ACCT International Uganda 2015
A course and internship in partnership with the Foundation for Sustainable Development

Frequently Asked Questions

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION
Q: What is ACCT International?
Advancing Community, Collaboration, and Training (ACCT) International combines an academic service-learning course with an on-site internship for full-time graduate students at Indiana University. ACCT International’s mission is to foster collaborative, applied learning and community engagement by applying course instruction to practical issues development professionals face, thereby increasing the knowledge, skills, and capacity of students and international community partners. ACCT International is a student-faculty learning collaborative with students and faculty working together to lead this program at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). The ACCT International team plans coursework, program-marketing efforts, seeks funding opportunities for participants, works closely with the Foundation for Sustainable Development (see below), and continually seeks long-term funding to decrease the cost of the program for future summers.

Q: What is SPEA’s role in the program?
ACCT International’s summer program in Uganda is administered through SPEA’s Office of Overseas Education. Therefore, all application materials must be returned to the SPEA Overseas Office in SPEA 201.

Q: What role does the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) play?
The Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) is responsible for all on-the-ground logistics (including transportation, internships, and housing). The Foundation for Sustainable Development is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 to support underserved, international communities in a collaborative and sustainable manner. It has over 18 years of experience directing and managing international internships. ACCT International and FSD share the same values of sustainable asset-based community development and have formed a strong partnership that assures students will never be without 24hr support while in Uganda. The relationship you will develop with the FSD Masaka team, Anita Mago, Program Director, and Nina Mago, Assistant, will be one of the many highlights of this experience and holds the potential to yield many future positive benefits for your future careers.

COST INFORMATION
Q: How much does ACCT International cost?
The total cost of ACCT International is split between tuition and a program fee. 4 credits of tuition will appear on your summer Bursar bill, charged at the IU Bloomington summer 2015 tuition rate. This rate will vary based on your in-state or out-of-state student status. The program fee for all ACCT participants is $6,230. However, this cost may be reduced if more than 7 students participate in the program. The more students we have, the less costly the program is to you.
Q: Do I need to purchase airfare in addition to tuition and the program fee?
   Yes! Students are responsible for booking their own flight to and from Uganda. After your acceptance into the program, we will provide you with group transportation information from the airport in Entebbe, Uganda to your internship location in Masaka, Uganda. It will then be your responsibility to ensure your flight will arrive before the scheduled airport departure. At the conclusion of the program on August 1, FSD will provide transportation back to the airport. You are then free to travel directly back to the U.S. or extend your stay in the region. As of November 2014, round trip flights Chicago-Entebbe are sitting at around $1,300.

Q: What does the program fee include?
   • Room and board (limited to three meals/day) while in Uganda (10 weeks)
   • Travel to and from the airport in Uganda, including lodging and meals for the night of arrival and departure near Entebbe airport
   • Health insurance through FSD; including medical evacuation if needed
   • Two week orientation, mid-term debrief, continuing education workshops, final debrief
   • $300 Seed Fund grant to support and complete your internship project
   • 24hr support from IU faculty and the FSD Masaka team throughout the 11 week program
   • Cultural excursions
   • Cell phone

Q: Are there additional costs for which I am responsible?
   Yes – you are responsible for:
   • Single-entry visa (was $50 in 2014)
   • Vaccinations/medications (range estimate: $50 - $450 depending on how many vaccinations you have already received and what is covered by your personal medical insurance)
   • Internet airtime (about $30 / 1 gigabite) and cell phone airtime
   • Day-to-day local transportation costs (e.g. to and from host family to host organization, FSD office, personal travel)
   • Extra spending money while in Uganda (e.g. if you want to do some traveling to a national park, for example).
   • Upfront medical costs in Uganda for which you will be reimbursed given the medical insurance you will get through FSD (no deductible required).
   • Optional Internet modem – recommended for course work (approximately $80 for the best modem you can get)
   • Optional traveler’s insurance (many reasonable options such as Travel Guard, Allianz, World Nomad)

Q: This program seems expensive, how does it compare to other SPEA programs?
   When you calculate the cost per student by week, ACCT International-Uganda is one of the cheapest SPEA Overseas Study programs and is the cheapest program in Africa at a cost of roughly $566 per week. Other programs are as much as $2,050 per week. In addition, the ten-week experience of living and working in Uganda, with the academic opportunity to really live what you are studying, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Think long-term investment!
Q: Am I eligible for any scholarships?
Yes. If you are a SPEA graduate student (this includes IUPUI SPEA), you are eligible for an automatic scholarship of $500 from SPEA. Note: per the brochure, getting your application in by Dec 14th will guarantee you this scholarship. The ACCT International leadership team is also preparing a non-exhaustive list of other scholarships and grants for which you can apply.

