



Public Health Brigades Information Session

Summer 2026

May 29th - June 10th, 2026



Faculty Leaders

At GSU we have dedicated faculty who are passionate about building relationships with students and empowering them to serve abroad.



Nicole Bing, Ph.D.

Communication Disorders, CHHS
Faculty Leader – Nicaragua, Panama, Ghana
(9th Brigade, 2018, 2019 (2), 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 25), Study abroad China & Great Britain; Missions Volunteer in Haiti and Puerto Rico (2012-2019)



Marlon Cummings, Ph.D.

Division of Education & Leadership, CEHD
Faculty Leader – Ghana (2nd Brigade, 2025)
Organizational leadership and education policy; culturally responsive teaching practices; building community partnerships

GSU Ghana Public Health Brigade Team 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

**Ekumpoano, Ekumfi District,
Central Region of Ghana
(Cape Coast)**



Itinerary

PRE-DEPARTURE

- Teambuilding, education, cultural preparation, fundraising
- Health, safety & travel preparation
- Engagement with Ghanaian community members in the Chicago area

DEPARTURE

- Meet at the airport and take group flight together to Ghana & Public Health Brigade



Sample Itinerary

	Day 1 Wednesday 18th May 2022	2 Thursday 19th May 2022	Day 3 Friday 20th May 2022	4 Saturday 21st May 2022	Day 5 Sunday 22nd May 2022	Day 6 Monday 23rd May 2022	Day 7 Tuesday 24th May 2022	Day 8 Wednesday 25th May 2022	9 Thursday 26th May 2022	Day 10 Friday 27th May 2022	Day 11 Saturday 28th May 2022	
6:00 AM												
7:00 AM		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast			
8:00 AM		Transport to Lodging Facility - SWATSON HOTEL	Transport to Community	Transport to Community	Transport to Community	Suprudo School Level Charla Preparation	Transport to Community	Transport to Community	Transport to Assin Manso	Breakfast	Breakfast	
9:00 AM		Charla at the Ekumpoano School	Instruction Day 2 Ekumpoano	Instruction Day 3 Ekumpoano		Instruction Day 1 Suprudo	Instruction Day 2 Suprudo		Transport to Elmina		Time to Pack	
10:00 AM		Tour of the Community & Meeting with Households	Ekumpoano	Ekumpoano	Transport to Community	Day 1 Suprudo	Day 2 Suprudo	Assin Manso Slave Market & River Site Tour	Elmina Castle Tour			
11:00 AM		Settling In	Time with Artisan (15 Minute)	O & M Charla for Households	Tour of the Community & Meeting with Households						Lunch	
12:00 PM		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch				
1:00 PM		Orientation & Itinerary Review				Lunch			Transport to Cape Coast	Lunch at Mabel's Table		Depart for Accra
2:00 PM		Ekumpoano School Level	Instruction Day 1 Ekumpoano	Instruction Continues	Instruction Continues	Charla at the Suprudo School	Instruction Continues	Instruction Continues	Cape Coast Castle Tour			
3:00 PM		Charla Preparation		Transport to Lodging Facility		Transport to Lodging Facility	Transport to Lodging Facility	Transport to Lodging Facility	Transport to Lodging Facility	Transport to Lodging Facility	Transport to Lodging Facility	Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum & Memorial Park Tour
4:00 PM												
5:00 PM	Airport Pick- Up, Snack Break & Transport to Lodging Facility In ACCRA	Fante Basics & Culture & Tradition of Ghana	Transport to Lodging Facility	10 Minute Stop at the Gas Station	Transport to Lodging Facility	10 Minute Stop at the Gas Station	Transport to Lodging Facility	10 Minute Stop at the Gas Station	Transport to Lodging Facility	Cultural Performance		Art Market Shopping or Airport Shopping Mall
6:00 PM				Transport to Lodging Facility		Transport to Lodging Facility		Transport to Lodging Facility				
7:00 PM		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		Depart for Airport Drop-Off
8:00 PM		Public Health Presentation & Reflection	Reflection & Holistic Talk	Household Level Charla Preparation & Reflection	Project Interaction & Reflection	Reflection by Volunteers & their Leadership	Household Level Charla Preparation & Reflection	Debriefing and Reflexions Time	Reflection & Journal Writing by Volunteers	Final Staff Reflection		@ the Airport Departure
9:00 PM												
10:00 PM												

