

## PREP, ARRIVAL, SURVIVAL

**NB: This information supplements and expands on the current one on logistics at”**  
[http://afmusgroup.beaconpros.com/sgam\\_logs\\_jan5.pdf](http://afmusgroup.beaconpros.com/sgam_logs_jan5.pdf) , which will be updated.

**YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THIS UPDATE AT <http://afmusgroup.beaconpros.com/>**

**[1] HEALTH, REQUIRED YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION:** You will be asked at the arrival hall to wave your yellow fever card. I have not seen anyone denied “entry” or turned away but it is wise and safe to following the regulations. I understand the vaccine is scarce in the USA and can cost up to \$250—search far and wide and quickly.

**[2] VISA:** The depth and scope of requirements on the forms seem to vary from one embassy to another. The basics are:

**a. Invitation letter** (which I write for everyone and please request one asap if you need it)

**b. Host contacts:** They require home address so I have these ready, including mine and that of the Local Arrangements Chair:

## TWO REFERENCES

### Home/Residential Address:

Professor Daniel K. Avorgbedor (Program Chair)

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Dr. Joshua Alfred Amuah (Chair, Local Arrangements Committee)

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**c. Government-issued photo ID of host:** A few individuals have reported this and I, therefore, provide mine—Ghana driver licence, front and back in jpegs. Please let me know if you need this and I will send it to you asap, per attachment. I will provide a link where you can also download it, as convenient.

**e. EXTRAS:** I think opting for a TOURIST VISA is ok; I personally prefer **Expedited/Express** services

**f. VISA ON ARRIVAL: [2 persons were not allowed on the plane for a conference held here in Ghana in November, 2017)**

--NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES Where Ghana has no consular office, you may find a nearby country which handles visa issues. Please try as much as possible to obtain a visa because VISA ON ARRIVAL is a very expensive and time-consuming proposition, apart from writing a special letter. I remember one case in which at least \$300 was paid on the spot, even if unofficially and after some negotiations.

“If special requirements are satisfied, the citizens of countries without diplomatic or consular mission of Ghana travelling on short notice may obtain a visa on arrival.

Visa is granted on arrival for holders of a copy of a pre-arranged approval from immigration.”

(**about 20 African countries** and territories can visit Ghana for 90 days, unless otherwise stated)

*Kindly note that delegates may be refused entry on a passport that is due to expire within six months of departure date.*

PLEASE VISIT [http://www.ghanaimmigration.org/visa\\_info.html](http://www.ghanaimmigration.org/visa_info.html) AND <https://ghana.travisa.com/> FOR DETAILS

NB: Please contact me asap your country does not a Ghana consular representation or one nearby.

**[3] FOREIGN EXCHANGE:** You will pay the registration fee of \$100, the local Cedi (GHS) equivalent of the day. (E.g., today, June 2, the rate is GHS 4.77 to \$1; yesterday it was GHS 4.65. HOWEVER, the rates have been relatively STABLE for the PAST YEAR, starting from GHS 4.3 and lingering for long on GHS 4.4 AND GHS 4.5. This is the first time I have seen this high rate of GHS 4.77, which I believe may go down again. Visit <http://xe.com> for current exchange rates.

--There are 3 **Forex Bureaux** near the University of Ghana campus—there is none on campus: **Accra Mall**, which you may end up visiting anyway and which is about 2 miles from the campus. Taxi is recommended and there taxis on campus. One way may cost around GHS 20. A second one is located almost opposite /across from UPSA (University of Professional Studies), and also near Trinity Theological Seminary. It is about a little over a mile from campus. **Please google these institutions, the Mall and the Legon campus for approximate distances.**

**[5] ARRIVAL (AND PICKUP?):** We hope to have reps at the arrival terminal to greet you with placards, and we are aware you may arrive at different times and days. You may already have a pickup arrangement, depending on your hotel protocol.

--Else, you take a taxi from the Kotoka Airport to, say, Legon campus (about 4.5 miles) should be around **GHS 50**.

--Other onsite travel: **Legon to Accra**, main city hub: Taxi should be around **GHS 40**, one way, about 8 miles.

--**UBER:** Great if you have one and if you have adjusted your account details to reflect the new location.

**[6] PHONE/WIFI/COMMUNICATION:** There is one spot on campus where you can buy local sim card, as needed. (Located adjacent the Central Cafeteria where they also have student clinic.) The two mobile phone services providers are MTN and VODAFONE. There are other small companies.

Local phone numbers are prefixed by a “0” ONLY when calling in Ghana; to call Ghana from abroad, you would need the country code, +233 and the number without is “0” prefix. E.g., my local number is 0207060435. To call me from abroad, you dial +233 207060435

### **[7] EMERGENCIES:**

#### **Call any of us:**

Daniel (myself): +233 (0)207060435

Dr. Joshua Amuah: +233(0)20 859 0221; +233(0)24 020 7400

Eyram Fiagbedzi: +233 (0) 205523828

Dr. Ben Amakye Boateng +233 (0) 249270872

**[9] PRE-/POST-SYMPOSIUM EXCURSION, fun, etc.:** At the moment we don’t have the resources to organize such programs, especially when they come with costs which we cannot afford. It is highly possible to arrange individual and small-group tours but through independent providers such as these two I have located online and spoken with their reps (*We are not in any way endorsing these companies; please use your discretion and search far and wide and make prudent decisions.*):

--<https://www.easytrackghana.com/tours.php> (+233 (0)27 665 7036);

-- <http://www.noworriesghana.com/sections/health/item/1471-land-tours-ghana-ltd> (+233 (0)30 276 1751,  
(0)30 276 1752)

[10] **Program Updates:** A full preliminary program updates will be available in the next few days:  
*<http://afmusgroup.beaconpros.com>*

[11] **REGISTRATION SURVEY/HEADCOUNT:** Please respond to the google survey if you have not yet done so.