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Study Abroad Office

Principia College

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Malawi Study Abroad

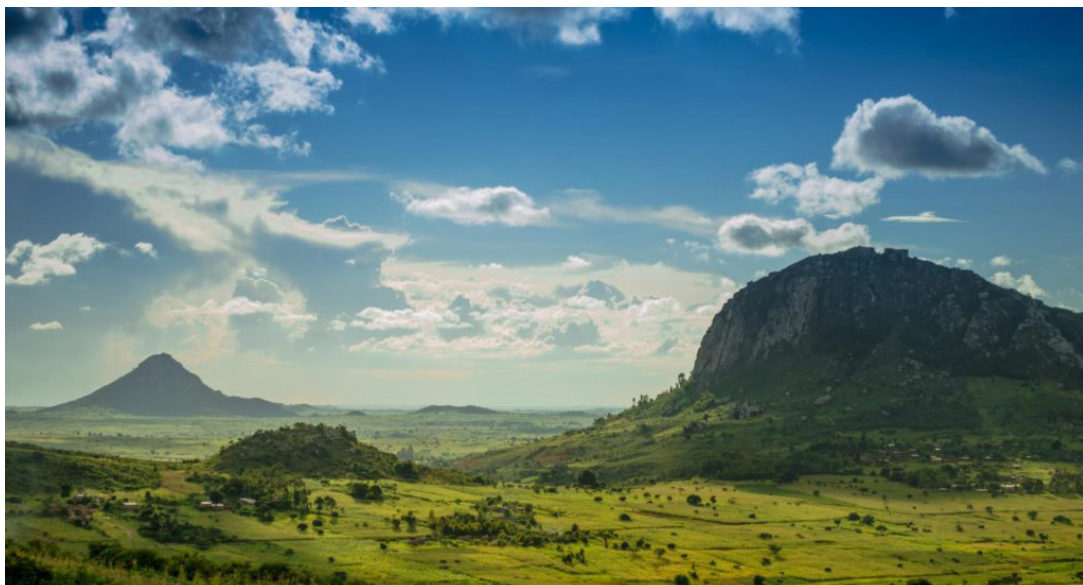
Navigating Urban-Rural Divides

Program Description

There are stark differences between rural and urban areas in Malawi – development needs are different in urban and rural areas, poverty is most highly concentrated in rural areas while there is a growing middle class in urban areas, young people often want to move out of rural areas, and cultural practices and attitudes differ between rural and urban areas. How do we understand the causes of these differences and their impacts on the country and society? During the program, we will seek to understand urban-rural divides by looking at political, economic, social, and cultural issues in Malawi. Exploring these issues will take us to both urban and rural areas in several different regions of this beautiful country sometimes nicknamed the “Warm Heart of Africa.” Students will have opportunities to work closely with Malawians in researching dimensions of urban-rural divides.

Malawi is a great context in which to develop intercultural skill and understanding, and these skills apply everywhere. During the spring semester before the program departs, we will study urban-rural divides in politics, focusing on the United States and Malawi. This will allow us to compare the nature of urban-rural divides in the United States, Malawi, and elsewhere.

This program is open to all students and all majors.



Applications

(see Application Instructions on page 4 for more information)

Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F22

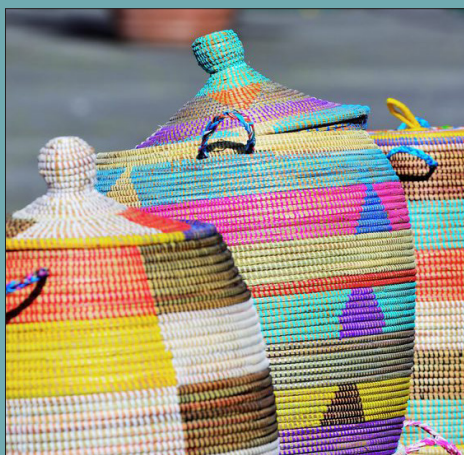
Completed applications must be submitted to the Principia Study Abroad Office no later than **5:00 pm** on **Wednesday of Week 4, September 21, 2022**.

