Congratulations on being selected to participate in the Researching Global Education in Uganda summer program!

This program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbooks or materials you receive from your faculty leader as well as the General IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

This program handbook contains the following information:

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CONTACT INFORMATION

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION
Resident Director:
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On-site phone: TBA

UW-Madison Information
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon St.
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329, Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

Kate Hamoonga
IAP Study Abroad Advisor
(608) 265-6296
hamoonga@studyabroad.wisc.edu

Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Embassy Registration
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at the US Embassy. This is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. STEP also allows Americans residing abroad to get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. https://travelregistration.state.gov

U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda
Plot 1577 Ggaba Road
P.O. Box 7007,
Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 0414 25 97 91 /2/3/5  Fax: 0414 259 794
E-mail: KampalaWebContact@state.gov
Web: http://kampala.usembassy.gov/
PROGRAM DATES

JULY 25 – AUGUST 16 (MORE DETAIL BELOW)

PREPARATION BEFORE LEAVING

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

**Passport:** A passport is needed to travel to Uganda. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website [http://travel.state.gov/passport/](http://travel.state.gov/passport/). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad. You will not be admitted into the country if you do not have this 6-month requirement met.

**Visa:** A passport valid for six months beyond the date of entry, visa and evidence of yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Uganda. Visas are available at Entebbe Airport or may be obtained from the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda. Airline companies may also require that travelers have a visa before boarding so it is recommended that you check with the airline you plan to use. Students can obtain the latest information and details from the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda at [http://www.ugandaembassy.com](http://www.ugandaembassy.com)

**Embassy of the Republic of Uganda, Washington DC:**
[http://www.ugandaembassy.com/visa.html#6](http://www.ugandaembassy.com/visa.html#6)

American nationals holding USA passports need an entry visa for Uganda. If you send away to the embassy before your departure, you will need the following items. However, if you choose to get your visa at the Entebbe airport upon arrival, you will most likely only need proof of vaccine, passport and fee.

**Visa Requirements:**

1. Complete application form
2. 2 passport size photographs
3. Must submit original Passport valid past the date of your expected departure from Uganda.
4. Correct visa fee.
5. Applicants may be requested to submit additional supporting documentation.
6. An international Inoculation Certificate against yellow fever.
7. A **prepaid self-addressed USPS Express Overnight** return envelope **only** must be included with applications sent by mail.

There is a single entry visa fee of $50.00 and it is valid for three months from the date of arrival. Visa fees must be paid in a postal money order payable to UGANDA EMBASSY if obtained from the embassy prior to departure, on submission of visa application. Personal Checks are not accepted. US cash should be used if visa is obtained upon arrival at the Entebbe airport.
HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

The official currency of Uganda is the Uganda Shilling (UGX). During orientation in Kampala you will be taken to exchange some money. It is most effective to use cash while in Uganda, as credit cards are not accepted in most places.

Exchanging Money

Cash can be changed easily at major banks and foreign exchange (Forex) bureaus. The best banks are Stanbic and Barclays Banks. The Forex bureaus sometimes offer slightly better exchange rates than the banks. At both banks and Forex bureaus, small US dollar bills attract a much lower exchange rate than do US$50 and US$100 notes, and the rate for travelers cheques is about 2% lower than they are for cash. If you take money to exchange, take $50 and $100 notes dated 2006 or later. The more recent, the better. Exchange rates in Kampala are up to 15% better than is the case elsewhere in the country, so if you prefer to do cash exchanges stock up on shillings in the capital and lock them in your suitcase when not in Kampala.

Students should be prepared to barter with locals for goods. This is a common practice. During the initial orientation onsite, students will be given rough estimates of what various goods should cost, and there will be help available for pricing purchases.

ATM/Debit cards: The easiest and most convenient way for students to obtain money is to use their ATM card in Uganda. Stanbic Bank has a network of ATMs that accept international credit cards, with branches located throughout the country. Visa ATM cards are much more widely accepted than MasterCard. You should check with your bank/credit union to find out if your ATM card will function properly in Uganda, identify the maximum amount you can withdraw in a day or one week, and learn about any withdrawal fees you may incur. Also, consider taking an extra ATM card in case your card gets demagnetized, lost, or taken by the bank machine.

Credit cards: Credit cards are widely accepted at tourist hotels and lodges and with tourism companies, but are rarely accepted at local stores and restaurants.

Safety with Money

Use the same precautions with money abroad that you would when traveling in any large city in the United States. Be aware of pickpockets in crowded areas and on public transportation. Carry your money and other documents in a money pouch worn inside your clothing. Use the same precautions you take at home when using an ATM; keep your pin number separate from your ATM/debit card and use machines inside banks or other buildings. Maintain a copy of all credit card numbers, traveler check numbers, and any PIN numbers in a safe place, and do not carry these with you at any time. Leave a copy of these documents and a photocopy of the first (photo) page of your passport with your Financial Representative in the United States.

