St. Lawrence has found ways to ensure Kenyans also benefit from the University’s presence in their country. This reciprocity has been a key element in what students have taken away from the program as St. Lawrence strives for a mutually beneficial relationship with their Kenyan counterparts.

» Since 1984, St. Lawrence has offered annual scholarship opportunities to Kenyan students. Many of our Kenyan scholarship alumni have gone on to distinguished careers across Kenya, including four being elected to the Kenyan National Assembly.

» Since 1992, St. Lawrence has offered a two-year visiting Swahili instructor position to Kenyans who are able to conduct research toward a Ph.D. from a Kenyan university or earn a master’s degree from St. Lawrence.

» The St. Lawrence campus in Nairobi supports a staff of over 15 full-time Kenyan employees.

"As I gained a deeper appreciation for another culture, I began to realize that there were multiple ways to solve any challenge. Perhaps most significantly, while living in Kenya, I gained a deeper understanding of myself, my likes and dislikes, as well as my strengths and shortcomings."

KENYA SEMESTER PROGRAM

St. Lawrence University’s program in Kenya is almost as old as the country itself. Only nine years after Kenya gained its independence, St. Lawrence launched a January term in 1972 and its semester program in 1974. Nearing its 40th year, the St. Lawrence Kenya Semester Program (KSP) is one of the longest-running U.S. study abroad programs on the African continent. Nearly 1,900 students have participated from more than 30 colleges and universities.

Through direct interaction with several of the ethnic groups who make up Kenya, students learn to appreciate the diversity of the Kenyan people, as well as the complexity of the challenges they face.

THE KENYA-ST. LAWRENCE BOND

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ACADEMICS

The KSP offers a **multifaceted and intensively cross-cultural opportunity** that intertwines classroom instruction, field learning and cultural immersion throughout the semester.

Students take two required courses and select two electives that focus on their own field of interest or specialization. The program serves majors from a number of disciplines. Students also spend time during the semester traveling throughout Kenya and East Africa on various course components.

Whether matriculated at St. Lawrence or elsewhere, all students must take four courses to earn full-semester credit. Upon successful completion of the program, students earn 4.5 units of St. Lawrence credit, or 16.2 credits.

CLAESSES OFFERED

**Required Courses:**
- Kiswahili (at the appropriate level)
- Culture, Environment and Development in East Africa

**Elective Courses (students choose two):**
- Gender Issues in Modern and Traditional Kenya
- Biodiversity Conservation and Management in East Africa
- Critical Issues in Socio-Economic Development in Kenya
- Introduction to the History of Modern Kenya

Prior to the semester, students must take at least one African studies course. Students from other colleges or universities applying for the program should be in touch with the program faculty coordinator to confirm courses they have taken satisfy this prerequisite. (This does not apply to summer courses.)

SUMMERTERM

Each course is worth 5.4 credits.

- Challenges in Conservation: National Parks at Risk
- Healthcare Delivery in a Developing Country
- Pastoral Nomads and Wildlife Conservation

"Every day of my KSP experience reaffirmed my desire to work and live in Africa. Kenyans are warm and hospitable and their land is beautiful. I have been able to draw upon the KSP as the **backbone of my career in international development.**"
COMPONENTS

» Week 1 (Day 1 - 6):
  Orientation week in Nairobi

» Week 2 (Day 7 - 15):
  Rural homestay in an agricultural community

» Week 3 - 4 (Day 17 - 28):
  Classes in Nairobi (St. Lawrence Compound)

» Week 5 (Day 30 - 36):
  Tanzania field trip with the Hadza

» Week 6 - 8 (Day 40 - 58):
  Classes in Nairobi (with urban homestay)

» Week 9 (Day 62 - 68):
  Amboseli field trip with the Maasai

» Week 10 (Day 69 - 73):
  Coastal field trip in Mombasa

» Week 11 - 12 (Day 75 - 86):
  Classes in Nairobi (St. Lawrence Compound)

» Week 13 - 16 (Day 89 - 116):
  Independent Study

» Week 17 (Day 117 - 122):
  Closing module

RURAL AGRICULTURAL FIELD COMPONENT

Students live with Kenyan families as a way to begin understanding much of Kenya’s population and its livelihood, as well as traditions and modern issues they face.

TANZANIA FIELD STUDY COMPONENT

The Hadza are one of a few communities that still hunts, gathers and lives entirely off the land. Students spend three nights in the Yaeda Valley and join the Hadza men and women on excursions while learning the future of the Hadza lifestyle in the face of accelerated development.