No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

Program Staff

This program is directed by **Dr. Sarah Andrews**, who is Associate Professor of Political Science. She has spent three years living on the African continent, first as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso and then while conducting a year of field research for her dissertation. Five months of that field research was conducted in Malawi. Having returned to Malawi since, this abroad will be her fifth trip to the country. Dr. Andrews holds a BA from Principia College and a Ph.D. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, with a regional focus on Africa.

The Resident Counselor who will travel with the group will be announced at a later date.



Academics

A total of 8 semester hours of credit will be earned with this program: 3 SH during Spring 2023, 4 SH during Summer 2023, and 1 SH during Fall 2023. Final grades for all courses will be determined by the program faculty.

SPRING SEMESTER 2023

POLS 265: Contemporary Issues: Comparative Urban-Rural Politics

SH: 3 Attribute: GESS

Focuses on one or more current political issues. Designed to deepen the student's previous political studies. May focus on either domestic or international topics. The title will be extended to describe the current topic. May be taken more than once provided the topics differ. This course will focus on urban-rural divides in politics, with emphasis on comparing the United States and Malawi.

SUMMER BREAK 2023

SPST 285: Country Studies: Malawi

SH: 4 Attribute: None

Offered only in association with Principia abroad programs, this course provides an interdisciplinary survey of contemporary issues in the destination country or countries. These issues may include geography, cultural history, politics, economics, religion, foreign relations, environment, the arts, etc. May be taken more than once if associated with different abroads.

FALL SEMESTER 2023

SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: Malawi

SH: 1 Attribute: None

Taught on campus fall semester 2023, this required reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to articulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study abroad experience. Students share their growth and experiences through reflection and writing assignments, directly linked to the Study Abroad Office learning outcomes, of intercultural competence and multicultural professional development, and create a community presentation.

Preliminary Program Itinerary

The program will run from approximately May 14 to June 11, 2023.

The study abroad will start in Lilongwe, Malawi's capital. In Lilongwe, we will get acclimated to Malawi and visit various political, cultural, historical stakeholders and sites based in the capital.

From Lilongwe, we will travel to Blantyre, a city in southern Malawi. We will visit important stakeholders and sites in Blantyre. Students will also conduct research analyzing various issues in Blantyre and surrounding rural communities.

After Blantyre, we will visit Zomba, the former colonial capital of Malawi. The group will then travel to Liwonde National Park, giving us the opportunity to see the animals that reside there and to explore issues related to tourism and conservation.

The program will end with a couple days for reflection and wrap-up at beautiful Lake Malawi.

Selection

Selection will take place during fall semester, 2022. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date. See the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) for additional student eligibility criteria.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant at the end of Week 8, fall semester 2022, regarding the decision on his/her application. Those eligible but not accepted in the initial selection process may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put her or him on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the *Principia Conduct Standards* or the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

Cost

The cost of this abroad program will be the same as tuition for 4 semester hours, \$300 a week for room and board (\$1,200 for this break program), airfare up to \$1,500, and a \$150 study abroad fee.

The following expenses will be **INCLUDED** in the program: all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs **NOT INCLUDED**: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$150 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Please see the “Financial Aid and Responsibility” section to the right to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

Study Abroad Grant*

Students who receive Principia need-based aid are eligible for an additional Study Abroad Grant to help with expenses not covered by financial aid and scholarships. These costs may include flights, room and board, administrative fee, and opportunity costs. Preference is given to students who demonstrate financial need, are first-time study abroad participants, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Vaccination Information

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges that require an informed approach to ensure ongoing safety for Principia College study abroad programming. Recent positive progress is encouraging and, to the extent risks can be mitigated, the Principia Study Abroad Office is committed to offering opportunities to study abroad through our approved upcoming programs should travel conditions improve as anticipated.

Uncertainties with international travel include the possibility of airlines, the U.S. government, foreign governments, and/or in-country partner program providers requiring COVID-19 (or other) vaccinations. Information or evidence about participants' status with regard to Covid-19 vaccination may be required by these entities. Program participants may be subject to these requirements, and need to be aware of them. Failure to comply with these requirements may mean inability to travel or participate in the study abroad program.

