

GHANA

**FROM GRAND
RAPIDS...**



**TO ACCRA... THE
CAPITAL OF GHANA...**



**TO WINNEBA... YOUR
HOME AWAY FROM
HOME.**

FUND YOUR TRIP



Abwaaba! Means Welcome!

Hello! My name is Mason Villanueva! I was a participant on the Ghana Honors Study Abroad Trip in 2015. This is a faculty-led program focused around service learning. What is service learning you may ask? Well let me tell you, most people don't realize it but service learning means that you actually get to do stuff! You will not be going to another country and just sitting in a classroom like you do in Allendale. Instead you only have to sit in a classroom for one week! But do not worry, the class is really great because it introduces you to Ghana and teaches you how to think critically about social issues. You will also learn about how non-profits work to make a difference in the world. For the rest of the trip, you spend the remaining six

**If I can fund my
trip... so can you!
Come experience
Ghana!**

weeks on a project that you are interested in/pertains to your future career. I am an Allied Health Sciences Major with an emphasis in Pre-Physician Assistant Studies and a double minor in Biology and Dance. Thus, I chose to do the medical project. We did rotations in five different locations in Winneba and its surrounding areas. While we were in the hospitals we did a combination of shadowing and volunteering. Overall, this trip was one of the most challenging things I have taken on. And it was so worth it. I learned more during my summer in Ghana than any other summer of my life. So go and explore Ghana, and do not let funding stop you. Because it almost stopped me, but I used the resources GV offers and had the incredible blessing of receiving the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. Do not worry about funding because GV has got your back. There are so many resources available to you. Go to Janaan Anderson in the Honors College and go to Nick Bromley in Financial Aide. Go to the Fellowships Office and they will tell you all about funding opportunities. Go to the Writing Center to help you with essays. Oh... and go to Ghana!

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

What is the Gilman Scholarship? Well, the Gilman Scholarship Program aims to diversify the students who study and intern abroad, as well as the countries and regions where they go. They do this by offering awards to U.S. undergraduates who might not participate due to financial constraints. (<http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program>) Basically they are an organization that exists to help fund your study abroad dreams! The organization is able to fund study abroad trips because of the sponsorship by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. There are several qualifications, but if you are going to Grand Valley State University and looking at this program you already have two down. Another very important requirement is that you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. This grant qualifies you for what Gilman means by “financial constraints.” An awesome component of this scholarship is that you do a follow-up service project when you get back from abroad. It is a way to both process your trip and make a difference by bringing it home with you. My project is partially what you are reading now! I have talked with many perspective Ghana-trip students about both the trip and the funding, and I also spoke to all of the Honors College’s incoming freshman during welcome week for the Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships. Now I’m promoting the trip and Gilman through both this flyer and attending study abroad fairs! I had so much help along the way (including coming up with my follow-up service project) and I hope I can be of help to you!

*My Name is
Mason Villanueva*



Feel free to contact:

Me via email at:
villanum@mail.gvsu.edu
or

The program director
Scott Stabler at:
stablers@gvsu.edu

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