

EDU AFRICA

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING JOURNEYS



PROGRAMMING ACROSS BORDERS: EMBRACING THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY IN KENYA

Sample Program



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Kenya's 42+ tribal groups, spanning 3 of the 4 African language groups, along with its breath-taking landscapes, iconic wildlife, and rapidly modernizing cities make it one of the most diverse countries in Africa. As a nation, Kenya is little over 50 years old, meaning that its colonial history, and subsequent independence, are still fresh in the collective mind. Kenya's history, its beliefs, its creativity, its diversity, and its resilience have brought the country to where it is, and will continue to dictate where it heads in the future as a nation. A country built on Muslim-Arab trade along the coast, Christian missions in the interior, and with a bustling, emerging economy, Kenya is now rapidly changing, providing fascinating opportunities for the study and exchange of knowledge in a host disciplines.

This program introduces students to various initiatives, institutions and organizations in Limuru, Nairobi and the Maasai Mara. The itinerary is filled with visits and activities that extend beyond the scope of a single discipline, while still retaining academic rigor and content-specificity within subject-specific groups. As nations, cultures and societies become increasingly interconnected, multidisciplinary study abroad programs such as the one presented here can play a supportive role in equipping students for complex and creative responses to problem-solving, innovation and communication.

Relevant disciplines:

- Ecology and environmental sciences
- Fine and Performing Arts
- Social Work
- Language and literature
- Education

Educational Site Visits

- Brackenhurst Botanic Garden
- Limuru Children's Center
- Limuru Cheshire Home
- Woodland Star and other schools in Kenya
- Koiyaki Guiding School, Maasai Mara
- David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- Giraffe Center
- The Kenya Institute of Puppet Theatre
- Kibera
- Sarakasi Trust

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this program, students will be able to:

- Recognize the ways their potential professions are practiced and understood in the Kenyan context
- Demonstrate increased intercultural competence
- Analyze the social, political and economic power dynamics between Africa and the minority world within and across disciplines
- Reflect on their attitudes and experiences in a way that allows for personal growth
- Debate, compare and contrast key discipline-related terms and concepts as they relate to Kenya and the US

DAILY PROGRAM

Day	Travel	Accommodation	Style	Meals Included	Activities
1	Arrive Nairobi	Brackenhurst	Rooms	BLD	Arrive at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport Transfer to Brackenhurst, Limuru (+-45 min) Hotel check in and overnight
2		Brackenhurst	Rooms	BLD	Welcome and Orientation to EDU Africa and Brackenhurst campus Limuru Marketplace challenge Lunch Tour of campus Free afternoon/evening
3		Brackenhurst	Rooms	BLD	Meet with subject-specific partners (Ecology – BBG, Education – WSS, Social Work: LCC/LCH, Language & Literature & Performance – Workshop with Kiswahili Center) Lunch at Brackenhurst (12-1pm) Afternoon: Eco, Social Work, and Education – continue respective work with partners; Language & Literature: discussion with prominent professor of African literature at amphitheatre/ conference room & Language and culture lessons; Performance: lecture in WSS theatre; join Literature students for language and culture lessons
4					Work with respective partners at Brackenhurst Performance students: drama workshop with drama professor from University of Nairobi Language, Literature and History students to visit Karen (Karen Blixen Museum), Limuru (village of Ngugi WaThiong'o), discussions around literature and text in Brackenhurst outdoor learning spaces & further lesson
5					Continued work in respective fields Evening: comparative exercise (all students)
6		Brackenhurst	Rooms	BLD	Morning: tea farm tour and lunch at Kiambethu (all students) Free afternoon to pack for Maasai Mara