In order to manage the uncertainties of international travel safely and effectively, the Study Abroad Office will collect COVID-19 vaccination information, from all participating program faculty, staff, and students.

Eligibility and Prerequisites

The program director seeks students who have a sincere interest in issues impacting developing countries and are self-motivated learners who can adapt successfully to different learning environments.

Preference will also be given to students with a 2.0 GPA or higher. This program is open to all enrolled students in good academic and social standing. Applications are welcomed from students majoring in any discipline.

Students must meet the [Study Abroad Student Selection Criteria](#) to apply for and remain on this program.

Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2022-2023 academic year will have their loans, scholarships, and grants automatically applied toward **tuition only**. Your PrinBill will also include room and board (\$1,800) and the Study Abroad fee (\$150), but **no financial aid will be applied toward these costs**.
**See Study Abroad Grant for additional funding opportunity.*

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Student Billing Representative, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, either voluntarily or involuntarily, after **Wednesday, November 23, 2022**, they agree to pay to Principia a penalty fee of the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all prepaid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account, and payment will be due by **April 26, 2023**.

Study Abroad Application Instructions

- Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F22
- To authenticate the Google Form application submission, you **must use your Principia email address**.
- DUE DATE:** Your study abroad application, as well as the online signature forms from your resident counselor and academic advisor, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 21 (Week 4)**.
No late applications will be accepted!
- The application has **9 sections**, and you must complete each section before moving to the next.
 - Personal Information:** The first section includes basic **personal information** including P01 number, date of birth, citizenship, email, phone number, address, emergency contact(s), declared/expected major and minor, and expected graduation date.
 - References:** The second section includes **listing two references**, their emails and phone numbers. One is your personal/character reference and the other is for group learning.
 - Academic Advisor Meeting:** The third section confirms that you **met with your academic advisor** to discuss this study abroad program and that it does not conflict with any graduation requirements. You will send your academic advisor this signature page to confirm the meeting: bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature
 - Resident Counselor Meeting:** The next section confirms that you **met with your resident counselor** to discuss your ability to demonstrate emotional maturity, personal responsibility, and commitment to adapt to different living and learning conditions. You will send your RC the signature form to confirm this meeting: bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature
 - Additional Questions:** The next section includes **additional questions** including previous international travel and previous abroads for which you have applied and been accepted or not accepted.
 - Essay Questions:**
 - Why are you interested in participating in this particular abroad program?
 - During the abroad, you will spend a lot of time working, living, and interacting with individuals who are different from you in various ways (both Malawians and fellow abroad participants). What qualities do you think are the most important for successfully working across differences and why? How well do you think you demonstrate these qualities? Please provide examples.
 - By virtue of immersing yourself in a new and different culture and context, you are likely to find yourself outside of your comfort zone at times during the abroad. Please discuss a challenging experience you have had or situation you have been in and how you handled it.
 - Travel in general, and travel in a context like Malawi in particular, often demands patience and flexibility in order to avoid frustration. There are likely to be situations in which you find that logic, timing, etc. operate differently than you are accustomed to. Do you have an example of how you have adapted your mentality or behavior to the needs of the situation you were in?
 - Getting the most out of this program educationally will require you to take responsibility for your own learning and to be willing to try new things. Please discuss your willingness to be a self-motivated and adventurous learner.
 - Describe your spiritual practice, in specific regard to how you envision it being relevant to participating in this study abroad program.

The last three sections include signing off on your understanding of the following topics:

- Financial Responsibility** – including commitment and withdrawal deadlines. **If applying for Study Abroad Grant, additional questions will be asked in this section to explain specific funding need.*
 - Academic & Social Responsibility** – including that you have read the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#).
 - Statement of Expectations** – including abiding by the standards set forth in the previous documents, Principia's standards, additional standards stipulated by the program faculty or international laws and custom, and expectation that you will fully participate in all aspects of the program.
- Again, the application and two online signature forms must be received by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 21 (Week 4)**. Please be in touch with Study Abroad Program Manager Allison Terry with any questions – allison.terry@principia.edu or 618-374-5215 – or stop by School of Government, Suite 160 (SOG 160).