



# RCCD in Ghana

January - February  
2025

with travel

Jan. 14 – 31 (approx.)

# Riverside Community College District (RCCD)



Moreno  
Valley College

Norco College

Riverside City  
College

# Today's Agenda

Why study abroad

Who can study abroad

What you'll learn & do in Ghana

What things will cost for this trip

How to get help with costs

What steps you need to take next

# Global Learning & Study Abroad Leadership Team

**Assistant to  
Coordinator,  
International  
Education**

- Sef Girgis
- RCC, Digital Library, 418
- 951-222-8385
- [Study.Abroad@rccd.edu](mailto:Study.Abroad@rccd.edu)

**Chair/Coordinator,  
International  
Education**

- Micherri Wiggs
- [Micherri.wiggs@rcc.edu](mailto:Micherri.wiggs@rcc.edu)



Why should you consider studying abroad?





# Student Voice

This program provided me with my first experience outside of the United States. I grew up in a home with little money and limited experiences. This study abroad program opened my mind and my heart to the world. It inspired me to dream big and to be a good steward. The imprints left from this experience run deep and has had lasting effects on a micro and macro level. Through this program I gained better self awareness and confidence. But, also developed a deep sense of global community and oneness.



## Global Learning Boosts Student Success



Students who study abroad have

**HIGHER** Retentions rates  
GPAs  
Transfer rates

<http://globaled.us/CCCSOAR/project-report.asp#results>



Student Involvement and Student Development Theory suggest that students who are involved in co-curricular activity on campus are **more likely to be successful.**

## Global Learning Prepares Students for the Local and Global Workforce

80% 

of companies surveyed believe **business would increase if staff had more international experience.**

<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Educating%20for%20Global%20Competence%20Short%20HU.pdf>

23 

million jobs in the US are tied to **international trade.**

*Making the Case: Why Study Abroad is So Crucial,*  
IIE Nov+Dec 2017

78% 

of employers agree that students need **intercultural skills and understanding of societies** and countries outside the United States as a condition for career readiness.

<https://asiasociety.org/education/preparing-tomorrows-workforce>





**“College graduates who are culturally competent can communicate, network and work in multicultural teams. They are highly sought-after talent in the increasingly globalized business environment.”**

**Rich Caturano, past chairman of the American Institute of CPAs**

<https://www.bentley.edu/news/cultural-competence-could-be-key-your-workplace-success-or-failure>



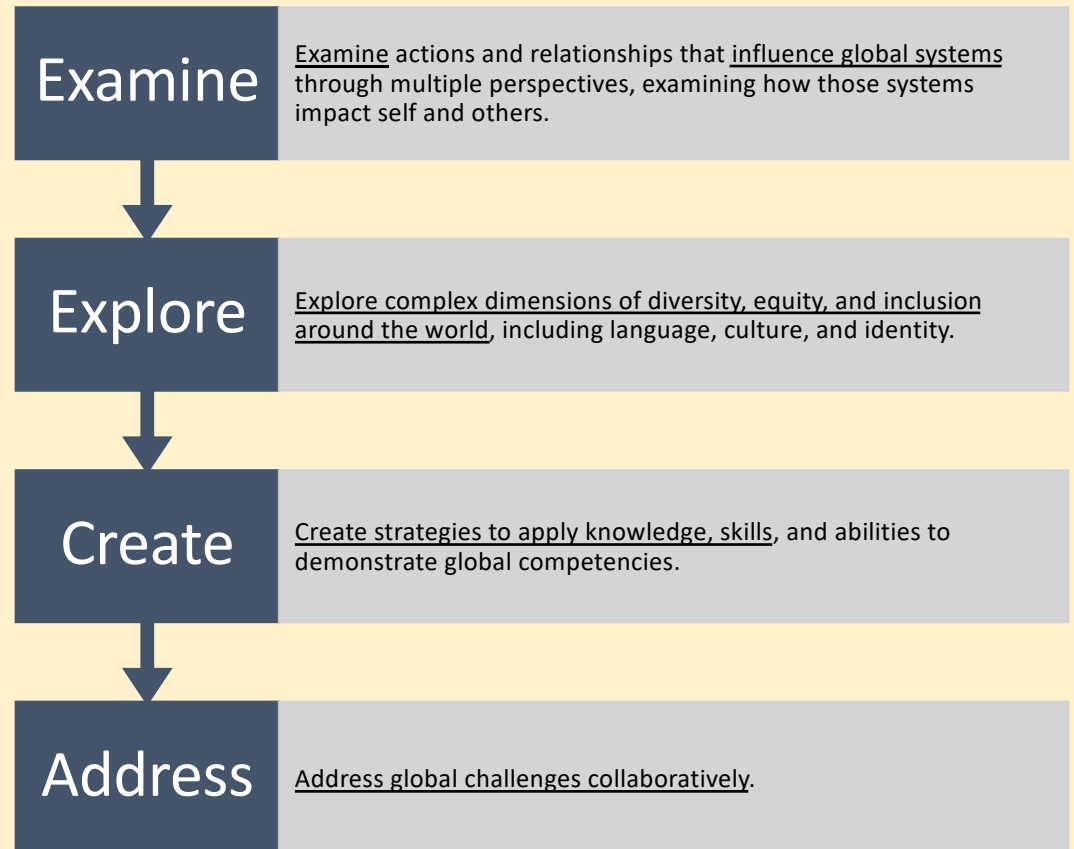
**RCCD's  
Commitment  
(Board Policy 2026)**