					Evening: fireside discussion with Mau Mau freedom fighter (all students)
7	Travel to Maasai Mara	Naboisho Conservancy	Rooms	BLD	Early morning departure (4 hour drive) Packed lunch Game drive in Maasai Mara Check-in at accommodation Maa Lesson (Literature students in particular, optional for others)
8		Naboisho Conservancy	Rooms	BLD	Maa Trust community development interaction (social work, literature, performance) Visit to Koiyaki Guiding School (Ecology students) Cultural immersion activity (all students) Evening: group reflection session
9		Naboisho Conservancy	Rooms	BLD	Morning wildlife monitoring (all students) Maa lesson (Literature students) Continued work with Maa Trust; Lecture on community-based research development (all students) Ecology students: plug into ecological research initiative and receive lecture Evening: group reflection session
10	Travel to Nairobi	Ngong Hills Hotel	Rooms	BLD	Early morning departure for Nairobi Check in to Hotel Free Afternoon
11		Ngong Hills Hotel	Rooms	BLD	Morning: visit to David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Giraffe Center Lunch in with Power Women's Group in Kibera (all students) Afternoon: Performance: Kenya Institute of Puppet Theatre; workshop tour and puppet building OR work with Sarakasi Trust; Edu students: visit to secular school in Nairobi; ecology students: possible visit to Center for Primate Research; Literature students to visit University of Nairobi African Literature department, famous for sparking debates on decolonization Social work students to plug in where desired Evening: dinner at Ethiopian restaurant

12		Ngong Hills Hotel	Rooms	BLD	Performance: Continue work with KIPT/Sarakasi; Ecology: visit & lecture at Nairobi National Park Edu: visit to various schools in Nairobi to compare pedagogy and resources Literature: activity to be decided depending on research material (could do oral literature fieldwork)
13	Depart for US			B	Morning: debrief reflection session Airport transfer for flight back to US

Abbreviations: JKIA: Jomo Kenyatta International Airport; B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner; WSS: Woodland Star School

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This program engages students with the principles of the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



LOCAL PROGRAM FACILITATOR

All EDU Africa programs are administered by an expert Local Program Facilitator. The facilitator meets the group on arrival at the airport and accompanies them for the full duration of their time on the ground. The facilitator is available at all times to assist with any student and educator needs, thus ensuring the smooth running of the program.

ACCOMMODATION

Brackenhurst, Limuru

Brackenhurst is a diverse and vibrant campus located on 100 safe and scenic acres approximately 25 miles North of Nairobi. Here you will find a peaceful and quiet area, nestled in the fertile rolling hills of the Limuru region most famous for the vast fields of tea and farmland. It is proudly home to one of the largest collections of indigenous plants in Africa. Students may engage in on-site recreation walking, jogging or bird watching along our forest trails. Brackenhurst is



equipped with a nurse and clinic to attend to any health needs should they arise, as well as a full-time security manager and a staff of 24-hour security personnel. Brackenhurst can house up to 270 guests and is known for its warm hospitality. Rooms are comfortable with ensuite bathrooms and hot showers and the food is locally sourced, tasty and nutritious. Their experienced chefs will prepare your meals buffet-style in our dining hall ranging from traditional Kenyan to international cuisine. Each learning area is prepared to your specific needs, with a custom setting and materials as per your request. All conference rooms are equipped with the following items: LED projector, TV multisystem, flip chart, whiteboard & markers, CD/DVD player, and excellent Wi-Fi Internet access.

Encounter Mara, Mara Naboisho

Located adjacent to the Maasai Mara National Reserve, the Naboisho Conservancy is a ground-breaking project of tourism benefiting conservation and community. With its high concentration of wildlife and generous personal space and freedom on offer, visitors enjoy exceptional wildlife encounters. Unlike its neighbor, the Maasai Mara National Reserve, this private conservancy strictly monitors the number of tourists who enter the area, reducing the number of vehicles and the human impact on the environment and wildlife. Encounter Mara is an award-winning camp situated within the conservancy that will house the group.

Ngong Hills Hotel, Nairobi

The Ngong Hills Hotel is located just a heartbeat away from the hub of vibrant and bustling Nairobi. This hotel is a leading business and leisure haven which, over the years, has evolved into a top player in the vibrant world of Kenyan hospitality. Started in 1975 by a Kenyan family with vast experience in the industry, it is now an urban 4-Star Hotel with exceptional accommodation and state-of-the-art facilities designed for convenience, luxury and comfort.

