



**Johns Hopkins University & Makerere University**  
**Study Abroad Program**  
**Intersession January 2016**



# **Childhood, Health and Society in Uganda**

## **Urban and Rural Strengths and Challenges**

*Explore the social, cultural, and political context of childhood in Uganda.* JHU students will be teamed with students from Uganda's Makerere University for a unique peer-to-peer learning experience. Students will learn about the strengths and challenges faced by urban and rural child health and education initiatives in Uganda. Students will first travel to the Rakai District of Uganda to examine health and education issues in a rural setting; then spend time in an urban setting in Kampala, the country's capital, for hospital and school tours, guest lectures, student-driven site visits and volunteer opportunities. The rural component incorporates a 6-night homestay, a community-driven service-learning project, and a visit to The Rakai Health Sciences Program--a world-class public health research facility. Students will also experience an adventure-filled safari in one of Uganda's renowned National Parks.

### **Course Overview**

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The Johns Hopkins (JHU) Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Public Health Studies Program (KSAS PHS) offers a study abroad program in Uganda focused on child development in the Ugandan context. Participants will engage with local researchers, practitioners, community members, and peers at Makerere University to critically examine initiatives serving children from the time period spanning in-utero through adolescence. Through site visits, lectures, service-learning projects, participatory engagement, peer-to-peer dialog, reflection sessions, and a final presentation, students will learn about the strengths and challenges of urban and rural child health and education initiatives.

Employing experiential education methodologies, students will explore the implementation and outcomes of maternal health programs, healthy newborn initiatives, health campaigns, education options, orphanages and remand homes. Students from KSAS and Makerere University will explore collaborative strategies and develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing public health and education institutions serving youth.

The JHU/Makerere intersession will be a mutually beneficial program that brings together two different, but complimentary, peer student groups: 1) undergraduates in JHU public health, and 2) undergraduate public health students from Makerere University. All students will receive 3 credits for participation in orientation activities and the 3.5-week study abroad program.

#### **Course Objectives**

- Describe strengths and weaknesses of child development initiatives in Uganda
- Compare differences in urban and rural child health and education issues
- Describe the challenges faced by urban and rural children in Uganda as they progress from birth to adolescence
- Learn about international public health, education and child development from a Ugandan perspective
- Explore perspectives across disciplines, cultures and geographical boundaries

#### **Program Objectives**

- Encourage collaborative problem-solving through hands-on service-learning experiences and dialogue
- Encourage interdisciplinary approaches to health and education challenges locally and abroad
- Facilitate students' global citizenship through meaningful cross-cultural interactions
- Foster the institutional relationship between JHU and Makerere

### **Academics**

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Assessment based on participation (30%), readings (10%), thematic project & presentation (30%), reflections & blogs (30%)

## Participation

Students are expected to participate in all aspects of the program, including pre-orientation and orientation activities. For JHU students, orientation will include a two-day pre-intersessions seminar, including:

- *Orientation*: discussions and enjoyable activities on topics of students' expectations, Ugandan culture, safety, personal objectives and responsible engagement with vulnerable populations.
- *Online exchange with Ugandan partners*: students will Skype with their Ugandan partners prior to departure.
- *Reflection*: students will write a one-page reflection on their goals for the intersession.

## Readings

Readings will be provided to give empirical evidence, theoretical underpinnings and geographical context to the sessions. Some readings will be posted online prior to the course start date; others will be assigned/distributed in Uganda. Students are expected to complete a set of general readings in order to facilitate their understanding of Ugandan culture and society and the situation of youth there, and to use specific thematic readings in the preparation of their thematic project. See below for a list of all readings organized by theme.

## On Site in Uganda

- *Participation*: Teambuilding and cultural sensitivity activities will be integrated throughout the intersession.
- *Thematic Project and Final Presentation*: Students will be organized in study teams consisting of two JHU students and one Makerere student. Each team will focus on one topic of interest, and, through readings, participatory engagement and experiential methodologies, gather information for a final presentation to Makerere University faculty at the end of the intersession. The presentation can include theoretical and empirical data from readings to support the perspectives that students form from their experiential explorations during the intersession. Presentations should also include reflections on the peer-to-peer learning and cross-disciplinary emphasis of this program. Throughout the intersession, students are required to keep a journal that documents the sites visited, individuals spoken with, questions asked, and observations made.

Themes include:

1. Malaria /Childhood Illnesses
2. Nutrition
3. HIV/AIDS
4. Orphans and Vulnerable Children
5. Maternal Health

- *Group reflections and blogs*: each Ugandan/American student team will be required to facilitate one group reflection session during the course of the intersession. Topics will be determined in collaboration with faculty advisors. Reflection sessions will occur daily, with the length depending on the activity to be debriefed. This student pair is then required to blog about the subject of their reflection session on the provided computer with internet access. All blogs will be posted to the JHU website and may be submitted to local newspapers in Kampala.

