

| Student | Comments #1   | Comments #2   | Do differently  | Impact on Student  |
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| 1       | I thought the program was excellent! I learned so much. One thing I would have enjoyed would be to have more free time in Ouaga in small towns. Also I really enjoyed the home stay and the visit to the shea butter factory.   | SAO can let students know about predeparture meetings earlier. Other than that, everything was great!   | I would have tried to learn more French because communication was hard at times.            | YES! I learned so much about development, rural life and poverty as well as West African culture. This trip was amazing and well worthwhile.   |
| 2       | Having 2 Burkinabe's to assist the trip was great. The food was some of the best I've had. Richard planned & executed a great adventure. Suggestions for the trip: Village stay early on during holiday. Immersion is a great way to adjust.  | False reports while abroad from study abroad were quite inappropriate.  | The trip length was great. Meetings had overlap, but were also informative.                 | Visiting Burkina Faso was a great adventure. Experiencing the people, places & culture changed my perspective on life.   |
| 3       | Had a great time. Housing not always ideal (no running water often) but nothing can be done about that. EXTREMELY worthwhile course.  | would change: maybe not so many repeats (saw multiple dry-season gardening and schools) a little more free time in Ouaga, maybe another day in the home stay, overall this trip was VERY well-organized and beautifully executed, I am highly impressed with how Richard managed to pull this off with very little problems. I feel like I have learned a lot and have grown as a person from this experience. THANK YOU!!!   | Nothing. Especially for being organized mostly from overseas the course went VERY smoothly. | Yes, I had a lot of opportunities to interact with locals and really got a taste of what it is lo live in Burkina.   |
| 4       | The Burkina program required a ton of travel so if there was any way to cut down on the bus time that would be positive. Other than that, I felt that the program was one of the best experiences in my life and learned a ton about development & globalization.   | I felt that SAO made me upset and nervous throughout the entire process. If Akresh and the program were not so great (and they were awesome), I would not have applied. In addition to threatening emails from the SAO informing me last minute that if I did not attend a MANDATORY meeting I would be kicked off the program, I was informed by SAO that my grandmother had passed away while I was in Burkina--only to find out this was a complete lie. If I had a choice between study abroad offices, I would never again use SAO EVER! | N/A   | Yes, Burkina Faso was the first place I had been outside of North America, and it was phenomenal. I learned so much. What a great program!   |
| 5       | This trip and the time period for which it is offered provide the perfect opportunity for students to spend time studying in an environment they would most likely never experience. It is so much more important than a trip to Rome or Paris, because it takes students places they could never get on their own. | One of our students was inaccurately told that his grandma had died. That is very unacceptable.   | It's always best to do more research about the country you are visiting before going.       | This experience in Burkina Faso was truly once-in-a-lifetime. Our personal visits with the actual people affected by development projects has given me a whole new understanding of NGO's as well as the entire development process. My experience on this trip will most certainly affect my career path. |

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| 6 | <p>The home stay should have not been with the functionaries. Students should have an option to go with the different types of families.</p> <p>Set up so that only had to pay for gifts. Good amount for food (already included)</p> <p>When I had a fever, Professor Akresh too good care of me, checking in periodically. I got a fever for a few days and was scared as to what it was but after a day of rest, it disappeared.</p> <p>The excursions to NGO projects were incredible. I still cannot believe that we had the opportunity to see such stuff at the very lowest level/basic level of development work.</p> <p>The time with the English club was priceless.</p> <p>The only damper was that most of us could not speak French &amp; interact with the students.</p> <p>I felt so incredibly safe in Burkina. The people were very polite and so respectful.</p> | <p>The advisor should have more specific information on the region. She did not know the specific health concerns of West Africa too well. Otherwise, excellent.</p> <p>Dale answered my email quickly and sufficiently yet he falsely told one of my colleagues that his grandparent had died. One can't make such mistakes.</p> <p>Comments: Probably the most practical study abroad program offered by the SAO. It balances incredible opportunity with great discussion and on-the-ground experience. The absence of classroom learning helps the student realize that the real-world can be the best classroom. Very strongly recommended.</p> | <p>I would study the government more. Also, practice my French a bit more. One might say "learn French." I would familiarize myself better with the specific details of the issues with regards to Burkina Faso.</p>   | <p>Yes. The program in Burkina Faso brought me to the very lowest level of development work--the village itself. Witnessing a 30 woman micro-savings meeting and staying with a host family of a village were just two examples of how the program took students and immersed them in a highly practical classroom.</p> |
| 7 | <p>A tough country to plan a trip in, but everything ran incredibly smoothly and it was overall informative and enjoyable</p>  | <p>A student was informed that his grandmother passed away when she actually didn't, and he was upset and distraught for the rest of the trip.</p>   | <p>Knowing French should be stressed if not required.</p>  | <p>Yes, it was challenging both personally and academically. I saw a part of the world that most only see through television and I have come away with a new appreciation for both Africa and Burkina Faso.</p>   |
| 8 |  |  | <p>I would have learned more of the country's language before start of the program. More study abroad programs should be offered in non-main stream locations such as Burkina Faso!</p>  | <p>It improved my understanding of topics I have previously learned at the university and made me more aware of the global forces which shape societies in different corners of the world.</p>  |
| 9 | <p>Great group/driver (which we had) are necessary.</p>  |  | <p>Maybe I would have tried harder to pick up some of the local languages.</p> <p>Suggestions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a comparable van is necessary for the trip to be enjoyable</li> <li>2. Obtain more French speakers</li> <li>3. Stress how challenging the trip will be so people don't think it's just a vacation</li> <li>4. Keep: English club, home stay, time in Ouaga, camels, camping</li> <li>5. Maybe try to find a market day earlier.</li> </ol> | <p>Definitely. It forced (and allowed) me to expand my comfort zone, as well as my perspective of poverty in Africa.</p>  |