CO-ORDINATORS: EUNICE ESI QUANSAH & EDWARD QUANSAH

Note: This is not a typical Global Brigade Public Health Brigade itinerary.

We have added extra days to this itinerary for students to experience other parts of Ghana's history and culture.

ABOUT ••••• LOCATION ••••• PUBLIC HEALTH ••••• BRIGADE ••••• DONATION ••••• TAKE ACTION

Program Fee: \$TBD (estimating \$4500)

WHAT DOES THAT PROGRAM FEE INCLUDE!!!

- International flight
- Lodging accommodations
- 3 meals per day (vegetarian options available)
- Clean drinking water
- In-country airport pick-up and drop-off
- In-country transportation
- Program Coordinators for Public Health Project
- Translators and security
- Public Health Project Materials
- Program sustainability and follow-up between brigades
- Cultural Site Visits and tours
- International health insurance
- Ghana Visa

PUBLIC HEALTH BRIGADES INFO SESSION



OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES

- Passport, if you do not already have one
- Vaccinations - Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Hep A, Hep B, Malaria, COVID-19 (recommended – testing required if unvaccinated)
- Tuition & fees (for HLSC 5001 – 1 or 3 credit option)

Must complete a general Study Abroad Application and an interview with the Faculty-OIS Team

GovState Office of International Services (OIS) Study Abroad Scholarship

**Open to all currently enrolled GSU
students – undergrad & graduate**

Awards of up to \$750

Application Deadline: February 16, 2026

1. Study Abroad Scholarship Application Form
2. Statement of Purpose Essay with Follow-on Project
3. Two letters of recommendation or recommendation forms filled out by academic or professional references.
4. A current copy of your resume

Statement of Purpose Essay with Follow-on Project Specifics:

- 500-1000 words
- Typed, one-inch margins, double-spaced, 12 pt. font
- Include one-line header in the top-right corner with your Name and Student ID
- Pay attention to detail in terms of grammar and style

The essay is comprised of three parts. Please read below for details.

1. **Reasons for Studying Abroad** – Address the impact that your study abroad program will have on your academic, professional, and personal goals. You should also address the impact that receiving the Study Abroad Scholarship would have on your achievement of these goals.
2. **Challenges** – What challenges, if any, did you face in your decision to study or intern abroad? How did you meet these challenges and what impact do you foresee them having on your experience abroad? These could include, but are not limited to, being a parent, being a non-traditional student, having a learning or physical disability, being in a field of study for which it is difficult to incorporate study abroad, etc.
3. **Follow-on Project Proposal** – The Follow-on Project Proposal is your chance to explain how you will give back by inspiring others to pursue their own experiences abroad. To help expand the impact of the GSU Study Abroad Scholarship Program, all scholarship recipients are required to carry out a Follow-on Project that helps to promote international education and study abroad. This project can be done virtually while you are abroad, on your home campus or in your local community and must be completed within six months of your return to the United States. All applicants must describe their project proposal within the essay as part of and this proposal is closely reviewed during the selection process.

Leadership Grants



Two \$500 Grants are available to students attending the GSU Public Health Brigade program to Ghana for the purpose of coordinating three key areas that include: 1) group development 2) fundraising and 3) global brigade curriculum. Successful students will receive their grant upon completion of a campus program reflecting on the trip experience.

Time Commitment:

- Pre-Service Trip: Under the direction of faculty advisors, execute responsibility of leadership positions. (see description below).
- During Trip: Continue to execute leadership positions as needed.
- Post-Trip: Under the direction of the Office of International Services, host campus forum describing service-learning experience in Ghana.

