

East Africa Field Based Research & Internship

African Studies Program, university of Pittsburgh





Josh engages some students in a game of checkers on an Island where fishermen live

Purpose

Graduate and upper-level undergraduate students will participate in a field based learning research seminar, complete an internship, and then enroll in an Independent study to receive academic credit fall term.

Students will choose a theme and an organization in East Africa, familiarize themselves with relevant literature, design a project, carry out an internship in relation to the proposed project, and finally compile a report on the project as part of a post-travel independent study.

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Experiential learning and cultural immersion are vital to gaining the skills necessary to have successful careers in international studies and affairs

-Lou Picard

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5 phases to this experience:

Phase 1: April. Pittsburgh

Orientation-engage in information rich seminar and develop short proposal

Phase 2: May. Students submit research proposal

Phase 3: May. In country 8 day orientation/seminar

Phase 4: July or August. Completion of internship--students can decide how long their internship needs to be

Phase 5: Fall or spring. Complete PIA

2490 “Field Based Research and Organizational Development in East Africa” or an Independent study in ADMPS 2098, or department independent study of your choice.

Students can pick from several themes & Organizations

Themes

- ★ Social Entrepreneurialism
- ★ Human Security and Development
- ★ Education & Special Education
- ★ Social Development
- ★ Health & Rural Income
- ★ Hidden Peoples
- ★ Micro-Credit and Sustainability
- ★ Gender Violence
- ★ Homeless Children
- ★ Agriculture and Food



Organizations (The list continues to grow with more partners every year)

- ★ ABC Divine Foundation Primary School, Kampala, Uganda
- ★ Barlonyo Adopt a Village, Lira, Uganda
- ★ Bright Kids Uganda Group Home, Kisubi, Uanda
- ★ BKU Enterprises Micro-Loans, Entebbe, Uganda
- ★ Blessed Survivors Micro-Loan Group, Kisubi, Uganda
- ★ Center for Rehabilitation of Survivors of Acid and Burns (CERESAV), Kampala, Uganda
- ★ Great Kings and Queens Primary School and Children 's Home- Katwe, Uganda
- ★ Hekima Place, Nairobi, Kenya
- ★ Noah's Ark Hands On Training Center, Entebbe, Uganda
- ★ Majengo Children's Home, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania
- ★ Silver Oonyu Memorial Inclusive Learning Center, Soroti, Uganda

Venue

In country 8 day Orientation/Seminar takes place at Bright Kids Uganda. Bright Kids Uganda has been working with Pitt students for 10 years. Students stay at their bed & breakfast during this week. Some students who intern with the organization will stay there all summer.

Orientation Seminar

The Orientation Seminar introduces students to East African culture, gives them a little bit of language, and gives an overview of each theme from an East African Perspective. Students begin the morning in the great hall with a 30 minute language lesson and then are introduced to the speaker.



Orientation/Seminar begins in the Great Hall (pictured above) at BKU but then continues to different locations for onsite learning.

The speaker gives a brief overview of their organization and then takes the student to their organization or organizations for a tour. Some days multiple organizations and areas of the city are visited.



Maura learns about micro-loans from a micro-loan recipient during the seminar

Each day students are expected to engage with the topic and ask questions to help prepare them for their internships. A packed lunch is provided each day. At the end of the busy seminar students have the opportunity to go on a fun cultural excursion before their internship begins. After the seminar students disburse to their various locations to begin their in depth internship and research experience.

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Getting to learn from local experts was one of the most rewarding experiences of my time in Uganda

-Anna-Maria Karnes

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BKU Compound: male intern quarters, offices, nurses station