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| 10 | <p>Food was not varied, but we were prepared for that. Would have been nice to have a couple night of more upscale lodging to transition into Burkina. Dust &amp; climate bad for allergies<br/>Meetings were very interesting and appropriate for class. Were able to engage the project directors and, villagers about the programs. An experience only few can have, to really understand poverty issues. The homestay and meeting with University students were a highlight. I also loved New Year's in the desert &amp; the local music.</p> | <p>A study abroad advisor called a student on our trip to tell him his grandmother had passed away, but the advisor made a mistake calling the wrong student. This seemed rather unprofessional and upsetting the wrong student could have been avoided.</p> <p>The program was extremely well planned and executed, even with communication issues that are inherent to developing countries. Richard valued our input into the activities and allowed us to maintain some independence on the trip. It was a difficult and exciting trip that I would definitely recommend to people with an interest in Africa, development, agriculture or business.</p> | <p>I would have learned more French to engage better with the Burkinabe and during my host stay. The pre-departure information was very good and helped prepare us for the conditions and travel.</p> | <p>Absolutely. I have been very interested in development work and this trip gave me first hand experience to see on the ground projects. It was my third time to the African continent and helped me understand some issues of development in different places. Also, we lived like the Burkinabe, which was very challenging and helped me appreciate my life in the U.S.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Great trip!</p>  | <p>The pre-departure meetings were informative. More free time in Ouaga would have been nice. Perhaps suggest bringing a sleeping bag for all occasions, I felt that each of the planned activities was important/beneficial and I really liked that we visited similar projects to compare how different NGOs approached. The home stay was great and perhaps there could have been more organized activities between host families and students like the "hike" at the library. Overall, there was a great balance between structured time and free time.</p>  | <p>Perhaps pack less.</p>   | <p>This course was one of most profound events in my life. We got to see things that most people only speculate about in terms of poverty, development, and our own privilege as Americans. Burkina Faso has complex development problems and they were not sugar coated. Really had to self-reflect and challenge myself to understand what I was presented with.</p>          |
| 12 | <p>--I really enjoyed the home stay!<br/>--Meeting with university students was great, and the people of Burkina Faso are friendly.<br/>--I always felt quite safe.<br/>--Although I had many concerns, such matters are just part of travel. We were all well prepared and informed in advance, so the health concerns did not create problems.</p>  | <p>I was mostly dissatisfied because the orientation was redundant for students who had already studied abroad, and because everything was repeated in individual classroom settings with the professor who could provide more country-specific information.</p>   | <p>I think that I prepared well and embraced the experience wholly. No changes.</p>   | <p>Yes, absolutely, in ways that I cannot articulate with so little space. This trip showed me the real effects of development and taught me to evaluate them critically. It also allowed me to witness the challenges that most of the world faces, and demonstrated how very blessed I am.</p>  |

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| 13 | <p>Overall this was an excellent trip. I did have many concerns in regards to my health while traveling however both the professor and McKinley did a great job preparing us for the trip. Moreover, while I was on the trip, I was impressed with the fact that only about 3 people got sick, thus the country was safer than I expected.</p>            | <p>Please continue Study Abroad in Burkina!</p>  | <p>I would have taken an intro French course, dealing w/ the language barrier was very difficult!</p> <p>Comments: This was a very jam-packed trip however I found everything we did as very fulfilling &amp; educational. I especially enjoyed talking to the English club, the night in the desert, dry-season gardening and the trip to the shea butter factory. I do think more free time is needed though, there were days where we felt really tired b/c we were so busy. Overall, this was a great trip and although it was very challenging to endure at times, it should definitely be something expanded.</p>   | <p>I see my trip to Burkina Faso as a life changing experience. It is one thing to read about economic development and globalization however to experience life in the village w/o running water, to go to a restaurant and only have two options for food really helps put poverty and development into perspective.</p> |
| 14 | <p>French language skills would have made the course far easier and more beneficial. The students selected need to be flexible in terms of food, hygiene, and sleeping arrangements. I personally loved it but if you aren't comfortable camping, etc. you would feel greatly uncomfortable. Lastly the health issues were easily resolved/prevented.</p> | <p>I thought the initial orientations to be an utter waste of my time! They were very general &amp; nothing very new or exciting was presented. I was hoping to be inspired for excitement but instead it made the course seem less attractive.</p> <p>The pre-departure class meetings with my particular class were extremely helpful on the other hand.</p> | <p>I would require one semester of French of offer pre-departure reviews. Everything else was as expected and enjoyable.</p> <p>Suggestions: I would recommend this trip to anyone + everyone because we were able to travel a lot and see a great deal of the country. I cannot believe we were only in country ~ 16 days because everyday was so loaded with experiences. I couldn't imagine a better way to observe globalization and development in so short a time. I am thrilled to have had the chance to take this course and I believe courses like this one should be offered more because rare destinations such as Burkina Faso are not often readily accessible yet they offer the best value.</p> | <p>Yes! My very first trip out of the country was an amazing experience! I had high hopes based on the syllabus and they were met &amp; exceeded. This experience has certainly planted the "travel-bug" but more importantly, it taught me where my passions lie and opened new doors for me to explore.</p>             |