



program snapshot

- Community health practicum in rural clinics and urban community service project
- Innovative course that examines HIV/AIDS and other community health issues in Botswana
- Opportunity to work with local public health experts
- Excursions to places such as the Mokolodi Nature Reserve; optional excursion to Chobe National Park or the Okavango River Delta; and cultural activities in and around Gaborone

what you'll learn

The Community Public Health summer program provides an introduction to basic healthcare issues in Botswana. Through coursework, a community health practicum, homestays, and a rich and challenging social environment, students gain a holistic appreciation and understanding of health and healthcare in Botswana. In addition, the program helps equip students with basic Setswana-speaking skills. This is accomplished through a communicative and interactive approach that ensures students have the basic language skills to engage the local communities.

thoughts from abroad

The healthcare problems that plague many African nations not only impact Africa, but the world at large. Botswana's push to provide pioneering treatments and research to its citizens is inspirational and sets the country apart as a successful model for thoughtful healthcare intervention. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, however, seems to be negating all of the gains the country has made since 1966, when Botswana achieved its independence from the British. Notwithstanding the effects of HIV/AIDS, the government of Botswana in general and the Ministry of Health in particular, have been proactive in the fight against HIV/AIDS and other diseases. This proactive focus presents students an opportunity to critically appraise some of the issues that developing nations face in their efforts to provide sustainable public healthcare.

— Batsirai Chidzodzo, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Batsirai Chidzodzo received his B.A. from the University of Zimbabwe and holds a Diploma in Personnel Management from the Institute of Personnel Management of Zimbabwe. He recently completed an M.B.A. at De Montfort University, where he was recognized for his thesis focusing on the flight of intellectual capital from Zimbabwe. A native of Zimbabwe, Batsirai has spent over 10 years working with U.S. study abroad programs in Zimbabwe and Botswana. Batsirai's research interests include the history and politics of Southern Africa in relation to global political history.



about gaborone

Botswana is one of Africa's most stable countries and a multiparty democracy. It is unusual in that the majority of its population is from a single ethnic group, the Tswana. Gaborone, its capital and one of Africa's fastest growing cities, lies in southeastern Botswana, close to the border of South Africa. In addition to the main campus of the University of Botswana, Gaborone also hosts the headquarters of the 14-nation Southern African Development Community, which focuses on regional development, economic growth, and poverty alleviation.

academics

Academic Program

This seven-week program consists of five weeks of coursework, a language and culture practicum, and a weeklong field placement in a rural clinic. Students also engage in an urban community service practicum in and around Gaborone as part of the academic curriculum. Students gain a holistic appreciation and understanding of health and healthcare, and obstacles impeding the successful development of sustainable public healthcare. In addition, the program helps equip students with basic Setswana-speaking skills.

Academic Culture

The University of Botswana (UB) is a relatively young institution and, like other universities in the region, has limited resources compared to most U.S. colleges and universities.

The summer courses have been designed by CIEE in conjunction with the University's Department of Environmental Health. All coursework is conducted in English with the exception of the Setswana Language and Culture Practicum. Students should be prepared for a style of teaching that is more formal and technical, tends to rely solely on lectures, and emphasizes memorization. Readings are typically assigned in class. The practicum may involve independent research, hands-on training, journal writing, and presentations.

Students take the Public and Environmental Health course every morning Monday through Friday for two hours each day. The Community Health Practicum combines lectures with a local service practicum, and includes a week at a rural Botswana health clinic. The practicum features a mix of lectures, tutorials, seminars, and field work.

Nature of Classes

Participants take classes with other CIEE students only.

Grading System

UB courses typically utilize a continuous assessment model that includes written assignments, projects, research exercises, essays, and written and oral examinations. Students are graded on a percentage scale, a letter grade (A-F), and a grade point scale. The Language and Culture Practicum and the Community Health Practicum are assessed through student journals, classroom and field-based projects, and presentations.



where you'll study

Established in 1982, the University of Botswana has a student population of 15,000 and a staff of over 2,000. The University's vision is to be a leading center of academic excellence in Africa and the world; its mission is to improve economic and social conditions for the Nation, while advancing itself as a distinctively African university with a regional and international outlook. The University is committed to its students, to academic freedom and integrity, to cultural authenticity, and to internationalism. It comprises six faculties, a School of Graduate Studies, and five academic centers.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing is included in the program fee. Students live in single room apartment-style residences on the University of Botswana campus, or with homestay families within the immediate neighborhoods of campus.