LIFE IN UGANDA
Q: Where will I live in Uganda?
For the first week in Uganda, you will stay at Hotel Zebra, a very nice hotel on a hill above the town of Masaka and very near the FSD office. Faculty and students will stay at the hotel together. The following nine-weeks you will stay with your host family. This will be a family that the FSD Masaka site team has vetted and with whom they have a good and, often, long-standing relationship.

Q: What’s it like living in a host family?
It is a life-changing experience cross-culturally, personally, and professionally. At first, it may feel a bit awkward as you try to define your place in the family, but your host family is thrilled to have you as their guest, and like most African cultures, guests are treated with great respect and generosity. You will soon start calling your “parents” your host Mom and Dad, and their children and extended family members as “host brothers, sisters, and granny/grandpa.” Living in a host family is a great way to immerse yourself in another culture. You will have the opportunity to engage in cultural activities, learning to cook local food, travel with your host family, play soccer and other games with your host brothers and sisters to name just a few of the many cultural experiences from which you will benefit. You will learn so much about yourself as you interact with your host family and you will have fun learning about new ways of living and doing things!

Q: What is the food like?
The staple in the Ugandan diet is matooke (boiled or mashed green bananas that are delicious!), sauces, greens, plenty of fruits and vegetables. There are also a number of good restaurants in Masaka including those that serve more Western style food.

Q: Will I have my own bedroom and bathroom?
Yes.

Q: What does a typical day look like?
You will work in your host organization Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday. Wednesdays are set aside for course work and skyping with the SPEA Program Director and Advisor. Each day will be different for each student depending on your host organization and when you need to be onsite. You will have breakfast with your host family and then head out to your host organization. Sometimes you will work in the office, sometimes you will be out in the field depending on your internship project and work plan. Weekends are your time. You may travel some with your host family or meet friends in town. There are a number of very nice coffee spots with Internet access that will allow you to sit and work over a period of time.
Q: **What’s the weather like in Masaka in the summer?**
The weather is beautiful most of the time, cool in the mornings and evenings (e.g. 61 degree - bring sweaters) warm (yes, it can get hot, e.g. 80s) during the day. Wet season occurs between Mar – May and Sept – Nov; dry season between June – Aug and Dec – Feb. Please, talk with ACCT 2014 alums for more details.

Q: **What’s it like working in a local NGO?**
Every NGO, like every nonprofit in the US, is different depending on mission, target audience, staff, geographical focus etc... NGOs in Uganda are no different. FSD will make every effort to match your specific areas of interest with an NGO that works in that field. Once you have been accepted into the program, the FSD Masaka team members will interview you to learn more about the type of NGO with which you would like to work. As soon as they have completed the match, they will send you information about your NGO. The ACCT leadership team, ACCT 2014 alums, and FSD will do everything we can, prior to arrival in Masaka and during the two-week orientation, to facilitate the exciting relationship building in which you will be engaged during your 10 week stay in Masaka. A description of last year’s host organizations and student projects is available below. Like any internship experience, there will be challenging times working in a new environment, but you will have 24h support between the FSD Masaka team and IU faculty. We would be happy to connect you to any ACCT 2014 alums if you would like to speak with them further about this.

**COURSE/INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

Q: **What are the course requirements while I am in Uganda?**
Last year’s syllabus is available upon request. This year, the course will not change substantively. We have designed the structure of the course deliberately to allow you time to complete readings and course assignments by setting aside:

- a full week in Uganda with faculty to focus just on course material,
- Wednesdays as a course day when you will skype weekly with faculty and use this day to complete readings and assignments.

In addition to completing all readings, course deliverables include: 5 structured Reading / Field Notes every other week; an internship project work plan; and a final paper. You will also be graded on participation in the course.

Q: **Does this course fulfill any graduation requirements?**
This course should be approved by most academic advisors to count toward your MPA concentration at SPEA. We have not had any problems in the past. For those in the nonprofit concentration, the course is officially approved by the records office as an option for the “Fields” Group elective. For non-SPEA students, please check with your department regarding the availability of using this course toward your degree programs.