**Students at  
Riverside  
Community College  
District will be  
provided the  
opportunity to study  
outside the United  
States through the  
International  
Education Program**





# Study Abroad Program Learning Outcomes







## Study Abroad Outcome Survey

- Online survey sent to 865 former RCCD Study Abroad students
- 201 students completed the survey = 23% response rate



## Survey Says...

~90% experienced increased cultural empathy, personal growth, and were influenced to meet RCCD GE Outcomes

~88% reported positive impact on their choices and thinking

Respondents reported various positive influences on their career and professional development

You belong.



RCCD Study Abroad has  
benefit students of  
varied ethnicity, gender,  
& age.

# Study Abroad Eligibility **Before** Travel

Good academic standing

No personal or student conduct violations

Complete interview with RCCD staff (March - May)

Yellow Fever Vaccine by June 7

Enroll one or both courses

Attend pre-departure orientations





Dr. Miguel Reid  
Professor of English  
Riverside City College  
[miguel.reid@rcc.edu](mailto:miguel.reid@rcc.edu)



English Composition (ENG 1A) with Professor Reid is a required class for graduating or transferring for most students. This ENG 1A experience will be unforgettable!

## ENG 1A (4 units)

In this class, students will go on exciting excursions exploring local art, music, food culture, and history. Students will also critically analyze various texts by authors representing the rich African culture of Ghana. Students will get to explore ideas surrounding African history and culture and how they themselves relate to these issues as students living in the U.S. They will have the opportunity to develop and express their own thoughts on these topics in a variety of communication forms, from interactive discussion to effective written expression.



Deborah "D" Brown,  
Associate Professor of  
History,  
Riverside City College  
951-328-3653 (text) include name &

"study aborad"

[Deborah.brown@rcc.edu](mailto:Deborah.brown@rcc.edu)





African American History  
(ETS/HIS 14) transfers to the  
UC and CSU system,  
meeting the US history,  
humanities, social science,  
American institutions, AND  
ethnic studies requirement.

## ETS/HIS 14 (3 units)

This course is a survey of African American history beginning with African civilizations through the trans-Atlantic slave trade, American chattel slavery and abolition to the Civil War and emancipation. There will be a focus on indigenous African knowledge systems and their links to modern African American experience. In Ghana, students will experience West African history, culture, and language as they experience sites of importance to African American and Pan-African history.

# What to expect in Winter 2025

- Jan 6 – 10                      Classes at RCCD
- Jan 13 – 15                    Classes at RCCD
- Jan 16 – 31                    In Ghana (Approx.)
- Feb 3 – 6                        Classes at RCCD
- Feb 10 – 13                    Classes at RCCD



# What to expect Jan 14 – 31

- Jan 14 or 15 Departure to Accra, Ghana
- Jan 16 – 19 Accra
- Jan 20 – 23 Kumasi & Obuasi
- Jan 23 – 27 Elmina
- Jan 27 – 28 Accra
- Jan 31 Depart to USA

# Accra (4 nights)



# Kumasi (3 nights





# Obuasi (Riverside Sister City since 2008)



# Elmina



# Back to Accra





## Study Abroad **During** Travel

Maintain Enrollment in Course(s)

Be mindful that you're a college AND community representative

Learn & Gain Experience

Have fun

Communicate with faculty leads, fellow students, program leads, & your people at home

Attend de-briefing meeting (February)

Tell everyone you know about what an amazing experience you had!

Show everyone your pictures!

Explain to everyone what you learned!

