

Peace Corps Assignment Area Guide



**For Master's International (MI)
Partner Schools**

**VRS/R/MI
April 2011**



Since 1961.

Dear Colleagues,

The following Peace Corps Assignment Area (AA) Guide was prepared by the Volunteer Recruitment and Selection (VRS) Office. It provides a brief description of what Volunteers do in each assignment area and information on what education and experience Volunteers in each AA typically have. This information can assist you in advising MI students about appropriate academic courses, internships, and work experience that will strengthen the students' preparation and competitiveness for a particular assignment.

Each university's Master's International (MI) program is given a particular assignment area. A copy of this list is included in this document. In almost all cases, the MI student will be nominated by the recruiter to this AA. While not a frequent occurrence, the applicant may eventually be placed into a different AA.

Please treat this guide as a reference for internal use only and NOT for public distribution.

All of us at Peace Corps appreciate the guidance, preparation and support you provide to future Peace Corps Volunteers.

Sincerely,

Eric Goldman
Master's International
Program Manager

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Forestry

Creating Sustainable Solutions

As a Peace Corps Volunteer you arrive in your assigned country of service, not with funds or equipment, but with skills and knowledge as well as the willingness to adapt them to your community. The primary focus of all volunteer work is building the capacity of local communities to meet their own needs through sustainable activities. A successful project is one that continues to function effectively after the volunteer leaves.

Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

It is vital that Volunteers understand not only the myriad of technical problems, but also the cultural views and socio-political context in which they operate. The assignment may have little or no established structure or schedule. You continually define your role in response to the needs of the local people. Your willingness to integrate into your community and help your hosts find appropriate solutions can encourage people to participate. Your creativity, flexibility, self-motivation, and self-discipline may be vigorously challenged as you establish credibility and adapt to your new environment.

The Work of Forestry Volunteers

Resources worldwide are threatened by growing rural and urban populations, industrial development, and unsustainable natural resource management. People most directly affected by deforestation are those who use trees on a daily basis and rely on them to meet basic cooking and building needs. Peace Corps Forestry Volunteers work with communities on soil conservation, watershed management and flood control projects. Placed with a host country agency such as a forest service, an agricultural extension service, or a community development agency, a Volunteer's work territory may cover one village of 300 people or an area of 10 villages with thousands of people. The job can vary from regional nursery management to forestry extension work with schools, community groups, and individuals. Typical activities include:

Agroforestry

Volunteers help farmers integrate agriculture and forestry on the same land in order to increase total productivity and long-term sustainability. Trees grown among agricultural crops or on pastureland can provide firewood, timber, nuts, fruits, fodder, and fertilizer. They can also enrich the soil, prevent erosion, retain water, and shield crops and animals from damaging wind and excessive sunlight. Harvests therefore increase, lessening pressures on farmers to seek new agricultural lands at the expense of neighboring forests.

Community Forestry

Village woodlots, community nurseries and reforestation of degraded lands can also be a means to provide timber, food crops, or firewood for home consumption or income generation. Volunteers train local people in technical skills, as well as advise them on how to manage these interventions.

Education, Training and Support

- Train farmers and foresters to apply sound forest management and conservation practices.
- Make environmental education presentations in rural schools and at farmers' meetings-providing information on environmentally sound alternatives to destructive practices.
- Demonstrate the use of fuel-efficient stoves to women.
- Provide technical support to other Volunteers who are working in forestry-related activities.

In Their Own Words

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Depending on the needs of a community, Volunteers may also participate in other activities, such as environmental education or small-scale marketing of forest products.

Forestry Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Sub-Saharan Africa

Environment programs focus on natural resource management and environmental education, but the application of these themes differs significantly among countries. In one East African country, natural resource management includes a wide range of activities, from reforestation and watershed protection to farming and sustainable food production. Volunteers work with local agricultural office members and community officials interested in reforestation activities. They promote sound conservation practices including nursery construction, integration of tree crops onto farm plots, production of indigenous forest coffee, and promotion of fuel-efficient cook stoves. By including sustainable agriculture within an environmental framework, communities are shown that through more sustainable farming practices, natural resources are more likely to be protected and conserved.

North Africa

In national parks, reserves, and other sites of ecological importance, Forestry Volunteers in one project work in teams with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Water and Forestry, local community leaders and fellow Peace Corps Volunteers. They act as change agents in their communities by serving as a liaison between government forestry resources and local counterparts. They also design and facilitate environmental education lessons designated for a variety of audiences, including elementary and secondary school students.

Inter-America

In one Central American country, the Forestry project focuses on those living in "buffer zone" communities, located near national parks and refuges. In these rural areas, most families' incomes are far below the level required to meet basic needs, and they rarely receive technical assistance to address these realities. Forestry Volunteers train community-based water boards on proper management of biodiversity, and advise families on improved agricultural practices. They also conduct leadership training to empower the community to look critically at their needs, participate in civil society, and take ownership of their own improvement efforts.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's or associate degree in forestry, watershed or natural resource management, environmental sciences, or ecology; OR

A bachelor's in biology, botany, ornamental horticulture, or geology and six months of relevant work experience; OR

A bachelor's in any discipline and three years of relevant work experience in forestry or nursery management.

Experience

Most applicants have at least six months of practical experience in gardening, farming, or nursery management. Other relevant experience includes:

- vegetable production using organic and low-input methods,
- tree planting or other local conservation activities,
- landscaping,
- a high level of comfort working in the outdoors,
- an understanding of how natural resources can be managed to sustain people's livelihoods, and
- use of computer applications such as geographic information systems (GIS) for environmental research and modeling.

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Some of the many **benefits** that come with Peace Corps service include: student loan deferment and/or partial cancellation, transportation to and from country of service, in-country training, medical and dental care, living allowance, 48 paid vacation days, a \$7,400+ "readjustment" allowance upon completion, graduate school opportunities, etc.



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Protected Areas Management

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The Work of Protected Areas Management Volunteers

As a Protected Areas Management Volunteer, you provide training to individuals, communities, and institutions in effective natural resources management both inside and outside protected areas; conservation of biological diversity; sustainable use of forest or marine resources; and promoting income-generating activities. You may work in or near existing or newly created parks. In collaboration with park staff and adjacent communities, you may be engaged in the following types of projects:

Park Management

Design and deliver training workshops in areas such as supervisory skills, resource inventory techniques, land use planning, environmental impact assessments, or park interpretation skills. Assist local environmental organizations to obtain information, network with local and international organizations, and develop funding sources.

