

# STUDY ABROAD

SUMMER 2023

STUDENT REFLECTIONS



**MY NAME IS WESTLEY SPEARS, AND I AM A SENIOR CONCENTRATING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY.** I had the astonishing opportunity to visit Ghana, a nation with a one-of-a-kind history and culture. Dr. Tony Owusu-Ansah, a specialist with years of experience, oversaw the program during my stay. Through my classes, I had the chance to memorize Ghana's numerous political frameworks, governments, and worldwide relations. This was an incredible opportunity to see politics' effect on people's lives and communities up close.

One of the cultural excursions I went on was to Elmina Castle, a historical location that chronicled the destructive repercussions of colonization and the transatlantic slave trade. This occurrence was directly related to the material I learned in my studies since it illustrated the impact of political decisions and power relationships in such heinous acts against others. It was a sharp reminder of the need for moral and respectable political conduct and were a critical portion of the educational modules. This was crucial for my study of political science.

The social trips instructed me about the versatility of the Ghanaians, their wealthy social legacy, and the significance of recalling the past and learning from it. These interactions broadened my perspective and deepened my comprehension of how politics impacts individuals and communities. We took cultural tours, such as visits to Elmina Castle, Cape Coast Castle and excursions to learn about Ghana's natural splendors. As a political science understudy, it was significant for me to have a careful understanding of the nation I was investigating. Studying abroad in Ghana changed my life. It made a difference in my development as an individual, gave me a more profound appreciation for other societies, and created a more worldwide perspective.

In my opinion, future students who may be hesitant about studying abroad should grasp the opportunity and have an open mind. By studying abroad, you may stretch yourself beyond your comfort zone, gain independence, and get a perspective on the world. You may increase your network, gain knowledge of many cultures, and develop vital skills like adaptability and cross-cultural communication. Studying abroad in Ghana offered me a unique perspective on politics in a new cultural environment, which benefits my career. I presently have first-hand information on the challenges and triumphs of administration in an impoverished nation, information that will be valuable in the future while investigating worldwide political issues.