Students who live in UB residences can either cook in their apartment or eat at local restaurants and cafés. Meals are not included in the program fee for those living in a University residence. Students who live in homestays take their meals at their place of residence. Lunches during the week are not included in the homestay option and are the responsibility of the student.

The last week of the program is spent in a rural village where students live with local host families.

Orientation

A three-day orientation session at the beginning of the program introduces students to the city of Gaborone, the country of Botswana, and the program. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students have access to computers in the UB library and local Internet cafés.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The program includes guided visits to sites of historic and cultural importance in and around Gaborone, including a weekend camping trip to Mmankgodi Village and a safari drive in the Mokolodi Nature Reserve.

In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in an optional field trip either to the Okavango River Delta or Chobe National Park in the northern parts of the country. This optional field trip occurs at the end of the program and requires an additional fee.

costs

CIEE Fees

Summer 2009: \$6,500

Summer 2010: available 12/15/09

The CIEE fees for 2010 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, most meals in the homestay option, orientation, cultural activities, field trips (including a weekend camping trip to Mmankgodi Village and a safari drive in the Mokolodi Nature Reserve), a comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2009)

Transportation	\$ 2,000
(round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	
Personal Expenses	\$ 1,000
Meals (university residence)*	\$ 500
Books and Supplies	\$ 50
Local Transportation	\$ 150
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 3,700

*Students in a homestay should budget \$200 for lunches.

Check our website for current fees.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- College-level coursework in public health recommended

duration

7 weeks: early June–late July



coursework

Program Requirements

Students are required to take all three courses: the Setswana Language and Culture Practicum, Public and Environmental Health Issues in Botswana, and the Community Health Practicum.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the summer program is 8 semester/12 quarter hours.

Contact hours for the required Public and Environmental Health course and Community Health Practicum are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours. The Setswana Language and Culture Practicum has 30 contact hours and recommended credit of 2 semester/3.5 quarter hours.

Languages of Instruction

English, Setswana

Faculty

The Community Health Practicum and Public and Environmental Health courses are taught by faculty from the University of Botswana. The Language and Culture Practicum is taught by CIEE staff.



courses

Required CIEE Courses

AFST 1001 BOTU

Setswana Language and Culture Practicum

This course introduces students to the history, culture, and language of Botswana and is designed to give students an opportunity to engage the local community in a variety of ways. In addition to providing students basic Setswana language training, the course utilizes a combination of classroom and field-based activities to help students develop a deeper and more meaningful understanding and appreciation of the local society, as well as some of the health issues that Botswana is grappling with today. *Instructor: Batsirai Chidzodzo, CIEE Resident Director*

PUBH 3001 BOTU

Public and Environmental Health Issues in Botswana

This course addresses scientific and social problems of health and illness in general and in Botswana, specifically. It covers concepts of public health with a focus on the health/illness process and its relationship to health management, policies, and coverage. Also discussed are the technical and scientific tools used to study health, the social and biological factors involved in illness, doctor/patient relationships, and international health issues. *Instructor: Mothusi Mohutsiwa*

PUBH 3002 BOTU

Community Health Practicum

This course introduces students to the multidimensional nature of health, health and preventive medicine programs, and primary healthcare administration through involvement in health-related community service. Students are assigned field placements with local health promoters in marginalized neighborhoods in and around Gaborone. Through observation and discussions with local healthcare professionals, students gain a better understanding of current health problems and hazards in Botswana, assist with the organization and coordination of public health outreach programs, and help assess the impact of environmental factors, including waste and water supply management, on human health. Toward the end of the program, students spend a week at a rural clinic for purposes of investigation, observation, and community education. A final project is based in part upon the two field experiences. *Instructor: Dr. Reginald Matchaba-Hove*