Income Generation Activities

Liaise between park staff and local people to assist with sustainable natural resource-based economic development, including eco-tourism and agro-forestry projects. Encourage community participation in tourism to increase national revenue and benefit people near protected areas. Assist in establishing tree nurseries to raise soil fertility; increase crop, firewood, and building pole production; and provide income-generating opportunities.

Environmental Education

Train counterparts to enhance conservation and environmental awareness through the establishment of conservation education centers and wildlife clubs in schools and communities. Collaborate with park staff to develop interpretive displays that enhance public awareness of the causes, prevention, and possible solutions to local environmental degradation.

Research and Surveys

Work with host country colleagues to conduct ecological studies (including collecting baseline data and habitat information, and life histories) of endangered, threatened, or economically important species in protected areas. Help carry out surveys of park lands to document current and potential land-use, identify threats to the protected area, or locate boundaries.

In Their Own Words

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As a Parks and Wildlife Volunteer, you are a catalyst for change. Since the purpose of your job is to empower the local people to sustainably manage their natural resources, you advise and teach, not direct.

Protected Areas Management Projects

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Africa

African nations are among the most biologically diverse countries in the world. Habitats include both the savannah and tropical rainforests. In one country, there are over 700 species of amphibians, reptiles and mammals, of which 98% are endemic to the region. However, illegal logging, population growth, subsistence farming techniques and poor government management of protected areas are all threatening the country's biodiversity. Environment Volunteers work on trail mapping, park guide trainings, eco-tourism initiatives, and conservation education projects in communities adjacent to protected areas. By training community members on ways to improve the use of the natural resources outside protected areas, these communities become more sustainable and ease pressures on the resources within the protected area.

Inter-America

In response to the growing interest in tourism in one Central American country, the Environment Project is directing its focus to sustainable community tourism. Volunteers coordinate with the National Council of Protected Areas, community associations, NGOs and municipalities to develop sustainable environmental projects. They train local park guides on trail construction, environmental interpretation and educational messages for visitors. They also assist communities in developing sustainable income-generating projects, such as tour services, handicrafts out of recycled material, and non-timber products. Volunteers work to empower members of all sectors of the community to promote tourism as a community-based activity.

Europe, Mediterranean and Asia

There are currently no Protected Areas Management projects in this region.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, wildlife management, wildlife ecology, natural resource management, recreation and park administration, or biology with a concentration in wildlife studies; OR

A bachelor's in any discipline and three years of work experience in park planning or administration, natural resource management, or wildlife management.

Experience

Most applicants have experience in related internships or study-abroad programs.

Many have had seasonal employment as a park ranger or as a docent at a zoo or natural history museum.

Other relevant experience includes

- conducting biological surveys of plants or animals;
- initiating environmental campaigns, tree planting or other local conservation activities; and
- grant writing for conservation efforts.

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Environmental Education

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The Work of Environmental Educators

Peace Corps Volunteer Environmental Educators work at the grassroots level to assist and involve people in resolving and preventing environmental issues that are in conflict with a community's basic needs for farming and income generation. Living in an urban or rural area, Volunteers are involved in a wide variety of both formal and non-formal environmental education activities, and are placed at all levels of formal schooling from elementary to university level. They also work directly with community groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In collaboration with host-country nationals, a Volunteer may be engaged in the following types of projects:

School-Based Environmental Education

- Train administrators and teachers in planning, designing, and implementing environmental education programs and curricula for schools and community groups.
- Develop manuals, modules, and other materials for use by schools, local organizations and the media.
- Conduct workshops for primary or secondary students to help them develop critical thinking skills and new approaches to environmental problems.

Community-Based Environmental Education

- Work with women's and youth groups and small farmers to promote conservation awareness.
- Organize tree-planting activities, presenting exhibitions on conservation themes, and training farmers in sound and safe agro-forestry practices.
- Provide advice and organizational assistance related to the profitable marketing of locally sustainable products.

Environmental Education in Protected Areas

- Promote sustainable natural resource management practices to forestry and national park personnel.
- Establish wildlife clubs to increase awareness of the need for endangered species protection.
- Train park personnel in the management of visitors' centers and information displays.
- Develop income generating activities that involve community members, such as ecotourism projects.

Organizational Development

Work with citizens' groups, often in newly-emerging democracies, to help them formulate their goals, establish a sound leadership structure, and gain access to technical information and financial resources.

In Their Own Words

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Depending on the needs of a community, Volunteers may also participate in other activities such as teaching reading to farmers, coordinating women's cooperatives, initiating youth groups, building school latrines, and teaching business management or English.

Environmental Education Projects

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Western Africa

In one West African country, Environment Volunteers support the Department of Water and Forests in promoting environmental education in national parks, reserves, and other sites of ecological importance. They are placed in protected areas with elementary and secondary schools, and develop curricula to help teachers integrate environmental education into their regular lesson plans. They also work with local farmers on sustainable agriculture practices; for example, composting, tree planting, gardening, and use of appropriate technology such as fuel-efficient mud stoves.

Asia

In the midst of recent constitutional reforms, decentralization has become a strong area of focus for the government of one Asian country. Environmental Education Volunteers work with district offices to strengthen their capacity to oversee conservation education projects. They encourage officials to network with community groups to share ideas and maximize resources. Over time, Volunteers help establish long-term connections between local government resources and key members of the communities they serve, to promote cooperation in the efforts to strengthen environmental preservation.

Pacific

The Environmental Education Project in one Pacific island nation assists community members to sustain their natural resources and improve their livelihoods through increased knowledge and skills related to environmental issues. Focusing primarily on environmental awareness and skills transfer to the local community, project objectives include: marine and terrestrial resource management; waste, water, and sanitation awareness and promotion; home composting and gardening; and environmentally sustainable business development. Volunteers provide educational and technical support for inter-coastal management efforts, marine protected areas, terrestrial management as well as effective ecotourism practices.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Bachelor's degree in an environmental field such as environmental education, science or interpretation, ecology, or natural resource conservation; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline and two years experience leading environmental activities; OR

A bachelor's degree in any environmental discipline with six months experience organizing and leading activities, and an interest in promoting environmental awareness; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with certification in primary education or secondary science education and six months organizing and leading educational activities.

Experience

Many applicants have significant out-of-classroom experience, such as: participating in internships or study-abroad programs; working as a park guide, a docent at a zoo or natural history museum, or a primary school teacher; initiating or organizing environmental awareness campaigns or nature walks; producing vegetables using organic and low-input methods; tree planting or other local conservation activities; work as a primary school teacher or environmental camp counselor; and grant-writing.

