



# Information for Interested Volunteers

## University of Ghana, Masters in Speech and Language Therapy Programme

Akwaabaa! Welcome to Ghana - a warm and friendly tropical country of West Africa.

### COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Ghana is a rapidly developing country within West Africa. Sitting in the Gulf of Guinea, Ghana shares land borders with Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

Agriculture is an important industry, employing up to half of the workforce. A major commodity is cocoa, for which Ghana is one of the main suppliers to the global market. Other industries of note include gold, oil, timber.

Ghana has been an independent country since 1957, when it was the first nation in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve its independence from former colonial ruler Britain. It is a democracy with a stable government, and well recognized for its peaceful elections.

For a taste of Ghana see:

#### Key facts:

Population: Approximately 25 million

Languages: More than 25 languages are spoken in Ghana. The official language is English

Currency: Ghana Cedi GHS

GDP (per capita): approx. \$4 400 USD

#### Sources:

CIA (2016). The World Factbook. Ghana. Retrieved from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gh.html>

Awoonor-Williams, K. (2016). The country Ghana. Ghana Web. Retrieved from [http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/country\\_information/](http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/country_information/)

### THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

The University of Ghana is one of Ghana's leading tertiary institutions. It is a government run university based in the capital Accra. The Audiology, Speech and Language Therapy Department is part of the School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences, in the College of Health Sciences. Teaching is done at the Korle Bu Campus which is co-located with Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

### SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY TRAINING



Speech and language therapy training commenced at the University of Ghana in 2016, after years of planning. One major challenge to the development of the training was the lack of SLTs in Ghana. The Government of Ghana sponsored two of our current faculty to train as SLTs in the United Kingdom. They subsequently returned to Ghana to build their clinical skills prior to being integral to the development of the SLT training programme.

The University of Ghana now has a faculty of 3 fulltime speech and language therapists, and one part time volunteer who teach on the programme. Teaching is done across 4 semesters (2 years), which includes clinical placements in the breaks between semesters.

The University of Ghana SLT programme was conceived and is operated by the university. They receive some outside funding and support from partner organisations and institution. A significant part of the work of the faculty includes establishing

### THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer SLTs are welcomed by the SABAHS to assist with particular elements of the

programme. International volunteers for periods across are required for a range of purposes to:

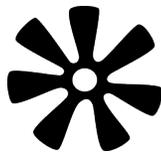
- Support existing faculty to develop detailed and Ghanaian-relevant curriculum materials in accordance with our course outlines.
- Offer support to academic faculty to further develop their skills in teaching methodologies
- Develop research plans and projects in conjunction with local faculty.
- Supervise student clinical placements in community clinics.
- Act as mentors in particular topics or research areas for academic faculty.

Each time volunteer support is required, a call for volunteers is made within the international community. It will be clear whether this is a:

- Academic volunteer
- Student community clinical supervision volunteer

### DESIRABLE SKILLS AND QUALITIES

Before coming to Ghana, potential SLT volunteers should think about the skills they may be able to offer the programme.



Ideally, we are seeking volunteers with either academic experience in relevant areas OR clinical experience in particular fields, including supervision of SLT students. Experience working with people from cultures that are not their own or working in low and middle income countries would also be beneficial.

Working in a new country can be challenging. Volunteers will be required to be adaptable, flexible, practical individuals with effective communication skills.

## PRACTICAL DETAILS

### LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

A number of local guesthouses will be used to accommodate volunteers. A list of local appropriate guesthouses that have been inspected by local faculty will be supplied. Volunteers may choose the guesthouse that best suits their needs. We can assist volunteers to make these arrangements.

Volunteers will be given a basic living allowance to assist coverage of guesthouse standard accommodation and basic meal costs.

Kindly note: Guesthouses typically provide basic accommodation (fan or a/c, breakfast, inside bathroom). Electricity and water shortages can occur. Volunteers need to be aware that they may experience water issues or electrical shortages at times. Electricity shortages are commonly known as 'dumsor' (lights off).

### MEALS

Volunteers will be given a living allowance to help with costs of basic meals whilst volunteering with the programme.

### GETTING TO GHANA

The programme DOES NOT yet have funding to allow us to cover airfare expenses. We are continuing to research funding options for this purpose and apply for funding which could assist with this expense. Until such a time, volunteers will be responsible for the cost of their own flights. Please ask for updated information when you are enquiring about volunteering.

### GETTING AROUND

Volunteers will be encouraged to stay close to the area in which they will be working if possible. Taxis are cheap and plentiful, and will hone your bargaining skills!

## VISAS, VACCINATIONS AND INSURANCE

After finalizing your volunteer placement, the University of Ghana will require a copy of your CV and passport front page. They will then issue a letter of invitation that you will use when you apply for a visa from your home country.



Volunteers are required to have travel insurance which includes medical cover and repatriation for medical emergencies.

## AVAILABLE FUNDING

As outlined above, we are able to provide funding to assist with the following expenses:

- A fixed daily amount per day to assist with basic guesthouse accommodation, meals and local transport.
- Set funding to assist with visa costs, vaccinations and travel insurance (including health and evacuation insurance)

Copies of receipts will be required.

Further details will be provided in individual correspondence.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the SLT team on [publichealth.slt@gmail.com](mailto:publichealth.slt@gmail.com).

Thank you for your interest in supporting our programme.

Ye da mo ase paa! (Translation: We thank you very much).

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Karen Wylie



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Ghana, School of  
Biomedical and Allied  
Health Sciences*

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