PACKING SUGGESTIONS

- Important documents (passport, emergency contact information, insurance card, ATM card, money, etc.) should be in your carry-on luggage. Also, make sure that you make a copy of important documents and leave them with a friend or family member back home to access in the case of an emergency.
• Take enough prescription medication to last the duration of the program. Keep prescription medications in their original packaging and carry a letter/prescription from your doctor explaining your condition and use of medication. Prescriptions should be packed in your carry-on luggage.
• Leisure clothes (long skirts, loose long pants, t-shirts, casual shoes)
• Comfortable walking shoes (also shoes for rain)
• Sandals (but not flip-flops)
• Jacket, fleece or light sweater
• Water drinking bottle
• First aid kit: Pain reliever, band-aids/ointment for cuts, diarrhea medicine (pepto)
• Sunblock, lipbalm, hat and sunglasses for protection from harmful effects of UV sun rays.
• Antibacterial hand wipes or alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
• Insect repellent
• Towel
• Camera (and binoculars if you want them for the game drive)
• Luggage lock
• Clothes: skirts/dresses below the knee for women, shorts/pants for men
• Rain jacket
• Small bag for day/weekend trips
• Flashlight and batteries
• Computer
• Valuable items, expensive jewelry, and items that cannot be replaced should be left at home.

Electronics
Voltage in Uganda is 220-240. A converter should be purchased to convert voltage if your appliances/electronics don’t have 140/220 capacity. You will also need an adapter to be able to plug in your items. Adapters can be purchased from outdoor and travel stores. It is best to bring a number of rechargeable batteries since electricity may not be entirely reliable. If you are planning on using standard batteries, bring some with you as the batteries are not as good in Uganda.

TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL

Flight
You will need to book your own flight but will be given a specified time window in which to arrive. This means that many of you will likely be on the same flight. Please do not purchase your air ticket until you receive this information.

Arrival
You will receive more information regarding arrival details at a later date.
THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Schedule:
7/26   Arrive Uganda, to Mukono
7/26- 7/28 Mukono
7/29   to Kampala
7/30   school visits in Kampala (elite, pre, boarding, Muslim, Presbyterian, Catholic)
7/31- 8/1 Queen Elizabeth National Park
8/2 (Sun) Return to Kampala
8/3- 8/7 Makerere Class/afternoon excursions
8/8 (Sat) Jinja/Ssezibwa Falls
8/9 (Sun) Museum & Ndere Troupe
8/10-8/14 Makerere Class/afternoon excursions
8/15   Return to US

More specific information regarding course expectations and grading will be provided in your course syllabus.

COURSE INFORMATION

Students will earn three (3) credits in Curriculum & Instruction 675 on a summer transcript. IAP will register you for the course. There are no additional registration procedures you must take.

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit
Students cannot take this course pass/fail.

LIVING ABROAD

KAMPALA

Near the banks of Lake Victoria, Kampala, the capital of Uganda, is a lively city with a long history. Before the British, the city was the capital of the Buganda Kingdom, and remains so to this day. The city sits on several hills, each housing an important government or religious building. Kasubi Hill is the home of the Kasubi Tombs, a sacred burial ground of Buganda Kings. The Uganda Museum sits atop Kololo Hill, and features a hands-on collection of traditional musical instruments.

HOUSING

In the center of campus, Makarere University has a Guest House where you will stay for most of the program. You will share a double room, and the Guest House has a restaurant. Additionally, there are a number of other restaurants on campus and nearby. Breakfast is included in the
program and is served at the hotel. The Education Building is an easy walk from the Guest House, as are sites of interest in the city itself. In Mukono you will stay at a Guest House near the school. Breakfast is provided, and other meals will be prepared communally at the house. There are stalls, an open market, and shops where food may be purchased.

HEALTH
All students should visit a travel health clinic to obtain all necessary immunizations and prophylactic medication at least one month prior to travel. Evidence of yellow fever vaccination is required to enter Uganda. Students should consult the Center for Disease Control and their physician to determine other vaccinations and/or other health precautions they need to take after acceptance to the program.

Students are encouraged to drink large quantities of water. Past students have noted that it may be difficult to obtain medications for rashes, urinary tract infections, and yeast infections and have suggesting students bringing these to Uganda if they are susceptible to these conditions.

Malaria is prevalent in Uganda and all students are expected to take antimalarial prophylactic medications. Travelers who become ill with a fever or flu-like illness while traveling in a malaria-risk area and up to one year after returning home should seek prompt medical attention and tell a physician their travel history and what antimalarials they have been taking. For additional information on malaria, including protective measures, see the CDC Travelers’ Health web pages at http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control at http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel.

