveys and observation in order to identify the effect of cultural barriers, educational disparities and poverty on a parent's choices of treatment for their child.
Traditional Healing Methods in Ghana	Studied traditional healing methods in Ghana and examined the effectiveness of herbal medicines through an exploration of traditional healing practices and the health of pregnant women.
West African AIDS Foundation and International Health Care Center	Research focused on the National TB/AIDS Control Program and the Ghana Health Service as to why they do not collaborate with NGOs such as the West Africa AIDS Foundation.
History	
Sanitary and Environment Health Policy	Studied the history of sanitation policy with respect to disease and epidemic prevention in the Gold Coast from the year 1900 to 1920.
Historical Archaeology of Christiansborg Castle and Oso Community	Focused on the purpose of conducting archaeology when there is a written record already present. Also, how the artifacts found at the archaeological site in Osu, Accra help to provide a local perspective to the Eurocentric historical narrative of the Osu Community and their interactions with the Europeans living the castle.
Music	
Hip Life and Traditional Music in Ghana	Examined both traditional and popular music in Ghana, specifically music aimed towards youth. Explored the ways that these two forms of music coexist in society.
Music, Communication and Connection in Ghana	Studied the use of music in Ghana to create and cultivate personal relationships and send mass messages of community. Looked at various forms of music, put together a report, and also gave a performance showing her most significant musical discoveries.
Political Science	
The Political and Social Consequences of the Bui Dam Project	Looked at the social and political consequences of a dam built at Bui National Park by conducting interviews and analyzing the impacts of the dam in terms of Ghanaian national interest and adverse effects on specific population groups.
Ghanaian Youth Empowerment	Researched empowerment as it effects Ghanaian youth. Examined how Ghanaian youth feel about their government and if they feel they have a say in government policies.

Development and Management of Slum Areas in Accra, Ghana	Investigated questions of livelihoods, housing, migration and service provision with regard to slum areas in Accra. Explored the policy indications of findings, especially with regard to urban planning.
Disability in Ghana	Conducted interviews with disabled persons, treatment centers, and social welfare in order to better understand disability in Ghana. Looked at both the supposed causes and resources available to those who are disabled.
Ghana Peacekeeping Operations	Research to illustrate the role in which Ghanaian military forces have been deployed as peacekeepers.
Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA Ghana)	Observe and assist in the projects LAWA Ghana is presently involved. Create training materials for domestic workers.
Psychology	
Juvenile Junior Corrections and Remand Home for Girls	Interviewed female subjects at the Junior corrections home in Osu about their perceptions of the juvenile justice system and compared these to the perceptions of the administrators and officials in social welfare.
Ghana and Autism	Conducted an observational study focusing on children with Autism at the New Horizon Special Learning School in Ghana. Also attempted to research and provide information about the various treatment options and facilities available to those with the disorder.
Cultural differences between the US and Ghana	Studied cultural differences between the US and Ghana in order to identify similarities and differences. Used personal experiences as well as interviews with Ghanaian and American students in order to gain a thorough understanding.
Communication, Learning Difficulties and Counseling Center in Accra, Ghana	Interned at a school for children with learning disabilities or special needs with the aim of understanding the various developmental challenges faced by these children. Also attempted to create new learning plans to better accommodate each child's individual needs.
Ghanaian group identity	Looked at the way an individuals' sense of belonging affects how they perceive symbols representing group identity. Used popular and historic buildings in Ghana to symbolize the group identity and compared results to a similar study done in the US.
Sociology	
Effects of the Buduburam refugee camp on Liberian women	Studied, through interviews with mothers, the effect of Buduburam refugee camp on Liberian mothers' physical, social and psychological health. Attempted to update the physical health issues currently present among women in the camp
The Effect of Religion and Culture on Ghanaian women's sexuality	Looked at what it means to be a woman in Ghanaian society, an idea that is based in large part upon religion. Talked to various women confidentially about their sexuality in order to understand the role religion and culture play in their understandings.
The Use of Mobile Technologies in Ghana	Tested the use of mobile technologies in Ghana and their possible use as mechanisms for social change. Examined any cultural constraints that may come into play when using mobile technology in Ghana.
Traditional Medicine in modern Accra	Examined the role of traditional medicine in modern Accra through interviews with practitioners of both modern and traditional herbal medicine. Explored the roles of the two kinds of healthcare and how they coexist in modern day.
Women and positions of power in Accra	Researched women's empowerment in Accra by focusing on women in positions of power and the struggles they face in a patriarchal society.
Peri-Urban Poverty in Madina, Accra	Traced the rapid urbanization of Accra and the increasing settlement of the urban peripheries using Madina as a case study. Examined how NGOs are working to improve conditions in the urban peripheries, specifically Madina.
Attainment of Basic Needs in Urban Ghana	Studied the social structures created within areas of extreme poverty in order to enable residents to fulfill their basic needs. Looked at how people rely on each other and create a sense of community to survive in these crowded and impoverished conditions.
Ghanaian construction and perception of class structure	Conducted interviews in order to extract themes and generalizations regarding the perception of social class in Accra, Ghana. Also examined social mobility and class distinctions.
Photo-Adesan: Self-Representation and Photography with Ghanaian Children	Worked with small group of children to teach photography as a means to capture the story of the poor village setting of a Ghana community.