Lorna’s Majors: International Studies, Agriculture and Applied Economics

Program: CIEE in Ghana, Spring

Academic Life: I took classes in the social sciences: political science, sociology, and fine arts. All of my classes were taught by professors and held once a week for two hours. I also had discussions, or tutorials, once a week. Some classes were large (300 students), some had only 30 students. I was mostly with Ghanaians (except for a few classes taught through CIEE), but each of my classes had at least one other international student. Outside reading and research is expected; professors want to see some self-direction. The class structure is difficult to get used to at first; tests are often based on rote memorization and academic discussions are not an integral part of classroom learning. It really taught me how to function in an academic setting even when I didn’t agree with the structure or method being taught.

Study Abroad and Lorna’s Future Aspirations: I want to work internationally and it really helps to be able to say that I studied abroad. I successfully figured my way out of difficult situation and came back more assertive and self-aware. These are things that employers are looking for. Using the experience is more than just saying “I studied abroad so hire me.” I can pull on specific and unique instances where I was a leader, a problem solver, and a communicator. I think this background will be extremely beneficial as I look to start my career and enter a market filled with other hopeful grads.

“I learned how to communicate in challenging situations and built some amazing friendships I’ll have for the rest of my life.”

Lorna walking the hanging bridges of Kakum National Park.