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Applied Agricultural Science

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The Work of Applied Agricultural Science Volunteers

In many of the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers work, the economic base of rural communities is founded upon agriculture. As an Applied Agriculture Science Volunteer, you help rural families produce, use, store, and sell the food they need by increasing agricultural productivity, improving nutrition awareness, and organizing income-generation activities. You serve as a technical advisor to government agriculture extensionists, community members, and other Volunteers in seeking appropriate solutions to complex agriculture problems. Through community assessments, workshops, demonstrations, and training programs, you strengthen outreach extension services. In collaboration with male and female farmers, women or youth groups, schools, government extension agencies, or non-profit organizations, you may be involved in the following types of projects:

Field Crop Production

Conduct field trials and demonstrations with small-scale farmers to experiment with various techniques of crop rotation, erosion control, cover crops, seed production, crop selection, soil fertility management, irrigation, and integrated pest management. These methods aim to increase the production of staple crops such as rice, corn, millet, sorghum, and cassava.

Communities, Schools, and Home Gardens

Work with farmers and students to improve production of indigenous or newly introduced varieties of fruits and vegetables by using "bio-intensive" gardening techniques that maximize production in a limited area or growing season. Promote inter cropping fruits or vegetables with field crops to improve local diets.

Food Storage and Preservation

Work with families or cooperative groups on methods to decrease post-harvest losses to insects, rodents, or spoilage. Encourage use of home storage units or grain treatments using ash or other locally available materials that are effective for pest control and preservation.

Marketing

Work with local farmers who are organizing themselves into marketing cooperatives in order to gain higher market prices for their produce. The difference might be selling tomatoes in a local market for 10 cents/lb., or organizing collective transportation to a regional market where tomatoes sell for 50 cents/lb.

In Their Own Words

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Applied Agricultural Science Projects

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Western Africa

In one West African country, Volunteers are supporting a regional initiative on food security by identifying improvements in a mostly rice-based agricultural sector. Through promotion of improved seed selection, storage and handling techniques, and live fencing, they are successfully working with rural farmers to achieve higher crop yields. Due to their expertise, these Volunteers serve as a useful resource not only to their communities, but also to their fellow Volunteers in other project sectors. They are encouraged to collaborate with other Volunteers in projects that cross several sectors, such as school gardening to promote nutrition.

Asia

In one Asian country, the Applied Agricultural Science Project focuses on technical trainings for organizations that support farmers. Volunteers are placed in agricultural offices, business centers, non-governmental organizations, community development organizations, and other offices to advise staff on how best to organize, network with local stakeholders, and create and sustain farmers associations. They also train staff and local farmers on best practices for crop production and organic farming, as well as basic marketing techniques to increase their business savvy in the marketplace.

Inter-America

Peace Corps Volunteers in one Central American country work with families who practice migratory agriculture, in which a parcel of forest is slashed and cultivated for a period of three to five years, or until further cultivation is not feasible. Volunteers work with farmers to promote more sustainable agricultural practices, such as fruit production, use of multi-use trees to increase soil productivity, and integrated pest management.

Volunteer Profile

Education

A bachelor's or associate degree in agricultural sciences such as agronomy, horticulture, entomology, botany, or other agricultural discipline; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with 1 year of full-time farm experience or a bachelor's degree in biology with six months of practical growing experience; OR

No college degree and three years of full-time farm work.

Experience

Most applicants have a solid background in agricultural production on family or commercial farms. They have grown fruits and vegetables and understand concepts such as soil fertility and integrated pest management.

Other relevant experience includes:

- interest in and knowledge of organic farming,
- mechanical skills from using farm machinery,
- some experience with livestock, and
- knowledge of food storage and preservation.

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Farm Management/Agribusiness

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The Work of Farm Management/Agribusiness Volunteers

In many of the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers work, the economic base of rural communities is founded upon agriculture. Farm Management/Agribusiness Volunteers help communities achieve greater food security and increase earning potential. They work in coordination with host government agencies, international development agencies, local farmers, and business organizations. They also work directly with agribusinesses or small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. Responsibilities may include:

Technical Assistance and Training for Small Farmers

- Design and implement technical courses, seminars, and workshops in cost-benefit analysis, marketing, basic accounting, and credit management.
- Help farmers create farmer-owned and controlled marketing and supply cooperatives.
- Facilitate small business start-ups or income generating activities.
- Provide technical assistance in improving crop and livestock production.
- Advise farm families on how and when to produce and sell their goods.
- Help farmers better analyze traditional and potential markets by conducting a market and community needs assessment – this could lead to experimentation with direct marketing, specialty markets, or export markets.

Technical Support to Agribusinesses

Improve agribusinesses by implementing idea banks or incubators for new projects. Provide technical assistance to improve management and marketing practices. Train agribusinesses in market analysis, production techniques, economic forecasting, financing options, costing and pricing, packaging, transporting, and developing new value-added products.

Advice to Government Agencies

Provide advice to government officials who are formulating and implementing strategies for the agricultural sector. Help individuals and organizations adjust to privatization efforts and move towards a free market economy. Train community members and college students using innovative teaching methodologies at agricultural training institutions.

In Their Own Words

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As a Farm Management/Agribusiness Volunteer, your ability to organize and motivate others is as important as your technical knowledge and experience. Your role is that of a trainer so that new practices will continue even after your departure. Success depends greatly on the relationships you forge and the trust you inspire.

Farm Management/Agribusiness Projects

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Africa

In one East African country, Volunteers work in a variety of host organizations to promote private sector growth among small farmers. They help improve farm production through training in agronomics, strategic crop selection and seed banking. They conduct surveys on post-harvest handling practices in the community, and identify opportunities for improvement. Such efforts empower farmers to strategically analyze their agricultural market, strengthen farm associations to increase market leverage, and support a more highly skilled workforce.

Eastern/Central Europe

Challenges facing the agricultural sector in former Soviet republics are related to a sudden shift in management style: from large Soviet collective farms to a decentralized form of decision making by small, privately-owned farms. In this new environment, most farmers lack the knowledge and information necessary to sell their products in a market economy. Agribusiness Volunteers work in information dissemination centers for farmers and extension offices to improve farmers' abilities to market their goods. They provide technical assistance in human resources and cash management, marketing, feasibility analysis of new projects, business planning, and completing loan applications. Volunteers pool their own expertise in business, agriculture, information technology and NGO development with other Volunteers to maximize a project's effectiveness and scope.