Alcohol and drug use
Cross-cultural differences exist in the consumption of alcohol. Depending on your host country, you may find the availability and public consumption of alcohol greatly increased or decreased. Often, rules about the acceptability of alcohol use in certain situations or contexts are very different than in the United States. Excessive drinking can impact your health during the program, impair judgment, lead to risk or harm to yourself or others and have an effect on your academic performance.

Penalties for use or possession of illegal drugs can include jail terms, hard labor, and even the death penalty. Neither the U.S. Embassy nor the program offices are able to exercise effective pressure to moderate these penalties. If you are arrested, you are subject to the host country’s laws and neither the UW-Madison’s IAP office nor the U.S. Embassy can protect you from the local legal consequences. While on an IAP study abroad program, you are responsible for obeying all local laws. If IAP learns that program participants are using drugs or breaking other local laws, participants will be confronted and may be asked to leave the program.
SAFETY

Common crimes are generally crimes of opportunity rather than planned attacks. These include, but are not limited to: thefts from vehicles, thefts of property from residences, residential break-ins, strong-armed robberies, pickpocketing, and theft from hotel rooms. ATM and counterfeiting crimes are also not uncommon. Crime can occur anywhere and at anytime.

Road travel should always be done during daytime hours as Uganda has high incidents of traffic accidents.

While Uganda is generally viewed as a safe, secure, and politically stable country within the region, its extensive and porous borders are inadequately policed, allowing for a robust flow of illicit trade and immigration.

Anti-Homosexuality Act and Implications for Travelers

On February 24, 2014, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni signed and enacted the Anti-Homosexuality Act. The new law sets life imprisonment as the penalty for a homosexual act in which one of the partners is infected with HIV, for sex with minors and the disabled, and for repeated sexual offenses among consenting adults. Also, the law allows for imprisonment for up to seven years of anyone who "attempts to promote or in any way abets homosexuality and related practices." The law could affect the exercise of the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly of those who may wish to express support for the human rights of LGBT persons. The U.S. Government understands this law applies to both Ugandan citizens and foreigners in Uganda. With rising numbers of arrests of alleged LGBT individuals on sodomy and other charges, LGBT individuals – or suspected LGBT individuals – could face harassment, imprisonment, blackmail, and/or violence from independent actors who view the law as giving license to attack and victimize individuals they suspect of homosexuality. In August 2014 Ugandan court ruled the law unconstitutional, but this doesn’t mean that anti-homosexual sentiment and retribution could not be enacted at any time.

Recommendations for LGBT Travelers to Uganda (Adapted from the US State Department recommendations)

- Become aware of restrictions surrounding freedom of expression and association as it pertains to LGBT communities
- Avoid confrontations or remove yourself from potentially unsafe situations related to LGBT issues
- Avoid displays of affection in public – especially towards the same sex.
- Be wary of “newfound friends” who could be vigilantes trying to exploit LGBT travelers
- Be aware of the difference in cultural perceptions and behavioral signals around LGBT people between Africa and the U.S.
- Be aware of local cultural attitudes, such as the belief that homosexuality is “un-African,” that it is imported from developed nations, that it does not exist in Africa, or that it is “immoral”
- Be mindful that some hotels, especially in rural areas, won’t accept bookings from same-sex couples.
Avoid visiting chat rooms or other meeting spaces that might be geared towards the LGBT community. Police have been known to monitor such sites and locales.

TRANSPORTATION

The main modes of transportation while in Uganda are walking and public taxis called matatus. Students should bring adequate walking shoes. Although motorcycle taxis called boda bodas are abundant in Kampala and throughout the country, they are very dangerous and the cause of many serious accidents. Drivers are usually not licensed, and the vehicles are not registered or insured. Students are not allowed to use this form of transportation while participating in this course. CISI insurance does not cover accidents resulting from motorcycle use.

COMMUNICATION

Telephone: When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial 000 plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number.

*For example, to call IAP, you would dial: 000 1 608 265 6329
To call Uganda from the United States, dial 011, 256 (the country code for Uganda), and the phone number, minus the initial zero. Some of steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

Internet: There is wifi available at the Makerere Guest House. You may also purchase an “Orange stick” that looks like a thumb drive, inserts into the USB port of your computer, and will provide good quality internet access anywhere in the country.

Skype: Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing.

To create a Skype account, users must download the application from [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends' Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that’s required for calls to another computer.

Websites of Interest:

- International Academic Programs (IAP) at UW-Madison: [www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)

- General Orientation Information: [www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/index.html](http://www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/index.html)
  (includes topics such as culture shock, international travel, etc.)
U.S. State Department:
travel.state.gov

Center for Disease Control:
www.cdc.gov/travel/

Current Exchange Rates:
www.x-rates.com

The Daily Monitor (Ugandan Newspaper in English):
http://www.monitor.co.ug/

Ugandan Tourism:
http://www.ugandatourism.org/