Ngong Hills Hotel was refurbished in 2014 to offer 110 luxurious rooms and suites, 7 modern conference halls, dynamic restaurants, a gym, and an executive lounge featuring some of the finest décor around. The hotel offers outstanding service and competitive rates. It is centrally located, only 18.5km only from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (a 20 minute drive with no traffic), and 4.7km from downtown Nairobi.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. ECOLOGY

Brackenhurst Botanic Gardens and Reforestation Project

As human populations in East Africa grow and more land is needed for food production, indigenous vegetation is often cleared without clear legislature or incentive to protect it. Diverse indigenous vegetation is often replaced with a monoculture of Eucalyptus, Wattle and Cypress timber plantations or food-based cash crops, leading to a steep decline in biodiversity and viable ecosystem services. Within these serious challenges, 'Plants for Life International' (PLI) has become a shining light and example of a sustainable solution to the reforestation of Kenya's natural resources. PLI is a non-governmental organization operating at the Brackenhurst. The Brackenhurst Botanic Garden (BBG) and indigenous forest is a fascinating case study of how quickly that biodiversity and ecosystem services can be restored on a relatively small piece of land. Combining a high diversity of indigenous plants with a relentless effort to keep invasive species at bay without using chemical herbicides, this indigenous forest has contributed to a sharp, measurable increase in biodiversity and cleaner river water for downstream communities. Ecology students can participate in reforestation, conservation and data collection efforts alongside the BBG, as well as partake in community initiatives relating to

conservation education and environmental restoration (for example, joining a local school for a half-day of tree planting and conservation education).

Koiyaki Guiding School and Mara Research Initiatives

The Koiyaki Guiding School is a facility funded by the tourism through Koiyaki Wilderness Camp and donors, local Maasai communities. Its primary purpose is to provide education for local Maasai school leavers leading to the Professional Safari Guides Bronze and Silver Level award. Ecology and environmental science students can visit the Guiding School to gain exposure to alternative career paths and community-based conservation in the Mara. There are also several research initiatives within the Mara that students can plug into, for example assisting with game monitoring or establishing transects and camera traps.

B. SOCIAL WORK

Limuru Children's Centre (LCC)

The Limuru Children's Centre began as a care-giving organization to support orphaned and disadvantaged children from the Limuru area. Initially started as a feeding program for children, the Center eventually grew to include a day-care component which then developed into a pre-school program. Today, the Limuru Children's Center has expanded to take in and care for vulnerable children as well. The LCC's ultimate aim is to serve the community and help keep children within their family structures. The group will be able to witness the remarkable work the Center does, meaningfully interact with the children and staff, and provide donations in accordance with the Center's needs.

Limuru Cheshire Home

The Limuru Cheshire Home is managed by a volunteer committee from the local community and is administered by the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi. The Limuru Cheshire Home supports girls with physical, mental, sensory and intellectual disabilities; it focuses on providing residential skills training for these girls to reduce their socioeconomic dependence on others. Cheshire also provides short-term residential care, physiotherapy, basic literacy and rehabilitation programs for young women with disability. Upon their visit here, students will have the opportunity to engage with the girls by facilitating workshops relating to their discipline and supporting skills training and development.

The Maa Trust

The aim of The Maa Trust is to support conservation through the sustainable development of communities in the Maasai Mara. By increasing the benefits that local communities receive from conservation, perceptions of wildlife are improved. All of their projects have the slogan "tenkaraki ing'uesi", which is Maa for "because of the wildlife". The Trust works with the wider community to encourage the reception and acknowledgement of conservation in development; they believe that this is only way to ensure the survival of the Maasai Mara ecosystem. They are conscious that any development must be socially and culturally appropriate; hence, all their initiatives are bottom-up and based on ethnographic research with the communities involved. The Maa Trust works in three main areas which have been identified by Maasai communities themselves as their priorities: Income Generation; Education and Outreach; and Infrastructure and Water. Students studying social work, and indeed students from various other disciplines, will be able to interact with the Maasai youth and/or Maasai women, either through generic skills workshops and symposiums, or through specific, discipline-related projects: business and entrepreneurship can be explored in tandem with the income generation projects; education and arts and drama through the youth program; environmental issues through infrastructure, water and human-wildlife conflict; to name a few.

C. FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Kenya Institute of Puppet Theatre

The Kenya Institute of Puppet Theatre's (KIPT) mission is to develop and promote puppet theatre art, as well as other forms of performing arts, for aesthetics, education, social awareness and human development in Kenya and the rest of the world. Founded in 2006, the KIPT has been involved in projects such as anti-corruption education through folk media and puppetry, puppet education to encourage participation in local and national elections, civic education for constitutional reforms, the creation of awareness on human rights, creating awareness on gender and violence against women and children through participatory education theatre, and prisoner education and rehabilitation through puppetry. Members of the KIPT make their own puppets and design their own performances from scratch and, while the main workshop is located in Nairobi, KIPT has satellite reach across Kenya. The KIPT offers a unique and eclectic artistic

environment for student engagement, one that is infused, and rooted in, Kenyan vibrancy and culture. KIPT is very excited to work with international student groups on various community and/or activist projects.

The Sarakasi Trust

The Sarakasi Trust responds to the need for the further development and promotion of culture, performing arts and entertainment in East Africa focusing on acrobatics, dance and music. Sarakasi, established in Nairobi in 2001, strives to empower its trainees and contracted artists creatively and economically by giving them tools to manage their art, lives and careers more effectively and successfully. The Trust aims to present the best of Kenyan creativity to the widest possible audience by organizing festivals and events, cultural exchanges, local and international performance contracts and tours. Sarakasi also provides social development, training and capacity building and cultural awareness programs, and in addition implements special programs such as the Talanta training (involving hearing impaired and deaf performing artists), the Smiles for Change Project (bringing edutainment to hospitalized children and children in homes and remand homes), monthly musicians workshops, Artist Agency, and the implementation of its own cultural agenda at the Sarakasi Dome, in Nairobi, its office, rehearsal and performance venue. Students can get involved with a number of artistic projects and community initiatives with the Sarakasi Trust, depending on their focus within the performing arts.



D. EDUCATION

Woodland Star School

Woodland Star School is an international school based at Brackenhurst's campus. Woodland Star School's curriculum, founded on constructivist philosophy and pedagogy, is child-centered and incorporates hands-on, personalized learning for students in multi-aged classrooms. Woodland Star implements thematic integration of content areas, STEM project-based learning and environmental sustainability theory and practice. The school believes that this not only gives learners a genuine and deep understanding of content and context, but powerful tools to become the learners, thinkers and creators who will help to create a better world for the future. Education students will be able to learn from the school, its innovative pedagogies and engage in activities in collaboration with WSS teachers.

Other Schools in Kenya

There are various schools in Kenya that have diverse approaches to faith and pedagogy, and are differently abled with regard to resources. Visits and engagements with other schools, both public and private, in the region will be arranged to showcase this diversity in approach to students.

E. LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Kiswahili Language and Culture Lessons

In the service of increasing students' cross-cultural competence, they will receive language lessons in Kiswahili. Kiswahili is the national language of four African countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and the DRC, and is spoken in numerous other countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Africa. Language and Literature students will attend classes

and workshops with at the Shade School of Language and Culture located adjacent to Brackenhurst. The school takes a holistic approach to language teaching, viewing language and culture as inseparable.

Karen Blixen Museum

The Karen Blixen Museum is located 10km from Nairobi's City Centre. The museum is located on the farmhouse where famous author, Karen Blixen (penname Isak Denisen) lived between 1914 and 1931. Blixen's autobiography, *Out of Africa*, is well-known around the world and was adapted into an Oscar-winning movie in 1985. On a visit here, students gain insight into Kenya's complex colonial history and Blixen's complicated legacy as a writer.

JOINT ACTIVITIES

Limuru Marketplace Challenge

The Limuru marketplace is a vibrant and colorful affair with informal vendors selling a staggering array of fresh produce, clothing items and household goods. Students will be armed with some key Kiswahili phrases, tips on bartering skills and a list of items to be found and purchased within a small budget. Chai (mixed tea) and mandazi (local doughnuts) will be procured at one of the stalls and enjoyed with community members as part of the challenge. All market goods purchased will be donated to the various projects students engage with during their time in Kenya.