Study Abroad  
**After** Travel



Program Costs: \$4900 - \$6450

Costs Include:

\$200 application fee



```
graph TD; A["$200 application fee"] --> B["Airfare & in-country transportation"]; B --> C["In-country activities"]; C --> D["Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner in-country"]; D --> E["Travel & Medical Insurance* (reimbursement)"];
```

Airfare & in-country transportation

In-country activities

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner in-country

Travel & Medical Insurance\* (reimbursement)



Not  
included  
in costs...

RCCD CLASS FEES

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

VACCINATIONS

LAUNDRY

CELL PHONE

PASSPORT & VISA FEES

# Student Voice

I found a new appreciation for what is taken for granted living in the US. I realized how small my 'problems' actually are compared to true struggles. I got a taste of what an immigrant coming and trying to be a part of our culture would feel like and it gave me a whole new sense of empathy.



My study abroad experience had two major impacts on me. The first was forcing me out of my comfort zone...I was able to grow as a person and become much more comfortable in talking to those around me and adapting to...new environments.

The second ...was giving me a wider lens to see the world. I was a first generation student... family from Mexico... so I had visited Mexico plenty of times. However, traveling abroad...showed me how diverse we...still being human ...having the same wants for those around us and our home countries. After studying abroad I decided that my career should also have a global lens. I graduated with a Bachelor's in Economics and now work in International Development helping developing countries increase their economic growth.

Student  
Voice

# 7 Steps to Learn in Ghana January 2025

1. Apply for OR renew passport
2. Talk to your people (personal & academic)
3. Complete program application
4. Pay deposit (\$200)
5. Apply for scholarships
6. Visit travel clinic & get vaccinations
7. Interview with RCCD staff





# Travel.State.Gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE — BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS

**U.S. Passports**

**International Travel**

**U.S. Visa**

Need a Passport

Already Have a  
Passport

Get My Passport Fast

# 7 Steps to Learn in Ghana January 2025

1. Apply for OR renew passport
2. Talk to your people (personal & academic)
3. Complete program application
4. Pay deposit (\$200)
5. Apply for scholarships
6. Visit travel clinic & get vaccinations
7. Interview with RCCD staff



# Talk to your personal people!

FIND OUT WHO SUPPORTS YOU

AND

FIND OUT WHO YOU'LL HAVE  
TO CONVINC



Talk to your  
academic people!

- **ACADEMIC ADVISORS**
- **COUNSELORS**
- **FINANCIAL AID**



## Financial Aid



1. FAFSA first then...
2. contact college financial aid...

**Moreno Valley College**

Brooke Coston, [Brooke.Coston@mvc.edu](mailto:Brooke.Coston@mvc.edu)

**Norco College**

Maria Gonzalez, [Maria.Gonzalez@norcocollege.edu](mailto:Maria.Gonzalez@norcocollege.edu)

**Riverside City College**

Annie Li, [Annie.Li@rcc.edu](mailto:Annie.Li@rcc.edu)

# 7 Steps to Learn in Ghana January 2025

1. Apply for OR renew passport
2. Talk to your people (personal & academic)
3. [Complete program application](#)
4. Pay deposit (\$200)
5. Apply for scholarships
6. Visit travel clinic & get vaccinations
7. Interview with RCCD staff



<https://rccd.edu/sa/Ghana.html><https://rccd.edu/sa/Ghana.htm>

|

## Study Abroad

Home

Benefits of Studying Abroad

Japan (Summer 2024)

Ghana (Winter 2025)

Finances & Scholarships

General Eligibility Requirements

## Study Abroad

### Mission

The RCCD Study Abroad Program is committed to providing RCCD students with high-quality international education opportunities to develop cultural competency and global citizenship through experiencing global diversity.

### Objectives

- To offer study abroad opportunities to RCCD students while continuing earning credits toward their desired academic goal.



## Program Application

If you are ready to apply, please use the following link:



Space is limited. Applications due no later than April 5, 2024.

Within 2 weeks of our receipt of your application, you will receive an email, at your RCCD student email address. This email will invite you to complete the application process by: paying the refundable \$200 application fee (fully refunded if not selected for the program)

If you are unsure about applying and would like to put your name on the program interest list, please fill out the following form:



## Important Information about Traveling to Ghana

**Yellow Fever vaccine is required.** Current Hepatitis AB vaccine and malaria preventative medicines, are likely to be HIGHLY recommended. COVID vaccine was required and may be again, therefore, it is highly recommended. To obtain a Yellow Fever Vaccine, you'll need a prescription from a doctor. Visit your doctor and/or a travel clinic.