URBAN STUDY COMPONENT

Students spend three weeks living with an urban host family in Nairobi. These homestays offer an opportunity to learn about urban Kenyan families’ lifestyles and understand the issues related to the city of Nairobi and its environment.

COASTAL FIELD STUDY COMPONENT

The four-day coastal component introduces students to the influence Islam and Christianity have had on the indigenous cultures. Students visit the Fort Jesus Museum, tour the old city of Mombasa, visit the Krapf’s Memorial Museum and enjoy the spectacular Indian Ocean.

AMBOSELI FIELD STUDY COMPONENT

Socio-economic and environmental factors are responsible for changing the Maasai culture and pastoral lifestyle from nomadic pastoralism to semi-sedentary mixed agro-pastoralism in the Amboseli region. Students spend a night in a traditional Maasai homestead to engage our host community in discussion.

INDEPENDENT STUDY COMPONENT

The capstone experience of the program is a month-long independent study with an organization in East Africa. These placements are arranged individually with the support of the program directors according to each student’s academic and personal interests. Students are active participants at their host organization, participating in the day-to-day functions, gaining experience and insight into the inner workings of the organization. Students are placed with organizations in Nairobi and throughout Kenya as well as in Tanzania and Uganda. During this period students live in guest houses or apartments, or with host families.
CONANT NEVILLE ’14
Major: Government
KSP Spring ’13

“During these five months I have learned much about this country and the problems facing the developing world, but also much about myself. Time and time again this program has tested my limits and made me step outside my comfort zones, forcing me to reevaluate my positions on many social and cultural practices. From the courses and field components I have expanded my cultural understanding of urban and rural, modern and indigenous peoples, as well as how to communicate effectively in another language and culture.

The cultural component has opened my eyes to the issues facing indigenous people as they struggle to maintain their culture and balance it with the pressures of an exploitive Western culture; tourism; corruption; land, water and climate issues; and countless other social and environmental problems.”

STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 30 INSTITUTIONS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ST. LAWRENCE’S KSP, INCLUDING:
- Bates College
- Bowdoin College
- Colby College
- The College of William and Mary
- Emory University
- Hamilton College
- Middlebury College
- Smith College
- Syracuse University
- Washington University of St. Louis

PROGRAM COSTS
Participants pay St. Lawrence University’s regular semester comprehensive fees which covers tuition, room and board fee and program-integrated field components.

The fee does not cover:
- Transportation to Kenya
- Passport
- Books
- Required cell phone
- Additional required health insurance

KENYA FOR LIFE
The end of your semester is not the end of your Kenya experience. Students have benefited from transformative education experiences. For many of them, this serves as an introduction to later post-graduate opportunities and, for some, careers in Africa. Over the years, KSP alumni have worked in the Peace Corps and World Teach, at the African Wildlife Foundation, and led student trips to East Africa via Putney Student Travel. Countless students have worked for a variety of Kenya-based NGOs such as the Sally Test Pediatric Care Center in Eldoret, Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development, Watamu Turtle Watch, Wakuluzu and New Life Home.

Others have started their own NGOs and businesses, often with Kenyan partners and friends met on the program, including Ajiri Tea, The BOMA Project and The Northern Kenya Fund.
KATHLEEN COLSON ’79
Founder, The BOMA Project
KSP Spring ’78

“My career path followed a traditional corporate route initially, but my KSP experience constantly drew me back to African issues. I raised funds for numerous humanitarian and conservation organizations, and in 1986 I started my own safari business, African Safari Planners, which allowed me to make frequent visits to East Africa. In 2005, after witnessing the utter failure of so many aid efforts, I started The BOMA Project, with Ahmed Omar of northern Kenya, and am now CEO.

‘BOMA consumes all of my professional time and I spend two to three months a year in Kenya. I am passionately committed to making a difference in the lives of the poorest and most marginalized residents of Kenya, the pastoralists of the north.’

“Every day of my KSP experience reaffirmed my desire to work and live in Africa. Kenyans are warm and hospitable and their land is beautiful. I have been able to draw upon the KSP as the backbone of my career in international development.”

APPLICATION DEADLINES
SPRING SEMESTER:
September 10
SUMMER COURSES:
February 1
FALL SEMESTER:
February 20

CONTACT US
Learn more about our program at www.stlawu.edu/ciis.

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