

Gambia Technical Training Institute and the University of The Gambia

Bachelor of Community Building and Design (BCBD) Programme

The first class of students was admitted to the Bachelor of Community Building and Design (BCBD) programme in September 2007 and graduated in May 2010. The programme is offered jointly by the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) and the University of The Gambia. The BCBD programme is the principal outcome of a \$1.4-million cost-shared project, funded 50% by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and 50% through in-kind contributions from the Dalhousie University Faculty of Architecture and Planning and its partner, the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI). The CIDA funding is administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

The main objective of the project, which was approved in March 2003, is "to build capacity in the planning/design/construction sector of the Gambian economy such that the country improves in its efforts to build environmentally sustainable, healthy and culturally responsible communities and buildings." The BCBD programme, the principal armature of this larger project, prepares "para-professionals" in the fields of sustainable building design and construction, and environmental and community design and planning, where they will bring to bear the skills and knowledge to work independently, and to learn, think and act from first principles. Its graduates will be employed in the building sector, all levels of government, and non-government and community agencies, where they will take part in moving The Gambia toward more appropriate, sustainable and environmentally responsible approaches to its built and natural environments.



Plan of Jeshwang village, drawn by Fatoumata Fatty, Abba Jammeh, and Ousman B. K. Mbye

About the BCBD Programme

The Gambia's many communities are the central focus of the programme. They are both subjects of study and direct participants in the identification and resolution of the physical problems they face. The approach to this subject matter is practical and hands-on. Every course in the programme has its own field study or workshop component. Approximately three of every four hours are spent in the workshop or the field. In this way, principles and skills are learned and tested through direct application. Practical projects and real-life problems, of increasing complexity and length, challenge students to exercise their powers of observation and analysis, construct and test theories, and project and represent appropriate and sustainable responses to their host communities.

Between May and August in Years 1 and 2, students are required to intern with participating NGOs, with governments, or in the private sector, where they acquire additional practical experience. Upon completion of Year 3, during which they complete their course work and two term-long projects, including a supervised field study, successful students are awarded a Bachelor of Community Building and Design degree. The class of students which graduated in May 2010 received its degrees from Dalhousie University. Henceforth, graduates of the BCBD programme will receive their degrees from the University of The Gambia.

Curriculum

The BCBD is a three-year, full-time, 90-credit-hour, undergraduate degree programme, consisting of five academic terms in residence, two term-long internships, and a term-long field placement. The programme of studies includes:

- *Design and Planning* courses, which apply the skills and knowledge acquired from other parts of the programme to community-based projects, calling upon skills of observation, analysis, critical thinking, and invention.
- *Humanities* courses, which study aspects of human habitation in The Gambia and give a cultural context to field studies undertaken throughout the programme.
- *Practice* courses, which cover topics such as quantity surveying, strategic planning, business administration, entrepreneurship, budgeting and financial management.
- *Technology* courses, which deal with the built environment, the natural environment, and planning and design strategies which are appropriate to the sustainability of their interrelationship.

This course of studies provides a base of academic knowledge, design and planning skill, and practical experience from which a student may proceed into "The Sector," graduate studies, or a professional programme in architecture or planning.



Section of a family compound, studied by Fatoumata Fatty, Alieu Jallow, Mamudou Manjang, and Ousman B. K. Mbye, and drawn by Bevan Badjie

Courses

The following table presents the programme of study, year by year, term by term, and course by course.

Year 1 - Term B1 (Sept. - Dec.)

- BCBD 1001.06 Community Design Workshop 1
- BCBD 1101.03 Humanities 1
- BCBD 1201.03 Practice 1
- BCBD 1301.03 Building Technology 1

Year 1 - Term B2 (Jan. - Apr.)

- BCBD 1002.06 Community Design Workshop 2
- BCBD 1102.03 Humanities 2
- BCBD 1202.03 Project Costing & Feasibility
- BCBD 1302.03 Alternative Technologies

Year 1 - Term B3 (May - Aug.)

- BCBD 1203.00 Internship 1

Year 2 - Term B4 (Sept. - Dec.)

- BCBD 2001.06 Community Design Workshop 3
- BCBD 2101.03 Humanities 3
- BCBD 2201.03 Practice 2
- BCBD 2301.03 Building Technology 2

Year 2 - Term B5 (Jan. - Apr.)

- BCBD 2002.06 Community Design Workshop 4
- BCBD 2102.03 Aspects of Development
- BCBD 2202.03 Financial Management Planning & Budgeting
- BCBD 2302.03 Physical Environment, Ecology and Sustainability

Year 2 - Term B6 (May - Aug.)

- BCBD 2203.00 Internship 2

Year 3 - Term B7 (Sept. - Dec.)

- BCBD 3001.06 Community Design Workshop 5
- BCBD 3101.03 Land Use Planning, Codes and By-Laws
- BCBD 3201.03 Project Management
- BCBD 3301.03 Public Health, Safety and Infrastructure

Year 3 - Term B8 (Jan. - Apr.)

- BCBD 3002.15 Community Design Workshop 6

Admission Requirements

Those entering the programme directly from Secondary School must have successfully completed their WASSCE at credit level in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and 1 Technical or Fine Art Subject. Qualified applicants who have also successfully completed appropriate GTTI Diploma Programmes may be granted advanced standing of up to one year.

BCBD Teaching Faculty and Staff

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Teaching Faculty

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