# 7 Steps to Learn in Ghana January 2025

1. Apply for OR renew passport
2. Talk to your people (personal & academic)
3. Complete program application
4. [Pay deposit \(\\$200\)](#)
5. Apply for scholarships
6. Visit travel clinic & get vaccinations
7. Interview with RCCD staff

Soon after you  
apply:

- Make \$200  
Payment



# 7 Steps to Learn in Ghana January 2025

1. Apply for OR renew passport
2. Talk to your people (personal & academic)
3. Complete program application
4. Pay deposit (\$200)
5. [Apply for scholarships](#)
6. Visit travel clinic & get vaccinations
7. Interview with RCCD staff

# Financial Support Available



[Gilman Scholarship](#)

Application  
Deadline –  
October



[S-STEM Scholar Program](#)



Other scholarship information  
available on RCCD study abroad  
website



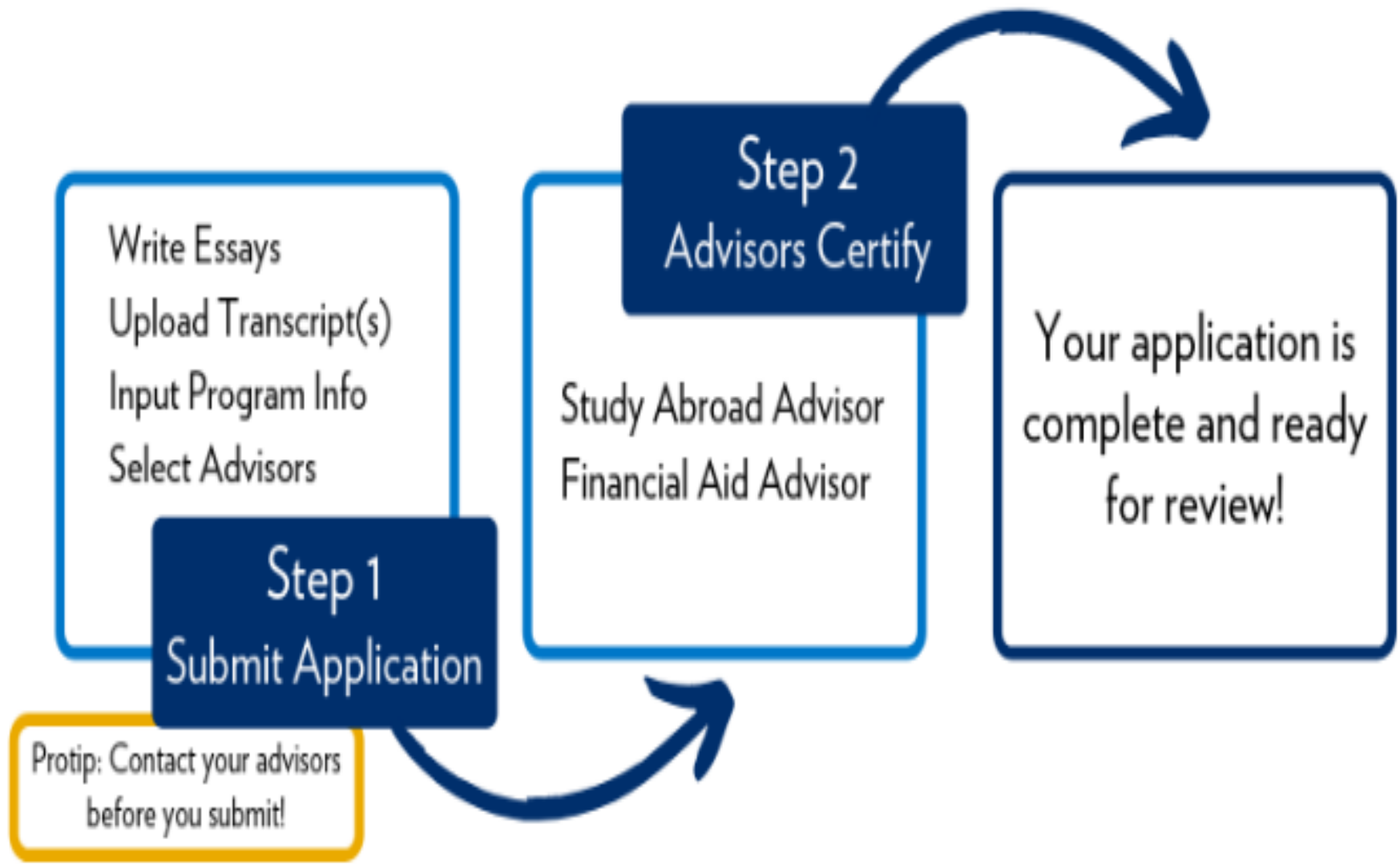
## Scholarships

Many scholarships are available to support you financially in your study abroad pursuits. However, each scholarship has its application deadline, eligibility requirement and application procedure; so definitely do your homework ahead of time. We encourage you to visit each individual link below to learn more about how to apply.



