

PROGRAM INFORMATION & APPLICATION



STERN SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS

Stern International Volunteers Ghana

Trip Dates: May 20, 2015 – June 2, 2015
Spring 2015 | SOIM-UB.2000 (2 credits) | R 9:30 – 10:45 am
www.stern.nyu.edu/siv

About Stern International Volunteers

The Stern International Volunteers was founded in 2007 as an international community service experience designed to bring Stern's four-course Social Impact Core to life. Its successful launch in January 2008 brought a small group of students to San Carlos, Costa Rica, where they worked on an infrastructure project painting an elementary school. And in May 2009, a second group of students traveled to Ayacucho, Peru, where they worked hand-in-hand with the local community to support the needs of the elderly, orphans and child laborers.

Due to the success of the program, we expanded both the size and scope. In May 2010, 2011 and 2012, we returned to Peru with double the number of student volunteers (20). Each group was accompanied by one chaperone from the Stern Undergraduate College administration. Additionally, for the first time, student volunteers were required to participate in a 2-credit pass/fail course that will enrich the learning experience by providing students with multiple lenses for thinking about their experiences while in Peru.

Last year the SIV program shifted its focus to Ghana. An inaugural group of 17 Stern undergraduates and 2 Stern faculty members traveled to Accra Ghana with support provided by the staff at NYU Accra. This trip was also closely connected to an SIV Ghana Spring 2014 Seminar during which students studied aspects of Ghanaian history, political/legal structure, business, human rights and culture. The group's 10 day trip to Accra was extensive - it included business visits, volunteering, cultural excursions and group reflections.

SIV Seminar Course Spring 2015

This year – the 8th year of SIV – we will again travel to Accra, Ghana.

The course is discussion-based. Each week, we will read articles and book excerpts that serve as a springboard for class discussion.

We will again study Ghanaian history, legal systems, business and culture. We will also explore poverty our responsibilities and opportunity for impact as volunteers

In addition we have added a new focus upon ***Social Entrepreneurship*** throughout the course and the trip. During our 2014 trip we were exposed to the many problems facing developing countries but we lacked the tools needed to process our ideas. Exposure to the approach of

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social entrepreneurs will provide our class with a framework for thinking about and implementing change. To this end students will select a social entrepreneurship project related to our trip. Research will take place over the semester and studies made during the course of our trip.

The course will be co-taught by Professor Hans Taparia who is an experienced social entrepreneur (founder of <http://www.tastybite.com/>) and an expert in social entrepreneurship.

This is a **2-credit course**. It counts towards ***Stern's Social Entrepreneurship Minor and Wagner's Public Policy and Management Minor***.

Program Goals

Through involvement in the program, we aspire to:

- broaden students' understanding of the world and its economic and legal disparities
- deepen students' commitment to community service
- heighten students' social, intercultural and legal awareness
- influence students' perspectives on the world as they become future business leaders

Who should apply to the Stern International Volunteers?

Eligible applicants are current, matriculated NYU Stern undergraduate freshmen, sophomores and juniors who will be based in New York City during the spring 2015 semester. Seniors are not eligible because the program extends past graduation.

We are seeking students who are:

- eager to participate in dialogue about global social issues and the role of service
- enthusiastic about interacting with the local communities in Accra, Ghana
- prepared to work as part of a high-performing team
- open to new ideas and experiences

Application Timeline

Wednesday, October 15 (by 5:00pm)	Applications and requests for travel stipend due
Wednesday, October 22 & Friday, October 24	Interviews
Friday, October 31	Notification of Acceptance (with stipend award status)
Monday, November 10	Confirm commitment to program (sign travel documents and pay program fee)
Monday, November 17*	Spring 2015 Registration

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Trip Details & Fees

Tentative Travel Dates

The program will run from May 20 – June 2, 2015. Faculty and students will likely travel on the following itinerary:

- Arrive in Ghana on Tuesday, May 20, 2015
- Depart for USA on Monday, June 2, 2015

Estimated Expenses (for which students are financially responsible)

- Students pay Spring 2015 NYU tuition & fees for the course
- Trip Fee - \$1500
Includes:
 - Transportation from/to airport & for all in country excursions
 - Meals (except during travel to and from Ghana)
 - Housing for 12 days (NYU Accra Dorm & hotels during excursions)
- Airfare to and from Ghana (approx. \$1500 -- book early!)
- Passport Fees (approx. \$75-100 – only if you need a new or renewed passport)
- Visa fees (\$60 - <http://ghana.travisa.com/>)
- Cost of Vaccinations (approx. \$300)
Recommended by the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC recommends several vaccinations when visiting Ghana. NYU's Health Center's Office for Allergy, Immunization & Travel Medicine provides these vaccinations but they are not included in your health plan. We recommend checking with your parents about other insurance coverage but you should factor these costs into your out-of-pocket expenses.
- Personal expenses

*Stipends

A limited number of stipends will be awarded **based on financial need**. Unfortunately, no merit-based stipends will be available. We will make our best effort to notify you if you have been awarded a stipend before you register for the course.

If you wish to apply for a stipend, you will need to have a current FAFSA on file and submit a short statement of need (no more than 300 words) with your application.

How do I apply?

All interested students should complete the application form on the following pages. In addition, all applications must include:

- ◆ Completed application form

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- ◆ Typed responses to two essay questions
- ◆ Statement of need, if applying for a travel stipend

Submitting Your Application

All applications must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2014**. *Please note that applicants must also include their stipend application at this time.* Applications should be dropped off to Skye Weis in Business and Society Program, 40 West Fourth Street, Suite 400.

Finalists will be invited to interview. Interviews will be held **Wednesday, October 22 and Friday, October 24**. Finalists will be required to sign a NYU Travel Waiver, SIV Program Contract, and Travel Code of Conduct outlining expectations and responsibilities, to secure enrollment in the course and participate in the interview process.

Applications will be notified of their acceptance (and stipend award information, if applicable) on **Friday, October 31**.

In order to secure your place in the course, you must submit your program payment (\$1500), signed travel forms, and copy of passport (if available, or copy of submitted passport application) by **November 10**.

*Late and/or incomplete applications **will not** be considered.*

Questions

Questions may be directed to:

Professor Kowal -- rkowal@stern.nyu.edu or Skye Weis -- sweis@stern.nyu.edu

Application for Stern International Volunteers Accra Ghana 2014

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

Student ID#: _____ Sex: _____ Male _____ Female

Currently, I am a: _____ Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior

Cell phone: _____ Stern Email Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Will you be applying for a travel stipend? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you have a valid passport? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, from what country: _____

2. INTERESTS & EXPERIENCE

Major(s): _____

Minor: _____

List activities and organizations you have been involved in, both on- and off-campus (community service, academic, special interest groups, etc.).

*(*Please note, previous community service experience is not a prerequisite for acceptance into this program.)*

Briefly describe your most meaningful extra-curricular or service experience and why.

What, if any, leadership roles/positions have you held?

3. ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please choose **TWO** of the following essays and type your responses on a *separate sheet of paper*. Limit your responses to no more than 400 words per essay.

- 1. Why do you want to participate in the Stern International Volunteers and what do you think you will gain from this experience – academically and personally?
- 2. How does this program relate to your present and future personal, academic or career goals?
- 3. Describe an experience you've had that has influenced your perspective on your role in your community.

4. TRAVEL STIPEND

A limited number of stipends will be awarded based on financial need. You must have a current FAFSA on file. If you wish to apply for a stipend, please submit a short statement of need below (no more than 300 words).