Inter-America

Agriculture is the backbone of one South American country's economy, yet small-scale farm families are on the decline due to diminishing profits. The Agriculture project targets these families who face the challenge of finding new sources of income. Volunteers serve as a link between local producers and the national resources available to them through the Department of Agriculture. For example, Volunteers work with farmers to provide assistance on techniques for responsible management of beehives, and help them avail of training resources through national agronomy schools and a national beekeeping association. The long-term goal is to establish and develop these links between farm families and these national resources.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in agriculture economics, agricultural management, farm management or agribusiness; OR

A business or economics degree combined with a year of hands-on experience in farming or agribusiness; OR

No degree and at least three years of experience in farming or agribusiness.

Experience

Relevant experience includes demonstrated interest in agriculture management, farming or gardening work.

Applicants may have a general knowledge of business, computer skills, research and networking skills, and the ability to collaborate and share resources with others.

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Animal Husbandry

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

It is vital that Volunteers understand not only the myriad of technical problems, but also the cultural views and socio-political context in which they operate. The assignment may have little or no established structure or schedule. You continually define your role in response to the needs of the local people. Your willingness to integrate into your community and help your hosts find appropriate solutions can encourage people to participate. Your creativity, flexibility, self-motivation, and self-discipline may be vigorously challenged as you establish credibility and adapt to your new environment.

The Work of Animal Husbandry Volunteers

In many of the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers work, the economic base of rural communities is founded upon agriculture, of which animal production is an integral part as it is needed to produce meat, milk and hides. Animal Husbandry Volunteers work in coordination with host country agriculture extensionists or other local or international organizations which provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers. They also work directly with small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs or with local cooperative groups. The technical focus of Volunteers' work includes animal nutrition, veterinary training, or range management. Volunteers may conduct workshops to train farmers and ranchers or establish demonstration projects. Responsibilities could include:

Small or Large Animal Production

Increase the production of cattle, goats, pigs, poultry, or small animals, as well as indigenous species for home consumption and sale. Select breeds for particular purposes. Introduce basic veterinary techniques. Advise on selection and production of forage crops; ordering and purchasing stock; and building proper shelters using local construction materials.

Herd Health

Work with ranchers to minimize the incidence of diseases that reduce animal fertility, prevent normal weight gain and sometimes pose a threat to people who live in close proximity to their animals or consume animal products. Work with pastoral people to reduce unnecessary loss of animals that represent a family's only savings.

In Their Own Words

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Range Management

Work with agricultural extensionists and the community to achieve a more productive and sustainable use of open or controlled rangelands. Activities include: promoting range management associations to establish grazing schedules on open pasture; planting alternate forage species; experimenting with intensified use of smaller enclosed pastures; and introducing silvo-pastoral systems that incorporate trees to provide a source of animal feed and enrich soil fertility via nitrogen fixation.

Dairy Farming

Improve dairy production through efforts such as: advising regional milk collection centers on sanitation and proper milk handling and designing extension materials for dairy farmers that utilize locally available resources. Advise farmers on dairy herd management, such as improved housing designs, more nutritious feed formulas and routine vaccinations.

As an Animal Husbandry Volunteer, your ability to organize and motivate others is as important as your technical knowledge and experience. Your role is that of a trainer so that new practices will continue even after your departure. Success depends greatly on the relationships you forge and the trust you inspire.

Animal Husbandry Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

In one West African country where small animals are essential to the agricultural production system, Volunteers work to improve nutrition and income among farm families. They train young farmers on better livestock techniques, promote vaccination of animals against common diseases, and develop land use plans for pastoral farmers. They work with families to better promote their meat, wool, eggs and other products in the marketplace. The unique background of Animal Husbandry Volunteers also serves to benefit other Peace Corps projects, and they are sometimes called upon to teach fellow Volunteers about livestock management.

Inter-America

Slash-and-burn farming is a traditional practice for many farmers in one South American country. This system of production, however, is unsustainable as populations increase and fallow periods (i.e. rest periods for the land) decrease. The subsequent land degradation results in increased production costs and less yields, both in crops and animal production. Volunteers help to increase food security in this area through effective land use techniques and income generation through animal husbandry. They work with a variety of animals: cattle, pigs, goats, rabbits, chickens and iguanas. Volunteers also train community promoters in agriculture extension techniques and methodologies such as using demonstration plots, organizing seminars and coordinating farm visits.

Europe, Mediterranean and Asia

There are currently no Animal Husbandry projects in this region.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's or an associate degree in animal science, animal husbandry, poultry science, or pre-veterinarian; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with at least 18 months of experience working with livestock; OR

No college degree and at least three consecutive years of experience working with livestock.

Experience

Most applicants have at least 18 months of full-time experience with dairy or beef cattle, pigs, sheep, or chickens and some experience in large-scale forage production or vegetable gardening. Many are recent college graduates who have worked on their parents' farms. Other relevant experience includes demonstrated interest in veterinary medicine and animal health, general knowledge or agriculture, gardening experience, and basic business management.

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Agriculture and Forestry Extension

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The Work of Agriculture and Forestry Extension Volunteers

In many of the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers work, the economic base of rural communities is founded upon agriculture. As an Agriculture and Forestry Extension Volunteer, you may help rural families by increasing agricultural productivity and environmental protection, improving nutritional awareness, and organizing income-generation activities. You may be involved in the following types of projects:

Field Crop Production

Conduct field trials and demonstrations with local farmers to experiment with crop rotation, erosion control, cover crops, seed production, crop variety selection, fertilizer use, irrigation and integrated pest management. The objective is to increase production of staple crops such as rice, corn, millet, sorghum, and cassava.

Communities, Schools and Home Gardens

Work with farmers and students to improve production of indigenous or newly introduced varieties of fruits and vegetables by using "bio-intensive" gardening techniques that maximize production in a limited area or growing season. Promote inter cropping fruits or vegetables with field crops to improve local diets.

Community Forestry

Train local people in technical skills to create village woodlots, community nurseries, and reforestation of degraded lands. Train farmers to apply sound forestry and conservation practices, such as inter cropping, contour planting, and use of live fencing. Make presentations on environmental education in rural schools and at farmers' meetings to provide information on environmentally sound alternatives to destructive practices.

Food Storage and Preservation

Work with families or cooperative groups on methods to decrease post-harvest losses to insects, rodents, or spoilage. Encourage use of home storage units or grain treatments using ash or other locally available materials that are effective for pest control and preservation.

