Frequently Asked Questions, Tanzania Study Abroad

Academics:

- **What classes will I take in Tanzania? Can I use them for General Education credit?**
  Students take a 3-credit seminar, a 1-credit colloquium, and a 5-credit community design workshop crafted to match individual student skills and interests. They count toward Penn State cumulative GPA and may satisfy GN or GS requirements.

- **When do classes meet? Estimated amount of work time per day?**
  Days are full. We eat breakfast around 7:30 AM and often head for the field, stopping for lunch but sometimes working until 5:00 PM. Other days will be a mix of fieldwork and studio time. We eat dinner at around 7:00 and usually have a time for reflection, seminar, etc. afterwards. This is the Monday through Friday schedule but there will also be some weekend days when we will need to work.

- **Are planned “field trips” included in the costs?**
  All the field trips are included in the Education Abroad fee that you will pay. We’ll also give you a meal allowance for when we are traveling. When you need cash, in general you’ll use ATMs.

- **Are there scheduled activities/trips for the weekends?**
  We’ll be in Morogoro for the first weekend with some free time to explore the town. There will be one weekend trip on safari to Mikumi National Park, a big savannah park with lots of charismatic critters (giraffes, elephants, impala, lions, etc.) [http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/mikumi.html](http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/mikumi.html).

- **What will the other weekends be like? Will we have time to explore on our own/as a group?**
  You will have one or two weekends unscheduled if you want to take off on an adventure by bus or other transportation. On one of those, you might want to hike, with a guide, to Sanje Falls or other locations in the Park [http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/uzdungwa.html](http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/uzdungwa.html). Exploring alone is strongly discouraged.

Living arrangements:

- **Where will we be staying?**
  In Dar es Salaam we’ll be at a hostel used by visiting student and professional groups, in rooms with two-four beds, mosquito nets and air-conditioning in the evenings. In Morogoro, we’ll be at a small but comfortable hotel. At the Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre, our home for four weeks, students will stay in six-person dormitory rooms, separate for males and females; faculty will be in a nearby cabin. In Kilwa we’ll stay in two-person bungalows close to the beach [http://kilwadreams.com/index.html](http://kilwadreams.com/index.html).

- **Type of food to be expected?**
  There are plenty of great places to eat in the cities and towns. At Mang’ula we will have our own cook, who will prepare multi-course breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Food throughout Tanzania will be a

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Study Abroad at Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Tanzania: [http://stuckeman.psu.edu/larch/tanzania](http://stuckeman.psu.edu/larch/tanzania)
combination of familiar things—rice, chicken, tomatoes, carrots—and some Tanzanian food, such as ugali (maize or cassava flour formed into a loaf), goat, taro (a root), and other new fruits and vegetables.

Travel:

- **Mode(s) of transportation?**
  From Dar es Salaam, we’ll be traveling in a small 15-passenger bus. In the field, we’ll be in smaller dala-dala mini-buses; and on safari we’ll be in 4x4 Toyota Land Cruisers or similar, with opening roofs.

- **Are we traveling to the location as a group?**
  We strongly prefer to travel to Tanzania as a group, because arriving in a developing country is quite different than arriving at University Park airport. Our route will almost certainly be New York-Dubai-Dar es Salaam on Emirates airline (good route, great airline, with shortest layover).

Health and Safety:

- **Are there health risks?**
  There are health hazards in East Africa against which, with your doctor’s advice, you must protect yourself. See the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for Tanzania to help you decide what is necessary, [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/tanzania.aspx](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/tanzania.aspx). Anti-malaria medicine is required. We will check to make sure that everyone is taking his or her malaria medicine. However, even though there are hazards in Tanzania, you won’t necessarily encounter them. Some can be avoided quite easily, e.g. use mosquito nets at night to minimize malaria exposure, use hats and sun block when outside during the day, and don’t swim or wade in stagnant water.

- **How close will we be to hospital facilities?**
  There are local clinics, no more than ½ hour away, for minor problems. St. Francis Hospital, in Ifakara, is about 1 hour away. There is a good network of local private clinics where we can seek help in case of serious problems. You will be required to carry health insurance approved by the Office of Global Programs to cover any care and repatriation that might be needed.

- **How safe is Tanzania?**
  There can be serious crime in Tanzania but in general it is safe, especially in rural areas and if you take the usual precautions—don’t carry much cash in cities, never wander around alone, lock your valuables up whenever possible, be more careful at night. Become aware of Tanzania laws and customs to avoid surprises. See [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1038.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1038.html) for more information.

What will be the likely things that we should purchase in order to be prepared for the trip?

- **Clothing and other gear?** We’ll cover all this later

Misc:

- **Phones and internet access.**
  We will provide local phones for project use—you’ll buy your own minutes. Internet at the Udzungwa Monitoring Centre will be via cell modems—low speed and not always reliable. You will be able to communicate by e-mail and telephone but will have the occasional interruption in service and other related problems. We will not always have adequate Internet access to support Skype. Towns, and particularly Dar es Salaam, will have better Internet connections—but we won’t be there very much.

- **Are there scholarships available?**
  The program fee already has already reduced significantly and we are further subsidizing travel expenses. All of your expenses in Tanzania are covered except for personal travel, entertainment, phone calls and souvenirs—and even they can be amazingly reasonably priced. There are numerous scholarship opportunities to help with expenses. See the Office of Global Programs website [http://gpglobalea.gp.psu.edu/](http://gpglobalea.gp.psu.edu/) and look under “Finances.”