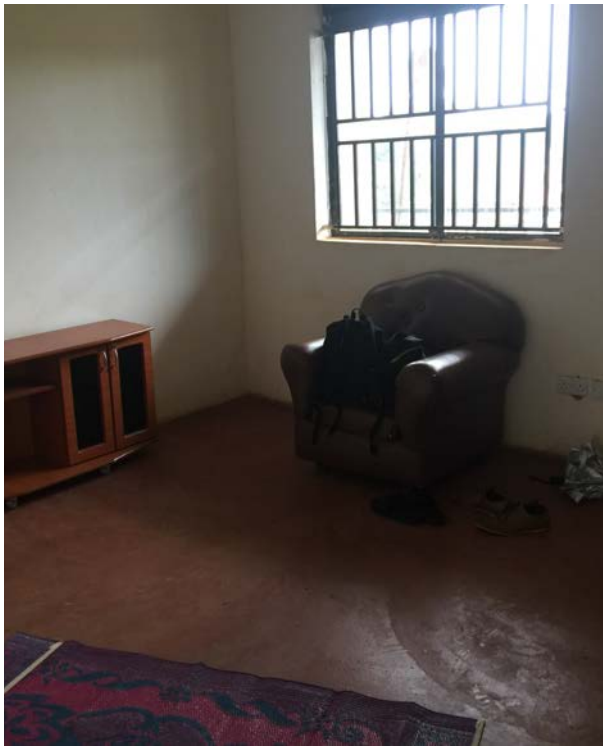
Lodging- BKU Bed & Breakfast

The Bed & Breakfast at BKU is located on Victoria Namusisi's compound which has many structures. The main orphanage is located about a half a mile from this location though several of the babies, young handicapped children, and orphans who are older than 18 do live on this compound. The building pictured above houses the male interns and BKU office space including the nurse's office. There is also shared office space allotted to the interns.

Male Intern Space



This space has two rooms, a bedroom and small living room with a bathroom





The Main House at BKU:

Then there is the main house that houses the female interns. The main house has a living room, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. All the interns hang out in this house regardless of which building they stay in. Some interns may have to share a room. Victoria also has her private quarters in a separate house and then there are several other buildings where the other BKU employees and children stay. The compound also houses pigs and lots of chickens. Interns are expected to clean their own rooms regularly and to contribute to the upkeep and cleanliness of these common spaces.



1 of 3 bedrooms in the main house where female interns stay



Living Room & Dining Room, Bathroom with full shower

BKU Dining



Above: Typical meal of beef, rice, greens, groundnut stew

Below: Students enjoy homemade cake baked on an outdoor fire.



Faculty Lodging

[Banana Village](#) is located about a block away from the BKU compound. It is a nice quiet hotel. The room rate is \$35 per night and they have a good restaurant for dining. Food prices per meal are usually below \$5. The rooms and facility are equipped with wifi and have a decent bathroom with a shower and hot water. They also have a swimming pool, and delightful monkeys.





Transportation

BKU has several vehicles they use to transport students. During the seminar they rent an additional van to take students to the various locations. All vehicles they use are insured. If students would like to hire a BKU vehicle during the internship. The cost is around \$26. Local van taxis run down the main road from Entebbe to Kampala and cost 50 cents.

Budget

Estimated Cost to the Student

What	8 day Orientation/Seminar	6 weeks, including seminar (42 days)	2.5 months including seminar (70 days)
Flight	1,500	1,500	1,500
Visa + vaccines	350	350	350
Lodging + 3 meals/ day at BKU or equivalent \$25/day	200	1,050	1,750
Tourism Fees (optional)		270	270
Administrative Fee	300	300	300
Total Costs	\$2,350	\$3,470	\$4,170

The budget above represents the cost to the student for the summer internship and seminar but it does not include tuition fees. Graduate students add their tuition to the fall or spring semester so that they will not have to pay any additional tuition fee. The price per day at BKU is \$25 but if students choose to stay in other locations prices could vary. Some internships offer free housing to interns. Students are usually able to secure partial to full funding through their departments, Nationality Room Scholarships, or UCIS scholarships. For example, GSPIA offers \$2000 towards internships and the School of Education has funding upto \$3000 towards research projects as well.

Partner Organizations

Bright Kids Uganda (BKU), the organization

BKU was founded by Victoria Nalongo Namusisi, who was an olympic runner for Uganda and an avid scouts representative. She worked closely for the president of Uganda for many years but was startled with the number of street kids she discovered in the capital during the war in northern uganda. She began to take children into her house to teach them and provide for them. Soon she had so many children that she decided to open an orphanage.



Victoria Nalongo Namusisi (BKU founder) Very well known for her work in Uganda

The orphanage led to many different projects that her organization encompasses and that students choose to intern with.

BKU now includes:

- Noahs Ark, a school for special needs children
- Pre-school

- Barlonyo Adopt a Village--She has adopted a village in northern Uganda that was burned down--building a school and latrines for villagers
- BKU enterprises Micro-loans--she gives out microloans to help women build businesses
- BKU Bed & Breakfast--started a bed & breakfast to help with sustainability of her organization
- BKU Tourism--started a tourism business to help fund BKU
- BKU Corner market--convenience store

BKU also is in close partnership with several organizations:

- Blessed Survivors Micro-Loan Group
- Center for Rehabilitation of Survivors of Acid and Burns (CERESAV)--founded by Hanifa Nakiryowa, GSPIA graduate
- Great Kings and Queens Primary School and Children's home
- Refugee camps

BKU Children's Home