Fisheries

Conduct demonstrations that motivate small scale farmers to experiment with various fisheries techniques, including the construction of new ponds and the renovation of existing ponds. Give workshops on sustainable and efficient aquaculture practices, such as fertilization, stocking, fish culture techniques, transportation of fingerlings, and fish harvesting. Train community members in marketing and in small-scale fishery business management to enable the expansion or start-up of aquaculture ventures.

In Their Own Words

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Agriculture and Forestry Extension Projects

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Africa

In one East African country, the government's Department of Fisheries aims to improve the livelihoods of rural farmers by promoting integrated aquaculture as an income-generating activity. Well-qualified Volunteers serve as fish culture extension agents, and help communities build and manage their own integrated aquaculture systems as a business enterprise. Volunteers identify potential fish farming projects, and offer technical advice to farmers on site selection and the construction of dams, furrows, and ponds. The project is increasing the production, yield, and profitability of those practicing fish culture. Volunteers are also helping to strengthen ties between farmers, by promoting fish farmer associations and farmer-to-farmer extension activities.

Asia

As a result of damaged coastal areas which threaten local food security, the government in one Asian country has placed coastal resource management as a top priority. Volunteers work with municipal officials to assess local needs and survey coastal areas. They conduct fish census, coral reef surveys and fish catch monitoring. They also assist municipalities in the creation of ordinances regulate marine fisheries, coastal development and eco-tourism. Overall, the most important goal will be capacity building -- helping communities to strengthen their abilities to cope with problems and gain confidence in themselves as their own development workers and problem solvers.

Inter-America

The majority of rural populations in one Central American country are subsistence farmers practicing traditional methods of agriculture. These methods erode the little topsoil that exists, and often use high quantities of chemicals for fertilizing and pest control. Volunteers advise farm families on techniques that are more ecologically sustainable and financially viable. Examples include integrated land management, which helps families, particularly women, maximize the space surrounding a family home. Volunteers work with families on composting, medicinal plant cultivation, family gardens, and nutrition education.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a demonstrated ability in planning, organizing, or leadership in the past four years; AND A bachelor's degree in any discipline with three months of experience in large-scale vegetable gardening, nursery work, tree planting, urban forestry or fish cultivation; OR No college degree and one year of relevant experience.

Experience

Applicants must have at least three months of experience in

- vegetable gardening,
- landscaping,
- tree planting or care,
- urban forestry,
- livestock care or management, or
- fish (freshwater or marine) cultivation or production.

Other relevant experience includes an interest and background in environmental issues and formal or informal teaching or tutoring of adults or youth.

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General Construction

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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The Work of General Construction Volunteers

One of the critical tasks confronting the developing world is the creation of a physical infrastructure – water and sanitation facilities, school rooms, food storage facilities, housing, community centers, and health clinics. Peace Corps General Construction Volunteers provide the technical and organizing skills needed to construct and renovate buildings. To foster on-going community commitment, local people participate in project planning and implementation. Volunteers may train young people or tradesmen in technical or project management skills or teach at a secondary school, technical institute, or employment training center, working with young people in either urban or rural settings. In a school environment, Volunteers may provide instruction in the fundamental principles and concepts of technical subjects and teach students how to manufacture, install, maintain, and repair basic domestic and industrial equipment. Volunteers work with local materials, such as mud and manure blocks, brick, stone, cement, and wood. They may work with local government extension agents, skilled tradesmen, or community groups. Responsibilities may include:

Infrastructure Development

- Work with the community to plan and construct needed facilities from existing or innovative designs.
- Organize fundraising efforts for building materials.
- Participate in various community development activities to engage support for projects and to encourage full, appropriate usage of the resulting structures.
- Renovate or improve existing facilities.
- Help with administrative tasks and training others to perform these duties.
- Aid in estimating and procuring needed supplies.

Training and Education

In collaboration with host country colleagues, Volunteers teach and train youth in a variety of skilled trades (e.g. woodworking, building construction, carpentry, etc.). Duties might include: developing teaching materials, writing lesson plans, evaluating student progress, providing individual instruction, and preparing students to pass standardized examinations.

Volunteers may also:

- prepare technical materials and evaluate current teaching techniques;
- maintain and manage equipment in the classroom or shop;
- provide counseling to students on how to set up their own shops or enter the skilled labor force;
- work with women in activities such as sewing quilting, weaving, and potting;
- initiate youth clubs, such as Junior Achievement.

In Their Own Words

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General Construction Volunteers may find that construction materials are in short supply, that they are not of good quality, or that they are expensive and difficult to transport. Be prepared for delayed work schedules due to harvests or heavy rains.

General Construction Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

In one African country, there is a high demand for hands-on experience and skills for the vocational workforce. To help meet these needs, Volunteers teach in technical schools or professional training centers where mechanics, civil construction and electricity are the specific areas of instruction. They help institutions to develop and strengthen their staff's managerial capacities and organizational skills, as well as to expand and upgrade programs to include lessons on renewable energy initiatives. Such educational activities provide relevant training skills so that students become more aware of their country's workforce needs and are more prepared in the job market.

Inter-America

Rural infrastructure in one Central American country is lacking, especially pertaining to water and sanitation in outlying, mostly indigenous communities. Environmental Health Volunteers work on community-based activities to improve environmental sanitation in these remote areas, through installation of rural aqueduct systems, sanitary latrines, and waste management systems. Volunteers also travel around their communities to train local leaders on water issues and system maintenance. Traveling by bicycle, walking through mountainous terrain, or even riding horseback, these Volunteers work to mobilize community members in some of the most remote corners of the region. In this way, they see the direct impact of their projects on the quality of life of these rural areas.

Europe, Mediterranean and Asia

There are currently no General Construction projects in this region.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in industrial arts, technical education or construction science; OR

An associate degree in industrial arts or technical education with one year of journeyman-related work experience in general construction, cabinet making, machining, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, electricity, welding, or metalworking; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with six months journeyman experience; OR

No college degree and 18 months of relevant experience.

Experience

Most applicants have experience in general construction, masonry, carpentry, or plumbing.

Other relevant skills include:

- proven leadership experience in youth or adult service organizations,
- demonstrated interest in teaching or tutoring,
- and community organizing or outreach.

