

STUDY ABROAD

SUMMER 2023

STUDENT REFLECTIONS



MY NAME IS PARIYAH EVANS, AND I AM A SENIOR CONCENTRATING IN HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY. I studied abroad in Ghana with ASU Professor Dr. Tony Owusu-Ansah. While there, I took a Cultural Diversity in Communications course that fulfilled requirements towards my graduation. We had the opportunity to engage in cultural immersion activities such as traditional dances, music, traveling to local markets, and visiting the University of Ghana, SOS, and a few junior high schools. The study abroad trip emphasized community engagement and social responsibility. Through this experience it allowed me to form meaningful connections with local communities and contribute to positive change.

Armed with knowledge and excitement, I arrived in Accra, Ghana's capital. Our first destination was Cape Coast, a coastal city with profound historical significance. We visited the Cape Coast Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which served as a prominent hub for the transatlantic slave trade. The experience was emotionally challenging, as we learned about the atrocities committed within those walls. Yet, it was quite a reminder of the importance of understanding history to prevent its repetition. Our next stop was Kumasi, the cultural capital of Ghana. Here, we delved deep into the vibrant traditions and heritage of the Ashanti people. One of the highlights was visiting the Manhyia Palace Museum, where we learned about the Ashanti monarchy and its history. The museum provided valuable insights into the role of traditional leadership in modern Ghana. We also witnessed a traditional Ashanti festival, a captivating ceremony that showcased the importance of rituals in Ashanti culture. The vibrant Kente cloth and rhythmic drumming left an indelible impression on everyone.

We stayed with a host family member, which allowed me to experience daily life in Ghana firsthand. This experience fostered lasting friendships and expanded my worldview. My study abroad trip to Ghana, Cape Coast, and Kumasi was a journey of self-discovery, cultural enlightenment, and academic growth. It challenged my preconceptions, broadened my horizons, and ignited a passion for global understanding. I will forever cherish the memories of this transformative experience, and I am grateful for the profound impact it has had on my life. Traveling to Ghana was by far the highlight of my summer and one of the greatest experiences of my life. This trip enhanced cross-cultural understanding in the Ghanaian culture, explored historical landmarks, and engaged in academic activities and mini contributions to local communities. Ghana will always hold a special place in my heart, and I hope to return one day to continue exploring its rich culture and history.

