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 applied course (crafted to match individual student skills and interests). These count towards PSU 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 classroom 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 often be weekend days when we will need to work.

- **Are planned “field trips” included in the costs?**
  All the field trips are included in the program costs that you pay in the spring. We will also give you a meal *allowance* for when we are traveling.

- **Are there scheduled activities/trips for the weekends?**
  We will be in Morogoro for the first weekend with some free time to explore the town. There will be one trip on safari to Mikumi National Park, a large park with many charismatic animals (giraffes, elephants, impalas, lions, cape buffalos, crocodiles, hippos, etc.), but scheduled during the week this year.

- **What will the other weekends be like? Will we have time to explore on our own/as a group?**
  You will have part of one or two weekends unscheduled. On one of those, you might want to hike, with a guide, to Sanje Falls or other locations in Udzungwa Mountains National Park. *Exploring alone is not permitted and will lead to immediate termination of participation in the program.*

Living arrangements

- **Where will we be staying?**
  In Dar es Salaam we will 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 will 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 will stay in two-person bungalows on the beach (http://www.kilwadreams.com/).

- **Type of food to be expected?**
  There are plenty of great places to eat in the cities and towns. At the Monitoring Centre, we will have our own cooks, who will prepare multi-course breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Food throughout Tanzania will be a combination of familiar items—rice, chicken, tomatoes, carrots—and some Tanzanian offerings such as ugali (maize flour formed into a loaf), cassava, and taro (the last two both root crops), and other new fruits and vegetables.

Study Abroad at Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Tanzania: http://stuckeman.psu.edu/larch/tanzania
Travel

• Mode(s) of transportation?
  From Dar es Salaam, we will be traveling in a small 20-passenger bus. In the field and on safari we will be in 4x4 Toyota Land Cruisers or similar.

• Are we traveling to the location as a group?
  We strongly prefer to travel to Tanzania as a group, because arriving at the airport in a developing country is quite different than arriving at airports in developed countries. Our route will almost certainly be Washington-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 in terms of vaccines: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/tanzania.aspx. Anti-malaria medicine is required on our program. We will check to make sure that everyone is taking malaria medicine. However, even though there are hazards in Tanzania, you will not 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 do not swim or wade in stagnant water.

• How close will we be to hospital facilities?
  There is a local clinic, no more than 10 minutes 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 generally it is safe, especially in rural areas and if you take reasonable precautions—do not carry much cash in cities, never walk around alone, lock up valuables if possible, be more careful at night. Become aware of Tanzania laws and customs to avoid surprises. See the US State Dept. website (http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/tanzania.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 will cover all this later (see Packing List)

Miscellaneous

• Phones and internet access.
  We will provide local phones to share among students—you will buy your own minutes. Internet at the Udzungwa Monitoring Centre will be via cell modems—moderate speed but 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. Recently, students have used their own phones to communicate via Internet connections, using email, Skype, WhatsApp, etc. We will not always have adequate Internet access to support Skype or WhatsApp, but it often will work and we do not usually have problems maintaining reasonable contact with the US and elsewhere. Towns, and particularly Dar es Salaam, will have better Internet connections—but we will not be in towns very often.

• 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 are very reasonably priced. There are numerous scholarship opportunities to help with expenses; see the Office of Global Programs website: https://global.psu.edu/category/travel-grants-scholarships. This year we also will offer financial aid to students who are judged by the College, using U.S. Dept. of Education Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) registration, to demonstrate a need for additional support.