## Travel Itinerary and Academic Themes & Activities

	Date	Activity
Friday	1-Jan	Students arrive before 6pm prepared to spend 1 night at Baltimore International Hostel Dinner as a group at a nearby eatery.
Saturday	2-Jan	Breakfast at BIH Very early morning departure from Baltimore International Hostel for 10:15AM flight from IAD to EBB
Sunday	3-Jan	Arrive in Kampala at 1:30PM; head to Ndere Centre: Home of Cultures, where we will be staying. Rest/ shower Welcome Dinner with Makerere students at the Ndere show at 6PM
Monday	4-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Welcome remarks from Dr. Serwadda at 10am Orientation--teambuilding with Makerere students in Kampala Lunch at Ndere.

		Owino Market scavenger hunt Sleep in Kampala
Tuesday	5-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Orientation—Culture Shock, Cultural Exchange, Responsible Tourism, Group Dynamics Planning independent study groups (Form your hypotheses now. Think about the things you want to see/ask.) Lunch at Ndere ½ day at Toru-wu. Dinner at Toru-wu. REFLECTION SESSION #1: Eric, Mieka, and Aloysius Sleep at Ndere
Wednesday	6-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Travel to Kalisizo, Rakai District Homestay welcome luncheon First evening with homestay family Dinner with family Sleep in homestay
Thursday	7-Jan	Breakfast with homestay family Gather for check-in reflection session at RHSP Lecture of the history of RHSP Tour of Rakai Health Sciences Program – 25+ years of Clinical Practice and Research Lunch at RHSP Visit to nearby village (eg. fishing village, active rural research site) Dinner/Evening with homestay family
Friday	8-Jan	Breakfast with homestay family Small teams explore independent study topic with local experts/guides REFLECTION SESSION #2: Eric, Mieka, and Aloysius Lunch at RHSP Dinner/Evening with homestay family
Saturday	9-Jan	Breakfast with homestay family Service project Lunch on site at service project Dinner/Evening with homestay family
Sunday	10-Jan	Breakfast & lunch with homestay family Shadow homestay family (attending church or other family activities) REFLECTION SESSION #3: Group 1
Monday	11-Jan	Shadow homestay family all day to explore facets of independent topic through participant observation. (farming, cooking, shopping etc.) Farewell party/dinner
Tuesday	12-Jan	Breakfast and goodbyes with family Lunch/ quick stop in Masaka Drive to Lake Mburo National Park Dinner at Lake Mburo
Wednesday	13-Jan	Breakfast at Lake Mburo Walking safari and water safari at Lake Mburo National Park REFLECTION SESSION #4: Eric, Mieka, and Aloysius Sleep at Lake Mburo National Park
Thursday	14-Jan	Breakfast at Lake Mburo Drive to Kampala Lunch at Ndere Ugandan Health System Lecture at Ndere Dinner at Ndere REFLECTION SESSION #5: Group 2 Sleep in Kampala
Friday	15-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Center Tours and informational interviews at MU-JHU Research and Mulago Hospital Lunch in Makerere School of Public Health Seminar Room REFLECTION SESSION #6: Group 3 Computer Lab time for presentation prep and making plans for independent day on Monday Dinner at Haandi.

Saturday	16-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Service at Sanyu Babies Home in AM Lunch and souvenirs at Sanyu Service at Love to Love in PM REFLECTION SESSION #7: Group 4 Dinner at Ndere Sleep in Kampala
Sunday	17-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Free day to relax, shop, explore guided by student-peers in Kampala Lunch/Dinner at local eateries Sleep in Kampala
Monday	18-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Exploring independent study topics with small teams in and around Kampala Lunch at local eateries REFLECTION SESSION #8: Group 5 Dinner at Ndere Sleep at Ndere
Tuesday	19-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Visit to St. Sylvia's School in Kampala Lunch at eatery near Mulago Time to finalize presentations REFLECTION SESSION #9: Group 6 Presentation rehearsals with Eric, Aloysius and Mieka Dinner at Ndere
Wednesday	20-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Follow up with connections made here or visit National Theatre Craft Market. Lunch at Makerere Presentations to Makerere faculty Free time Final goodbye dinner at Piato sponsored by the Dean of Makerere School of Public Health Sleep at Ndere
Thursday	21-Jan	Breakfast at Ndere Depart early for final excursion Dinner at lodging site Bead ceremony Sleep at lodging site
Friday	Jan-22	Breakfast at lodging site Lunch in Entebbe Depart in afternoon from Entebbe airport

## Course Instructors

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## Literature/Resources

*Please note that some readings appear under more than one category.*

### General Readings:

Garbus, L. & Marseille, E. (2003). HIV/AIDS in Uganda. Country AIDS Policy Analysis Project, AIDS Policy Research Center. San Francisco, California: University of California San Francisco.  
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<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=8251389&fileId=S0266462311000055>  
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<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/672240-ugandan-women-with-hiv-die-faster-than-men.html>

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/652981-mother-to-child-hiv-transmission-falling.html>

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/Full-Woman/Arua-women-are-tackling-maternal-health-issues/-/689842/2906298/-/x8t4q6z/-/index.html>

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<http://www.savethechildren.org>

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