

SAMUEL OWUSU

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Summary

Samuel is a second-year PhD student in Urban Planning at Arizona State University. His work focuses on affordable housing, with an emphasis on accessory dwelling units, multifamily housing, and practical reforms that enable more homes. Samuel completed a master's in Applied Geography at New Mexico State University and has experience in designing research studies, conducting qualitative research, and communicating findings clearly.

Education

Arizona State University | Arizona

Urban Planning, PhD

08/2025 – Current

New Mexico State University | Las Cruces, NM

Master of Applied Geography – GPA - 4.0/4.0

08/2023 – 07/2025

University of Education, Winneba | Ghana

Bachelor of Arts, Geography Education – GPA - 3.31/4.0

08/2016 – 07/2020

Research and Teaching Experience

School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning – Arizona State University | Tempe

Graduate Research Assistant

08/2025 – Current

- Research Assistant on “Assessing the Impact of Racially Coded Grounds for Opposition in Local Multifamily Housing Decision Making,” supervised by Dr. Deirdre Pfeiffer.
- Code local housing agendas, manage datasets, and support quantitative and qualitative analysis and literature reviews.

Geography and Environmental Studies - New Mexico State University | Las Cruces

Graduate Teaching Assistant

08/2024 – 05/2025

- Master's Thesis: “Exploring Accessory Dwelling Units to Help Address the Affordable Housing Crisis in the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico.” under the supervision of Dr. Christopher P. Brown.

Geography and Environmental Studies - New Mexico State University | Las Cruces

Graduate Research Assistant

05/2024 – 08/2024

- Created a comprehensive campus map for NMSU
- Used ArcGIS Pro, Survey123, and other geospatial tools to accurately describe campus buildings and facilities.
- Captured campus photographs to enhance the map's accuracy and visual appeal.
- Collected and analyzed data to create a navigation map for students and visitors.

Geography and Environmental Studies - New Mexico State University | Las Cruces

Graduate Teaching Assistant

01/2024 – 05/2024

Assisted in teaching, grading, and providing feedback to students in:

- Environment and Society of Latin America (GEOG 361V-M80)
- Europe (GEOG 365V-M70)

Geography and Environmental Studies - New Mexico State University | Las Cruces
Graduate Teaching Assistant
08/2023 – 12/2023

Assisted in teaching, grading, and providing feedback to students in:

- Economic Geography (GEOG 361V-M80)
- Urban Geography (GEOG 365V-M70)
- Introduction to Remote Sensing (GEOG 373-M01/GEOG-

Presentations & Conferences

- “Exploring Accessory Dwelling Units to Help Address the Affordable Housing Crisis in the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico” – 2026 Annual AAG Conference (Paper)
- “Addressing the affordable housing crisis in New Mexico” – 2024 Annual AAG Conference (Poster)
- “Breaking the silence: Tackling Period Poverty in Africa” – Model United Nations Students, New Mexico State University (Talk)
- “Impacts of illegal mining in Ghana” – Model United Nations Students, New Mexico State University (Talk)

Scholarships & Grants

- ASU Graduate Student Government Travel Award
- School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning Research Funds
- Spring 2025 Arts and Sciences Travel Award
- Associated Students of New Mexico State University (ASNMSU) Travel Grant
- 2024 American Association of Geographers (AAG) Students’ Travel Grant
- 2024 SWAAG Student Summer Field Award
- Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Travel Award
- Geography and Environmental Studies Travel Grant
- Geography and Environmental Studies Outstanding Service Award, NMSU

Professional & Academic Affiliations

- Arizona Research Center for Housing and Economic Solution (ARCHES) – Member
- American Association of Geographers (AAG) – Member
- Southwest Division of American Association of Geographers (SWAAG) – Member
- Gamma Theta Upsilon – Kappa Xi Chapter – Member

Skills

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| • ArcGIS Pro | • NVivo |
| • Research and Field Data Collection | • Python Programming Language |
| • SPSS | • Leadership |
| • Teaching & Good Communication Skills | • Microsoft Office |

Voluntary Work

- Aggie Cure Drive – Office of Experiential Learning & Gift of Life
- Conference Assistant – 2024 Annual AAG Conference
- The Big Event – Associated Students of New Mexico State University (ASNMSU)
- 2024 Inaugural Learn-a-Palooza – New Mexico State University
- 19th Annual Career Connections Fair – Office of Experiential Learning, NMSU
- Ghana Students Association, NMSU – Treasurer (2023/2024)
- Field Supervisor for the 2021 Population and Housing Census – Bosome Freho District, Ghana