Mau Mau Freedom Fighter Talk

On 26 March 1953, close to 100 people were killed and scores of others injured at Lari in Kiambu region, Kenya when Mau Mau freedom fighters attacked the area. Many Kenyan people regard Lari massacre as the day that changed the political situation in the country and led to Kenya gaining its full sovereignty from Britain in 1963. Students will have the opportunity to listen to a veteran of the Mau Mau movement who is working towards reconciling the communities that fought against each other.

Visit to Kibera and Power Women's Group

Kibera is the largest urban slum in Africa and is home to roughly 250 000 people. On their visit here, students will be able to witness a kind of every-day African life that may otherwise be obscured, as well as a community's resilience in the face of challenges. Material poverty and lack of access to resources is rife: only about 20% of the residents have access to electricity and access to quality healthcare, education and employment remain difficult. Students will be guided through Kibera by the Power Women's Group, a group of women living with HIV/AIDS that have created a business cooperative in the area selling their handmade crafts. Their profit and savings are set aside for emergency medical needs, school fees and the maintenance of their business. Students will meet with these inspiring women, whose living environment, personal lives and career initiatives intersect with a variety of educational perspectives – from business and entrepreneurship, social work, health care, and urban environmentalism, to women and gender studies.



Maasai Manyatta walk

Keeping livestock is certainly one of the cultural pillars of the Maasai's pastoral lifestyle. Every day, young herders leave the protective manyattas (small clan villages) in search of grazing for the family's herds of cows, sheep and goats. This is a wilderness area and it is not uncommon for herders to navigate skillfully around prides of sleeping lions, elephants or temperamental buffalo. Students will have the opportunity to join herders for the last stretch of their journey home with the livestock in the late afternoon. This daily rhythm is a ritualistic and there is an air of celebration as the livestock and herders return home each evening.



A.F.E.W. Giraffe Centre

The African Fund for Endangered Wildlife Kenya (A.F.E.W. Kenya) also known as the Giraffe Centre is a non-governmental, non-profit making organization. The main objectives of the Giraffe Centre are to provide conservation education for the youth of Kenya, and to protect the endangered Rothschild Giraffe which has lost its natural habitat in Western Kenya to agriculture. A visit to this center encourages greater education on the Rothschild giraffe, one of the most endangered giraffe subspecies, with only a few hundred members in the wild. The center may appeal particularly to ecology students, but is open to the general public and all students can benefit from this activity.

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has been rearing elephants and rhinos and returning them to the wild since it was established in 1977. At the elephant orphanage, students will get the chance to learn about The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's initiative of conservation and rehabilitation. Like the Giraffe Center, the elephant orphanage is ecology focused but can be appreciated by all students.

Kiambethu Tea Farm

While Kenya imports more products as a country than it exports, tea is Kenya's leading export in consumer goods. At Kiambethu Tea Field, just a 10 minute drive from Brackenhurst, students will be welcomed by owner of the farm, Fiona Vernon, and discuss the history and production of tea in the area. The visit to Kiambethu will also include a guided walk through the factory and farm a 4-course lunch and drinks in the beautiful gardens of the farm house.

ITINERARY FLEXIBILITY AND COST

The itinerary is correct at the time of submission. It is flexible and may be adjusted to meet students' needs. In all cases, we will do our best to preserve the quality of the what is presented herein. However, we reserve the right to modify the itinerary, locations, accommodations facilities and costs if any changes so dictate. All quoted accommodation is subject to availability and confirmed numbers.

Cost for the program based on per person sharing:

Number of paying persons	Price per person USD	Single room supplement
TBC	TBC	TBC

What this includes:

- All transport, fuel, tolls and road taxes
- Full use of bus with driver for the duration of your program
- 24-hour services of an EDU Africa Program Facilitator
- All accommodation as listed above
- All meals as specified in the daily program
- All activities as listed above

What this excludes:

- All meals and drinks not specified above
- Laundry
- All flights
- All optional extra activities
- Travel and medical insurance
- Items of a personal nature, personal insurances, visas and gratuities



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