



African Immersion: American College Students in Cameroon

By Julius A. Amin

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Based on previously unused primary sources including extensive interviews in Cameroon, personal journals, diaries, responses to questionnaires, and a variety of secondary sources, this study is a critical analysis of US study abroad programs in Africa. Using the University of Dayton Cameroon Immersion program as a case study, the work examines different aspects of experiential learning including selection, orientation, activities of US college students in Cameroon, post-immersion meetings, and impact of program. The nation of Cameroon and University of Dayton are uniquely ideal for the study as Cameroon is considered “Africa in miniature” and serves as a window to understanding many of Africa’s political, economic, cultural, and social complexities. Located in the American Midwest, the University of Dayton, while unique, shares many similarities with other American universities.

The study expands the boundaries of scholarship on study abroad. By comparing the impact of the African experience on students to that of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in that continent, the study opens up avenues for comparative analyses. Africa is vital to the global community and, with its complex political, economic, cultural, and social systems, offers important lessons to understanding students’ ability to adapt to change in a rapidly changing global environment.

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Editorial Review

Review

Education for global citizenship and experiential learning are today trumpeted as among the defining goals of a college education, making all the more self-evident the value of study abroad programs as part of the undergraduate experience. Based on a detailed study of University of Dayton's study abroad programme in Cameroon, Amin, a Professor of History at the university and faculty leader for the Cameroon program for many years, provides a nuanced and honest analysis of the benefits and challenges of study abroad programs. College administrators as well as students involved in or contemplating study abroad programs in Africa and elsewhere will profit from his effort. (Dickson Eyoh, University of Toronto)

'Original, Vivid, and Masterful.' Julius Amin's *African Immersion: American College Students in Cameroon* is a must read. Although the book's focus is on the experiences of the University of Dayton's Study Abroad program in Cameroon, it has important lessons for students and faculty involved in Study Abroad program across the world. Julius Amin tells it as he sees it, with nothing to shove under the rug. (Moses K. Tesi)

About the Author

Julius A. Amin is professor of history at the University of Dayton.

Users Review

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Kathryn Cannon:

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Mildred Brummett:

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Alex Tipton:

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