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Water and Sanitation Extension

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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The Work of Water and Sanitation Extension Volunteers

The consequences of an inadequate water source are disastrous for the well-being of many people. Half of humanity does not have ready access to a safe or adequate water supply. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you address public health issues through community development, health education, and construction or rehabilitation of water facilities. You may work in a rural or urban site in collaboration with government agencies and community groups. You may work with water providers and user communities to examine the array of technologies available to remedy a particular problem and to promote new hygiene practices. In collaboration with community members, your responsibilities may include:

Increasing access to water and sanitation services

Assist local groups to find appropriate solutions and technologies. The solution may be as simple as lining an open well with a concrete skirt to prevent the contamination of drinking water. Depending on the resources of your community, you may introduce locally manufactured hand pumps. You may even repair existing water systems and determine future interventions. You will likely assist in the construction of latrines and other sanitation systems.

Facilitating adoption of new hygiene practices through health education

Show local people that clean water and proper sanitation improves their health, while teaching them how to act on that knowledge. Through health education, you will encourage people to adopt behaviors that promote good health, prevent illness, cure disease, and facilitate rehabilitation. You may design interventions such as talking with women's groups or creating a public health campaign on drinking clean water. You will train local health workers or community members who in turn work directly with the community.

Strengthening communities' abilities to manage their own water and sanitation resources

Historically, governments and donors have focused their attention on the construction of water and sanitation facilities with little effort or money allocated to the task of training participants to manage the facilities. You will help increase the capacity of the local people to operate, manage, and maintain their water systems. Organizational development is a critical component in strengthening community capacity. You may provide training in such areas as participatory decision-making and financial management, including simplified accounting and budgeting. You will also ensure the participation of women, who are the primary users of water and sanitation project facilities.

In Their Own Words

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Water and Sanitation Extension Projects

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Africa

Decades of population growth, low rainfall, and resource exploitation in one African nation have led to severe soil erosion and declining food production. In an effort to increase quality of life in rural communities in the face of land degradation, Volunteers advise local officials in the design and management of water and sanitation facilities. They assist in larger-scale community development projects, including designing and constructing potable water sources and supply systems, sewage systems, irrigation systems, garbage collection facilities, earthen dams, and concrete spillways. With a work zone covering an area of 10-15 kilometers, Volunteers travel from village to village to engage communities through construction/maintenance of water systems and hygiene education.

Inter-America

In rural areas of one Central American country, where 55% of the total population resides, inadequate water systems and poor sanitation have resulted in high infant mortality and morbidity rates. In addition, women and children are forced to spend several hours daily fetching water for household use. Volunteers work with local counterparts to improve water access and raise awareness of the link between disease and proper sanitation. They conduct topographical studies for rural water systems, assist communities in implementation of water projects, and promote watershed management through trainings of community water boards and in local schools.

Asia

In one Asian country, poor sanitation and lack of extensive health education has led to alarmingly high mortality rates due to mosquito-borne illnesses. Volunteers work with rural communities to identify clean water sources and establish water committees. They develop programs in elementary and secondary schools to promote hygienic practices and water-borne disease prevention. They often initiate hands-on construction projects in the community to help manage wastewater or provide new and sustainable water sources.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in any discipline with an expressed interest in hygiene education/sanitation and demonstrated hands-on skilled work (construction, carpentry, set design, etc.); OR

No college degree and one year working in construction, masonry, carpentry or plumbing.

Experience

Applicants should show a demonstrated ability to plan, organize or lead within the past four years.

Applicants with a degree have at least three months of experience in a relevant area or hands-on experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, or set design. Applicants without a degree will have at least one year of work experience in construction, masonry, carpentry, or plumbing.

Other relevant experience includes community outreach in health or environmental awareness, excellent physical stamina, and simple accounting and budgeting skills.

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Environmental & Water Resources Engineering

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The Work of Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Volunteers

Since the 1960s, demographic changes have led to a rapid increase in population density rarely accompanied by water or sanitation services. Many countries have dramatically increased their industrial activities while giving higher priority to the economic benefits than to the environmental consequences. Water quality has become the primary public health risk in many parts of the world. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you serve as a technical advisor to government technical experts, community members and other Volunteers to find appropriate solutions to complex problems. You work with water providers and user communities to examine the array of technologies available to remedy the particular problem and to promote improved hygiene practices. You address public health issues through community development and health education. Your responsibilities may include:

Increasing access to water and sanitation services

- Survey, design, and direct construction of appropriate water distribution systems, such as: gravity-fed, hand or motor-driven pumps, storage tanks, pump houses, stand pipes, distribution points, small collection dams, wells.
- Help construct latrines, septic tanks, simple home improvements, and solid waste disposal systems.
- Secure funding, ordering supplies and equipment, and contracting laborers.

Facilitating the adoption of new hygiene practices through health education

The goals of the water and sanitation projects are to convince the local people that clean water and proper sanitation improve their health and to teach them how they can actually do something to act on that knowledge. You will encourage people to adopt behaviors that promote good health, prevent illness, cure disease, and facilitate rehabilitation.

Strengthening communities' abilities to manage their own water and sanitation resources

Historically, governments and donors have focused their attention on the construction of water and sanitation facilities with little effort or money allocated to the task of training participants to manage the facilities. You will help increase the capacity of the local people to operate, manage, and maintain their water systems. Organizational development is a critical component in strengthening community capacity. You may provide training in such areas as participatory decision-making and financial management, including simplified accounting and budgeting. You will also ensure the participation of women, who are the primary users of water and sanitation project facilities.

In Their Own Words

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Environmental & Water Resources Engineering Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

Lack of clean water in one West African country has placed people at risk for diarrhea, malaria and guinea worm, among other illnesses and parasites. This situation is especially acute in rural areas, where only 3% of households have access to proper sanitation facilities. Water and Sanitation Volunteers work in five primary areas: increased access to potable water through water source construction, maintenance, and repairs; construction and maintenance of latrines; construction of soak pits for waste water management; hygiene and sanitation education; and proper water collection, treatment, and storage. In all areas of technical intervention, the emphasis is on skills transfer so that local communities can become more capable of addressing their water and sanitation needs. By using a community-based approach, Volunteers find that work can begin slowly, but that the two-year commitment allows them to see real accomplishments in their community's water resource management systems.

Inter-America

In one South American country, nearly one-quarter of the population lacks latrines to properly dispose of human waste, leading to disease. The Peace Corps' Water and Sanitation Project helps to lower these rates of disease caused by unsanitary conditions in targeted communities. Volunteers analyze water priorities through baseline studies, and assist the community in the design and construction of water systems and rain-water catchments. They play a leading role in implementation of sanitary landfills, and develop awareness programs to promote their importance. Equally important duties include conducting waste management education campaigns, and training local water committees and officials on water system maintenance.