All students should talk with their academic advisors; Dr. Thomson, ACCT Program Director, is available to speak with any professor or academic advisor directly should they want more information.
Q: Does the internship fulfill my internship requirement? 
For IUB-SPEA students, this program meets the MPA internship requirement for graduation. However, you will need to individually register your internship through the SPEA Career Development Office (CDO). A step-by-step guide is available upon request. Melodie Martin, Experiential Education Coordinator, CDO, is available to work with students one-on-one but she will also work with ACCT International as a group. Non-SPEA students need to check with their own academic department regarding the internship aspect of this course.

Q: Can I register for additional credits, beyond the 4 required course credits? 
As an IUB SPEA student, you will be able to register the internship for up to 2 credits through the Career Development Office (CDO). This will bring your summer in Uganda up to 6 credits total. For non-SPEA students, please check with your own department’s requirements regarding internship credits.

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS
Q: What about ebola? 
On October 21, 2014, the Office of Overseas Study issued the following PSA on their website: “Officials of the Office of Overseas Study, in conjunction with other Indiana University administrators, are closely monitoring numerous sources about the Ebola virus outbreak, including the CDC Travel Health Notices and the U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings. We do not currently have IU students in any of the most affected countries in West Africa—Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Given the current locations impacted by the virus, we have no plans to change study abroad programming at this time. For more information regarding Indiana University information and resources regarding the Ebola situation, see: http://protect.iu.edu/ehs/ebola/travel. We will update this site as needed.”
Office of Overseas Study, Leo R. Dowling International Center
111 South Jordan Avenue, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405-1223
Ph: 812-855-9304, Fax: 812-855-6452, overseas@iu.edu

For any additional questions, stop in the SPEA Office of Overseas Education in SPEA 201. Or contact the office at 812-856-0796 or jfishba@indiana.edu
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<th>Host Organization</th>
<th>Description of Project</th>
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<td><strong>Kitovu Mobile AIDS Organization:</strong></td>
<td>Worked with a core group of 13 HIV/AIDS youth and their community by partnering with St. Jude’s Farm to teach new hygiene techniques based on a tip-tap system, pig husbandry, and resource preservation. Facilitated the building of a modern piggery structure using local resources and facilitated on-going training for its maintenance.</td>
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<td><strong>Step Up Infant and Primary School:</strong></td>
<td>Partnered with a local savings and loan organization to teach habits of saving among students; started an income-generating baking project; developed a continuing education program for teachers on safe-classroom techniques; created a Facebook page for the school with maintenance training; and developed a mentorship program between older and younger students.</td>
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<td><strong>Gayaza Muliira Primary School:</strong></td>
<td>Developed a new curriculum incorporating physical activity with English language learning; supervised the development of a new playground; coordinated a competitive sports and debate day, showcasing the new playground to the students with broad community turnout and support.</td>
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<td><strong>Masaka Microfinance Cooperative and Development Trust Ltd:</strong></td>
<td>Worked with local farmers to develop a new loan product that would better fit their needs by collecting 75 surveys from local farmers and holding two successful farmer focus groups; developing 7 new agriculture loan products; and designing a resource document to staff to help them understand survey findings and the newly developed loan product.</td>
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<td><strong>Masaka Elders Cooperative Savings and Credit Societies:</strong></td>
<td>Worked with staff to re-build trust in a community where the organization hoped to re-open a failed branch office. Planned and implemented four membership-drive community meetings (total 131 attendees); built capacity of local staff at new branch; prepared future outreach materials (e.g., 200 one-page summaries of savings, loans, and mobile money, ten comprehensive training manuals, monitoring and evaluation tools).</td>
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<td><strong>South Buganda Teachers SACCO:</strong></td>
<td>Developed training materials to improve community understanding of savings, loans, and internal controls for financial institutions; planned and participated in 5 financial management training meetings with a women’s group; created a portfolio for future trainings.</td>
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<td><strong>Support the Elderly Persons:</strong></td>
<td>Completed a questionnaire to guide future surveys; partnered with a local veterinarian to train elders on pig husbandry; facilitated the purchase of piglets for 10 elders in the community and designed an MOU to govern the pig husbandry project; created a Facebook page for the host organization with maintenance training.</td>
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