- [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#) (*Click to Apply*)  
The Gilman Scholarship Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is an undergraduate program for U.S. citizens of limited financial means to enable them to study abroad, thereby internationalizing their outlook and better preparing them to thrive in the global economy.
- [CAPA Need-based Scholarship & Blogger Grant](#)  
Each year, CAPA awards **\$1.5 million in study abroad scholarships, grants, and affiliate benefits!** To be eligible, you must be in the process of applying for a CAPA program. A separate scholarship application and documentation may also be required by the deadline listed. Late applications, essays, or forms will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- [CCID's Founder Study Abroad Scholarship](#) (*Apply Here*)  
In an effort to expand access to international experiences for community college students, Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) is offering student study abroad





# Gilman Scholarship

## Study Abroad Advisor

- Micherri Wiggs (RCC)
- Micherri Wiggs (MVC)
- Lijuan Zhai (NC)

## Financial Aid Advisor

- Annie Li (RCC)
- Brook Coston (MVC)
- Maria Gonzalez (NC)

## Additional Study Abroad Scholarships

- Alpha Lambda Delta James G. Stemler Study Abroad Scholarship
- S-STEM Scholarship Application for RCCD Students Studying Abroad
- Study Abroad Scholarship on California Colleges for International Education (CCIE)
- Boren Awards for International Study
- Corinne Jeannine Schillings Foundation



## CONTACT

Kasey Nguyen [kasey.nguyen@mvc.edu](mailto:kasey.nguyen@mvc.edu)

Esteban Navas [esteban.navas@mvc.edu](mailto:esteban.navas@mvc.edu)

**S-STEM  
SCHOLAR  
PROGRAM**

NSF 2130447

## SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

1. Must be a legal resident or US citizen.
2. Must be a current full time student in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math disciplines.
3. Must complete at least 1 semester of course work.
4. Must be on track to transfer to a university.
5. Must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.
6. Must provide a current Financial Aid Award letter that states aid qualification due to low income and/or financial hardship.

# 7 Steps to Learn in Ghana January 2025

1. Apply for OR renew passport
2. Talk to your people (personal & academic)
3. Complete program application
4. Pay deposit (\$200)
5. Apply for scholarships
- 6. Visit travel clinic & get vaccinations**
7. Interview with RCCD staff

# Yellow Fever Vaccine Required (by Ghana)

## Loma Linda

- Walk in only. Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4pm
- Consultation Fee = \$65
- Yellow Fever Vaccine = \$216
- Administration Fee = \$36
- Total Cost = \$317
- <https://lluh.org/services/center-health-promotion/international-travel-clinic>

## Costco

- Online Consultation, Via Website
- Consultation Fee = \$40
- Yellow Fever Vaccine = \$188
- Total Cost = \$228
- [https://www.costco.com/full-service-travel-medicine-consultation-program\\*%2C-by-safeguard.product.100123081.html](https://www.costco.com/full-service-travel-medicine-consultation-program*%2C-by-safeguard.product.100123081.html)

## Other Immunization

- Full immunization or preventative medicine against a variety of diseases are recommended for travel to Ghana. Vaccination or preventative medication for HepAB, Malaria, and Covid are **HIGHLY recommended**. For more information, visit this link: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/ghana>
- NOTE: Some of the above vaccines may be covered by your health insurance. RCC Health Services does have HepB and that would be free. Also, we hear that Kaiser also offers a travel clinic. If you have Kaiser, please investigate.

# 7 Steps to Learn in Ghana January 2025

1. Apply for OR renew passport
2. Talk to your people (personal & academic)
3. Complete program application
4. Pay deposit (\$200)
5. Apply for scholarships
6. Visit travel clinic & get vaccinations
7. [Interview with RCCD staff](#)



# RCCD Interview

- Invitation
- Individual OR small group interview



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

# Student Voice

It has been 8 years since I participated in the program, and since then I have completed my BA in Global Health which I attribute, [in part,] to my experience studying abroad. I am now enrolled in a masters program, with plans to do international work after I complete my degree.





[Study.Abroad@rccd.edu](mailto:Study.Abroad@rccd.edu)