Europe, Mediterranean and Asia

There are currently no Environmental and Water Resource Engineering projects in this region.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's or master's degree in environmental, civil, or sanitary engineering; OR

A bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering with coursework in environmental engineering; OR

No college degree and certification in water or wastewater treatment plant operation or hazardous-materials management.

Experience

Most applicants will have experience in mechanics, construction, hydrology, community outreach in health or environmental awareness; excellent physical stamina; and simple accounting or budgeting skills.

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Urban and Regional Planning

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of Urban and Regional Planning Volunteers

The influx of rural migrants to urban areas has created severe strains on the fledgling infrastructures of developing nations and has resulted in congestion, pollution, unemployment, lack of housing, and deteriorating transport. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you may work closely with local planners and administrators. You may provide technical assistance to address issues such as housing, potable water systems, sewage disposal, zoning, and land-use controls. You may also assist in developing accurate data for decision-makers, conducting a community assessment, analyzing resources, and providing alternate models if applicable. Other Peace Corps projects that improve the quality of life include self-help housing, infrastructure planning, economic development, municipal management, and urban community development. Responsibilities may include:

- Assisting in creating initiatives for local economic development;
- Assisting in developing appropriate environmental planning regulations;
- Conducting a community assessment to identify strengths and needs;
- Conducting land-use planning and zoning studies;
- Assisting in planning and implementing affordable services that ensure safe drinking water, sanitation systems, and solid waste management;
- Determining how to use available energy resources; preparing proposals with relevant supporting data.

In addition to your primary duties, you coordinate other activities depending on a community assessment and your interests and skills. For example, you may teach English to your co-workers or help create income-generating projects with a women's group or with at-risk youth.

In Their Own Words

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You need to have a variety of organizational, communication, and consensus-building skills and an ability to formulate action plans to help deal with complex problems and scarce resources. You must also keep in mind that your role is that of an advisor so that the organization will continue to sustain itself even after your departure. Your can-do attitude and your willingness to work with your hosts to find appropriate solutions will help people to help themselves.

Urban and Regional Planning Projects

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Eastern/Central Europe

Volunteers are assigned to municipal development projects, working with local municipalities – often directly with a mayor's office. Each Volunteer collaborates with municipality leaders to assess the needs of the community and design a project plan to address those needs. Activities range from zoning issues, organizational management, water and electrical distribution, citizen outreach, solid waste management, strategic planning with local NGO's, community groups and business organizations and more. Depending on a Volunteer's background and experience, s/he may also develop computer, management, or business skills trainings for local leaders and colleagues. Volunteers may work with other Volunteers on region-wide development initiatives.

Inter-America

In 1990, a new Municipal Reform Law in one Central American country encouraged the concept of decentralization and put this country on the road towards strengthening its municipal governments. The passing of this law inspired many local and international development agencies to begin programs that encourage responsive and effective municipal governments through the following interventions: advocacy and legal reforms, training and technical assistance in municipal administration, accounting, finance, information technology and urban planning, as well as investing in basic infrastructure. The purpose of the municipal development project is to enhance the standard of living of citizens in marginal secondary and tertiary municipalities by improving the delivery of public services by local governments, the level of citizen participation in the decision-making process, and basic citizenship through civic education.

Africa

There are no current Urban and Regional Planning projects in this region.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Bachelor's or master's degree in urban or regional planning or a master's degree in public administration or public policy with a concentration in urban planning; OR

A bachelor's degree in architecture, urban studies, or geography and one year of experience in urban planning; OR A bachelor's degree in any discipline with at least five years of experience related to urban planning and three directly related to municipal development.

Experience

Most applicants have at least one year of urban planning experience; when in school, this experience can take the form of an internship.

Other relevant experience includes:

- work with community service organizations or local or state planning departments;
- business experience related to sales, budget development, and computers;
- research for project development;
- strategic planning; and
- volunteer work with community- or school-based organizations.

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Business Advising

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of Business Advising Volunteers

The Peace Corps' business advising program promotes local economic development through income generating activities and self-employment, using the Peace Corps' traditional strengths: a self-help, grassroots philosophy, sensitivity to local customs and traditions, Volunteer entrepreneurial skills, and collaboration with public and private sector development agencies. You provide technical assistance and training in business development and management – how to improve internal organizational systems, as well as analyze external market trends, opportunities, and issues. You may be assigned to work with small enterprises, cooperatives, a government extension service, a private agency, a secondary school or university, a community organization, or a non-governmental organization. Depending on your skills and the nature of the assignment, you may be involved in:

Business Education

Teach Junior Achievement, applied economics, accounting, and other business subjects to high school or university students – many of whom are the country's future business leaders – in a classroom setting.

Business Development

- Train entrepreneurs in internal management systems and control, such as finance, accounting, cost control, record-keeping, planning, inventory control, and management.
- Identify and establish linkages among businesses to facilitate the exchange of services and information.
- Assist in identifying successful business ventures that are an alternative to traditional work.
- Conduct feasibility studies and business surveys for production and marketing.
- Develop appropriate marketing strategies for merchandising, advertising, pricing and displays.

Organizational Development

- Work with local government offices, citizens' organizations or grassroots NGOs to support local development initiatives, including small enterprise development and social service provision.
- Strengthen organizational capacity, including improving financial, planning, fundraising and administrative systems.
- Transfer business, IT, or English skills and knowledge to counterparts in order to help them to function effectively at their job.
- Assist the community in identifying locally available funds and resources to meet project goals.

In Their Own Words

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Business Advising Projects

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Africa

In one East African nation, a large number of those seeking jobs in the formal sector are held back due to a lack of necessary skills or training. The government is aggressively pursuing education reform to address this problem. Business Advising Volunteers assist secondary school teachers in implementing the Ministry of Education's curriculum on entrepreneurship. They teach business skills and enhance lesson plans through hands-on activities, field trips, entrepreneurial days, and community awareness sessions. They may also facilitate after-school business clubs with students and out-of-school youth. Through both formal and informal education, Volunteers are helping to build capacity to the next generation of entrepreneurs.

North Africa

Diversifying the economy remains a primary challenge in this region, and new economic opportunities and assistance to existing small businesses are essential to absorb growing numbers of unemployed people. Volunteers work with the Ministry of Tourism to assist artisan groups with product quality and service, business planning and organizational development. They help these groups create business and marketing plans, and teach basic accounting to business owners. These efforts empower artisans to not only preserve their traditional designs, but to use their skills to create a successful business and to stimulate a new economic base.

