



Experience WASH in Malawi Summer II, 2016

Instructors:	Dr. Ralph P. Hall (VT), https://ralphphall.wordpress.com/ Dr. Emily Van Houweling (University of Denver)
Location:	Mzuzu University, Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation
Credits:	3
Duration:	3 weeks, Summer II (<i>tentative dates July 11–29, 2016</i>)
Program Fee:	\$2,500 (<i>excluding course credit and flights</i>)

This applied and service oriented study abroad experience will provide undergraduate and graduate students with a grounded understanding of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) in Malawi. The first part of the course will take place in the classroom with lectures, discussions, and small group projects led by faculty at Mzuzu University, Dr. Ralph Hall, and Dr. Emily Van Houweling. The course will begin with a general review of the state of water and sanitation services in different parts of the world and will raise the question of what constitutes access to water. We will review important concepts in WASH and provide an overview of the most pressing WASH issues in Malawi. Following this introduction, students will study the design of relevant WASH technologies and educational programs from the perspective of public health, cultural appropriateness, and sustainability. Armed with an understanding of critical WASH issues and technologies, students will then undertake community-based fieldwork on a WASH-related problem in partnership with the Mzuzu University Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation.

A unique aspect of the course is that Virginia Tech and University of Denver students will work alongside students from Mzuzu University to explore a wide range of WASH issues both in the classroom and the field. This pairing of students will promote cultural exchange and enable discussions about ethics and power in the field of international development. The joint teaching model, combined student cohort, and experiential approach to learning will provide students from the U.S. and Malawi with a rich educational and cultural experience.

The course is designed for students interested in working in the global WASH sector or pursuing a career in international development.



See: <http://mzuni.ac.mw/watsan.html>

Learning Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the principal WASH issues in Malawi;
- Explain how water is connected to livelihoods, health, and wellbeing in Malawi;
- Think critically about current planning approaches and policies in Malawi relating to the delivery of sustainable and equitable water and sanitation services;
- Describe the critical components of a rural water supply or sanitation program that is sustainable and culturally appropriate;
- Design and implement a participatory process to understand the community-based development issues;
- Analyze data and develop strategies to address the WASH problems facing a community; and
- Identify and articulate the complexities and challenges of implementing successful WASH projects.

Costs:

The program fee is \$2,500. It includes housing and three meals per day, transportation costs, CISI travel insurance, lodging for field trips, and administrative costs. Students will also be charged summer tuition, and will be expected to cover their own out-of-pocket expenses. Personal expenses are estimated as follows:

- Roundtrip airline ticket ~ \$2,000
- Passport/visa fees* ~ \$200
- Books and supplies ~ \$50
- Personal expenses** ~ \$400

* Passport/visa fees may vary

** Will be affected by individual travel, souvenirs, and other items

Financial Aid:

Education abroad financial aid may be available for Virginia Tech students. Contact Virginia Tech's Global Education Office for more information:

<http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu/>

Join the **Experience WASH in Malawi** Google Group to receive course updates:



wash-malawi-g@vt.edu

