



# Benin

## Culture and Agriculture in West Africa

### PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

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**Location:**

Benin, West Africa

**Program Dates:**

July 22 - August 7, 2012

**Course Credit:**

AGRI 310 or Independent Study (3 credits)

**Cost:**

\$4,100 – \$4,600 (estimate)

+tuition & student fees for 3 credits

**Application Deadline:**

January 16, 2012

**Contact:**

Study Abroad

420 University Terrace

Lincoln, NE 68588-0682

(402) 472-5358

[iaffairs@unl.edu](mailto:iaffairs@unl.edu)

[www.unl.edu/iaffairs](http://www.unl.edu/iaffairs)

Professor Wes Peterson

Agricultural Economics

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## The Program

The purpose of this study tour is to learn about the history, culture and current economic situation of Benin, a small West African country with rich cultural and historic traditions. The tour focuses on three primary learning objectives:

1. To understand the importance of agricultural development for the overall economic growth and development of a low-income African country.
2. To become familiar with the history of Benin as reflected in the story of the Kingdom of Danxomé and its connection to the slave trade and the broader West African historical record.
3. To develop insights into the unique culture of Benin including the importance of traditional religions (Vodun) from which new world voodoo traditions have evolved.



Students will discover Benin's great ethnic diversity by traveling to different regions of the country, and gain an appreciation for the significance of Benin's historic connections to France, including the use of the French language in business, politics and education. Through these experiences, students will gain greater understanding of life in Africa and the rich traditions and economic opportunities found in the countries of that continent.

## Faculty Leader

Professor Wes Peterson was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Benin and has traveled extensively in West Africa for long- and short-term economic consulting as well as for pleasure. He has also traveled extensively in Europe, most notably in France and the Balkans. He's a professor in Agricultural Economics and teaches courses on trade, public policy, development and poverty.

## Enrollment

Use MyRed to enroll in the course for summer session. You can obtain the call number from the academic department office. Non-UNL participants must first be admitted to UNL as a visiting student.

## Course Credit

This is a three-credit course offered as AGRI 310, but students may opt to enroll for independent study in another department, with permission from the undergraduate adviser in that department. This course can be counted as credit for the ACE 9 requirement. Attendance at pre-departure meetings is required.

## How to Apply

Applications are available at the International Affairs office or at [www.unl.edu/iaffairs](http://www.unl.edu/iaffairs). This program requires Application Forms A (biographical data) and B (statement of purpose). Submit applications by **January 18, 2012**. Late applications will be considered as long as space remains available.

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

Students interested in applying for financial aid should contact a study abroad advisor at Scholarships & Financial Aid, 17 Canfield, (402) 472-2030.

Students eligible for CASNR scholarships should complete an application at [www.casnr.unl.edu](http://www.casnr.unl.edu) under *Current Students and Forms*.

For information about scholarships specific to study abroad, including the Discovery, Christian Lieding, and Von Gillern Scholarships, contact International Affairs.

## Cost

The program fee is estimated to be between \$4,100 and \$4,600, based on a minimum of 10 students. This estimate is subject to change.

Program fee includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from Omaha to Cotonou
- Hotel and most meals
- Transportation within Benin
- Museum entry fees and miscellaneous expenses
- Travel insurance and visa application
- Immunization for yellow fever and malaria

In addition to the program fee, UNL tuition and student fees for the credit course will be billed to your UNL student account, due in May 2012.

Cancellations must be made in writing to International Affairs. Withdrawal from the course after February 10, 2012 will result in a \$150 cancellation fee, plus any other irrecoverable costs.

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