
Insight
Global Education

Uganda

Study



Introduction/ Philosophy

A key component of the Semester Abroad Uganda program are the university courses, offered through our partner university in Kampala, Makerere University. As a participant, you will be enrolled as a student at Makerere, one of the top-ranked universities in East Africa. Your Makerere registration fees, tuition, course materials and transcripts are all covered within the program cost. The academic portion of the Uganda program allows you to engage with relevant topics, taught by local professors, while earning transferable upper-level course credits.





The Semester Abroad program’s academic component emphasizes small class sizes, instruction from local Ugandan professors, as well as curriculum tailored to the program themes and location.

The courses are specifically designed for the Semester Abroad program, and include seminar-style discussions and projects that relate to the internship component of the program. After successful completion of the courses, you will receive an internationally accredited transcript from Makerere University, ensuring your credits can be transferred back to your home university.

Courses through the Uganda program are focused on development issues relevant to the context, specifically in the areas of international relations, conflict & recovery. While the courses are offered within the university’s School of Social Science, the content is designed to be accessible to students from all academic backgrounds.



Classes at Makerere University

As a participant in the Semester Abroad Uganda program, you'll be automatically enrolled in two courses at Makerere University, located in central Kampala. You'll spend each Friday on campus at Makerere with your fellow-cohort members.

The first week of classes at Makerere University will include an overview of the course outlines and assignments for the semester, as well as a quick introduction to campus. The courses will include both individual and group essays and presentations, rather than a final exam. The two Uganda program courses offered by Makerere University are:

- IRS 7206: Africa in International Relations
- SSP 7111: Conflict, Post-Conflict Recovery and Development.

Africa in International Relations examines the international relations of African states through the lens of contemporary global politics. It analyses intra-African relations, interaction of African states with the global system, and the interplay of domestic and external factors in modern Africa. The course seeks to expose students to contemporary issues and debates in African politics and international relations. While the course draws examples from sub-Saharan Africa in general, emphasis will be put on examples from Uganda and the Great Lakes Region.

The Conflict, Post-Conflict Recovery and Development course seeks to equip students with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools used in the conflict analysis, peace-building and conflict transformation processes aimed at fostering post conflict recovery, rehabilitation and development. The course will introduce students to concepts such as dialogue, reconciliation, equity, justice and co-existence and will engage students in practical exercises such as role-plays and/or simulation exercises.

Classes are 2-3 hours in length and are structured as a lecture-seminar hybrid. The classes are arranged specifically for Insight participants which means that class sizes are small, and professors get to know you on a first-name basis.



Transportation to Campus

Makerere University's main campus is located about a 20-minute drive from the Insight student house. Most participants travel to Makerere via boda-boda (motorcycle taxi) or Uber, amounting to about \$1 - \$3 each way.





A day in the life

07:30
am

Wake up, shower, make breakfast & get ready for school!

8-8:30
am

Start heading to class. The time you leave will be dependent on your preferred mode of transportation or, during the rainy season in particular, the weather.

09:00
am

You spend the morning attending your first course, Conflict, Post-Conflict Recovery and Development. Today you're learning about two models of conflict transformation through simulation exercises.

11:30
am

Lunch time! You spend your quick lunch break at Makerere's canteen, conveniently located near the Social Sciences building where your classes are being held. The canteen has basic snacking and meal options.

12:00
pm

The afternoon is spent attending Africa in International Relations. Today you're learning about pan-Africanism and regional politics.

02:30
pm

You head home from campus, and stop by at Acacia Mall for a workout at the gym upstairs.

07:00
pm

You join your fellow cohort members for dinner, followed by live music and drinks in town to celebrate the weekend. Weekends are free for you to plan as you like – you might spend some weekends relaxing in Kampala, or if you're feeling adventurous, you might take advantage of all Uganda has to offer and take a weekend trip out of the city.





Credit Transfer & Transcripts

Each academic institution has different instructions on how its students can obtain course credits from an overseas institution. It is extremely important that you connect with your academic advisor as soon as possible to inquire about the steps you need to take in order to ensure that the courses you will take at Makerere University can transfer back to your home university.

For many universities, the typical method for obtaining international course credits is through a 'Letter of Permission' (LOP). Your academic advisor will be able to provide details of the exact requirements and deadlines for the credit transfer process at your home university. Should you require the Makerere course outlines as part of your university's credit transfer process, your Program Director will send it to you prior to your arrival in Uganda.

Following the successful completion of your courses at Makerere, Insight will arrange to have your official transcript sent directly to the relevant office at your home university. This will take place the week immediately following your completion of the Semester Abroad program.



FAQs

Q: Will the courses transfer back to my home university?

A: We recommend that every student contact their academic advisor to confirm whether they will be able to transfer credits from Makerere University. We have had students from a range of universities across Canada and the United States successfully transfer the Makerere credits back to their home university. The transfer process is outlined in more detail in the previous section, titled 'Credit Transfer & Transcripts'. Please note that these are upper-level courses, and some universities have regulations around when upper-level courses can be taken during your university career.

Q: Will I study alongside local students?

A: Insight's program schedule does not align with the Ugandan academic calendar for each semester. This means that our courses are set up specifically for the Semester Abroad program, and will only include program participants. However, there are a number of opportunities to engage with local Makerere students – whether it be through attending events hosted by the university or by joining Makerere student clubs.

Q: How are the courses graded?

A: The Makerere courses offered through the Semester Abroad Uganda program are evaluated through a numerical grading scheme. The courses do not include exams; instead, graded assessments take the form of essays, class engagement/ participation, and presentations.



FAQs

**Q: I'm not an International Development student.
Can I still take the classes?**

A: While the subject matter is focused on development-related issues, the courses are designed to be accessible to students from a range of academic backgrounds and disciplines. The Makerere professors are more than willing to offer additional assistance if required, and small class sizes mean that you'll be given one-on-one attention and support.

“ The Semester abroad program made me stand out to potential employers.

Thanks to the program, all of my interviews went really smooth. Living in Fiji was a big conversation topic during my interviews. The experience made me seem like a more interesting and well-rounded person. I was able to get a job with the company of my dreams soon after returning home, and I credit a lot of that to my experiences abroad, and my abilities to convey what I did in Fiji. In the last year since coming home, I've done so many more things that I would have never tried before. I am more adventurous. I used to say no to things a lot. I now say yes to opportunities a lot more than I ever used to or could have imagined.



Nadine Maier

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