

Ismael Karim Delgado, WACCE Intern 2025

Emory student completes internship program in West Africa.



The West Africa Centre for Counter-Extremism (WACCE) has marked the successful completion of a two-month internship by Ismael Karim Delgado, a graduate student from Emory University in USA.

During his internship, Ismael contributed to research projects focused on governance, regional security, political transitions, and extremism in Ghana and the broader West African region. As Research Associate (intern) he engaged in research and programs relating to security and governance in West Africa. He worked closely with the WACCE research team to produce analytical reports deepening his understanding of security, economic and governance challenges in the region.

Ismael had the opportunity to engage high profile officials at the UNDP, the Presidency (Office of the Vice President of Ghana), Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC). He also took part in field visits that included tours of Accra, Cape Coast Castle and Kakum National Park, as well as a trip to the

Cape Coast Technical University. These experiences enriched his cultural and historical appreciation of Ghana and the sub-region.



Ismael is pursuing a dual degree in International Studies and Human Health with a concentration in Epidemiology at Emory University, USA. Fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, with limited working proficiency in Arabic and French, he brings a multilingual and interdisciplinary approach to research, policy analysis, and global health initiatives. Ismael is a Gilman Scholar, a Scholarship program that supports students to study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to US national security and economic prosperity. This afforded him to visit U.S. agencies abroad and sat in on high-level briefings on international conflicts in Sudan, Palestine, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, gaining firsthand insight into humanitarian and diplomatic efforts, including those led by figures such as WFP President Cindy McCain.

The WACCE Internship program has enhanced his professional and career capacity in various areas including his appreciation of security and governance issues, research and leadership skills – skills that are critical to building successful career in the international space.

Reflecting on his experience, Ismael expressed that “This internship has truly been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I could not be more grateful for the experience, mentorship, and trust you’ve extended to me during my time at the Centre”.

Mutaru Mumuni, WACCE’s Executive Director praised Ismael’s attitude “You stayed longer in the office, you engaged robustly, asked all the intelligent questions during meetings, and you created a lot of fun during trips. It was fantastic to have you here with us”.