Brigade student leaders will collaborate on the following:

- **Group Development:** Plan and coordinate activities designed to build a strong team and develop and motivate group through the fundraising efforts and in planning for the program.
- **Education:** Responsible for facilitating and presenting the Pre-Brigade Curriculum, preparing group for reflection and education workshops during the brigade, and leading members during those reflections and education workshops presentations during brigade (alongside Faculty Advisors).
- **Fundraising:** Plan and coordinate fundraising events, reach out to corporate sponsors, and draft grant applications. Work with college/university to gain fullest possible support for Chapter.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 2, 2026

Dr. Phyllis West Global Service- Learning Scholarship



Dr. Phyllis West, former Senior Lecturer in the Social Work Department at GSU, former Peace Corps Volunteer, and current Director of GSU's Social Justice Initiative, was instrumental in implementing and ensuring the success of Service Learning Abroad at GSU. During her time at GSU, she led six brigades to Nicaragua, Panama, and Ghana, touching the lives of hundreds of students, coordinators, and community members. Through her dedication and passion for serving others, she has opened opportunities for students who never dreamed of serving abroad, making this a reality.

One grant is available to a student interested in attending the Global Brigade to Ghana for the purpose of allowing participation in a high-impact practice, development of leadership skills, enhancement of social responsibility, improvement of writing skills and identification of the path towards career development.

The Global Service-Learning Scholar will be an ambassador for GSU and the USA. The grant will cover the entire program fee including passport and vaccination fees.

Requirements: Applicant must be a first-generation college student who has never been outside of the U.S.A. Minimum cumulative GPA requirements are 2.5 for undergraduates and 3.0 for graduates and doctoral students. Student must also be in good financial and community standing at GSU.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 2, 2026



Gilman Scholarship

Initiative by the U.S. Department of State to increase access to study abroad opportunities for students with limited financial means

Must be undergraduate and Pell grant recipient !

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/> (March 6, 2025 application deadline)



FUNDING

- Financial Aid Refunds (if applicable)
- Student Life Travel Grant (if applicable)

FUNDRAISING

- Traditional Ways: Craft Sales, Donut Sales, etc.
- Reach out to Friends and Family for Donations
- Matching Donation Companies
- Local Businesses

PUBLIC HEALTH BRIGADES INFO SESSION – JOIN THE NEXT BRIGADE



APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Due February 2, 2026

1. Study Abroad Application
2. Leadership Grant Applications
3. Dr. Phyllis West Global Service-Learning Scholar Application

Due February 15, 2026

1. OIS Study Abroad Scholarship Application

PAYMENT DEADLINES:

First Deposit Due (\$250) – with application; processed at acceptance

Second Payment Due (\$600) – Feb. 15th

Third Payment Due (\$600) – March 15th

Fourth Payment Due (\$600) – April 15th

Final Payment Due (scholarships applied) – May 15th

1. Apply for passport by Jan. 15th expedited
2. Fill out application form and apply for grants/scholarships by January 2026
3. Conduct Interview for acceptance
4. Pay first deposit with application (processed on acceptance)
5. Confirm program and flights in February
6. Attend welcome meeting (Feb. 20th)
7. Pay second payment by Feb. 15th)
8. Fundraise! Fundraise! Fundraise!
9. Apply for Study Abroad Scholarship by February 15th)
10. Pay third payment by March 15th
11. Pre-Brigade Curriculum
12. Submit visa documents (March 20)
13. Research vaccine info
14. Apply for external Scholarships (March)
15. Pay fourth payment by April 15th
16. Get Vaccinations & Submit proof to OIS
17. Pay fourth and final payment by May 15th
18. Receive passports with visa
19. Pre-Departure Orientation (May)
20. Get on plane to Ghana – May 29, 2026!!



ABOUT

LOCATION

PUBLIC HEALTH

BRIGADE

CONTRIBUTION

TAKE ACTION