Inter-America

Many unemployed people in this region create their own jobs in the informal sector, but their ventures fail to generate enough income to feed their families. Volunteers work to create and maintain jobs by training community members and conducting assessments on potential income-generating activities in the area. As an additional focus, Volunteers teach business and life skills to young adults, to encourage them to utilize their business knowledge at an early age in the creation of small enterprises.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in economics, business, management, finance, marketing, accounting, computer systems, or international business, or any discipline with one year of work experience in cooperatives, small business or credit unions; OR

No college degree with four or more years of business management experience, involving basic business principles such as cost analysis, planning, inventory control, bookkeeping and marketing; OR

An associate degree in any business discipline with two years of experience as a business manager.

Experience

Some applicants have worked for at least a year in small business, management, accounting, or cooperatives.

Other relevant experience includes management in a multi-task environment, owning or operating a small business, and volunteer work with community- or school-based organizations or clubs. Some applicants also have experience in human resource development or training, market research and financial advising, research for project development activities, fundraising, project management, and agriculture.

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Information & Communication Technology

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Volunteers

As a Peace Corps ICT Volunteer, you may provide technical support and training to schools, government ministries or offices, businesses and non-governmental organizations in the creation, storage, management and dissemination of information by electronic means. This definition includes computers, the Internet, radio, video and cell phones. Depending on the country to which you are assigned, your assignment may involve:

- Setting up and operating hardware systems and software applications;
- Assessing needs and developing recommendations for appropriate technology and media platforms;
- Provide advice on adapting existing media and software to meet specific needs or developing custom applications;
- Establishing Internet access and teaching Internet research skills;
- Supporting the development of community radio or video broadcasts.

Training and Advising

You may train teachers to teach ICT by conducting in-service workshops in basic computer and teaching methodology including subject-based ICT integration; or you might train government workers in information system and database management. You also may advise small business owners and local artisan groups on website use for business development; or you might advise community-based organizations on the use of ICT for public service announcements.

Teaching

You may teach students ICT in a secondary or technical school for an average of 25 hours per week. Your lessons follow the guidelines set by a national syllabus that outlines a required sequence of activities. You assume responsibilities relating to classroom instruction, testing, lesson planning, and materials development. You may teach other subjects depending of the needs of the school and your own knowledge.

In Their Own Words

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Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Projects

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Africa

As part of the Education project, Volunteers in this West African country teach computer literacy at teacher training colleges, secondary and technical schools. They train counterparts and students on computer basics, database maintenance, software troubleshooting, and web page development. They also work at teacher resource centers to organize workshops for the community at large and develop resources for primary and secondary school teachers. Through their activities, Volunteers promote access to information and communication technologies on a local and regional level.

Eastern/Central Europe

Countries in this region are transitioning to a free market economy. Volunteers have been asked to help identify approaches for these communities to use ICT in their development of local governance and economy. Some Volunteers create web pages for small businesses to help them advertise goods and services, and assist local governments to develop databases for tracking community development. Other Volunteers train community members in computer maintenance and repair, and work to establish self-sustaining computer resource centers.

Inter-America

Volunteers use their broad range of computer and other media skills to educate youth, teachers, and community leaders across project sectors. Some Volunteers are placed in vocational schools to develop computer training courses for students and fellow teachers. Others assist small business in database development, electronic accounting, and marketing through web page development. Other countries request Volunteers to use geographic information system software to support disaster mitigation projects.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in computer science, information systems, or a focus on development of communication technologies; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with 15 semester hours in computer sciences, along with two years of relevant experience; OR

AA in a computer-related field and two years of relevant experience; OR

Five or more years of experience in programming, systems analysis, systems design, computer consulting or in a communication media, including web, video, telephony, radio or film production.

Experience

Qualified applicants will have knowledge of or experience in basic computer applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, and databases; and strong leadership and organizational skills. Other experience includes an ability to train others in computer literacy, maintenance and repair skills, development of training materials, and experience in HTML, website design, or online marketing.

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Business Development

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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The Work of Business Development Volunteers

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you serve as a combination of planner, coordinator, teacher, facilitator, and trainer. You provide technical assistance to enhance host country nationals' basic understanding of business and free market economies. Depending on your experience and the needs of your country, you may serve in an assignment related to business education, agribusiness, finance, credit and banking, management analysis, cooperative business development, planning, municipal development, policy analysis, or privatization. You may be assigned to a community agency, educational institution organization in a provincial or regional capital, or a business advice center. Responsibilities may include:

- Helping establish business resource centers that serve as both clearinghouses for existing information and as centers to generate, analyze, and disseminate new information;
- Teaching basic business subjects such as business English, management, marketing, or accounting in a secondary school, local technical institute, or university;
- Building leadership and institutional capacity by training local business leaders to clarify missions, establish goals and objectives, and implement action plans;
- Surveying local business financial needs and providing hands-on technical assistance in such areas as planning, cash management, and accounting;
- Developing linkages among businesses to exchange services and information;
- Conducting marketing surveys, analyzing production costs and product pricing, and instituting quality control systems;
- Designing an appropriate training package for client businesses including such topics as business philosophy, management principles, recruitment and staffing, accounting, credit, loan management, purchasing, inventory control, marketing, quality control, costing, and raw material supply;
- Developing marketing strategies to ensure small business clients' access to domestic, regional, and international markets;
- Conducting workshops and seminars on business start-up, strategic planning, marketing, costing, and pricing, merchandising, business English, or tourism.

In Their Own Words

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You face the challenges of adjusting to a work environment without fax machines, support staff, or expense accounts. Situations can be ambiguous and involve different values, a new sense of time, difficult living conditions, and foreign languages. This is an assignment that stretches your creativity – come with a sense of humor, perseverance, patience, individual initiative, an open mind, and the ability to listen and build consensus.

Business Development Projects

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Africa

The Business Development project in one East African country emphasizes capacity building to empower local organizations involved in strengthening the local economy. Volunteers assist in mobilizing community groups and introducing village savings and loan associations to enhance local banking. They serve as business advisors to these small credit and savings organizations and train managers to determine community needs for microfinance activities. These advisors help these small banking institutions improve their operations, strengthen partnerships, and increase access to capital.

Eastern Europe

Many Eastern European governments invited Business Development Volunteers shortly after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Despite a high level of education and a growing interest in business, many Eastern Europeans are not trained in the skills needed for success in a free market economy. Volunteers address this need by transferring skills such as strategic planning, budget forecasting, marketing, and management. They work with a range of community organizations, such as an economic development NGO, a municipal office, or a small business association. Volunteers provide support to all sectors of the business community while emphasizing entrepreneurial skills among women's groups and youth.

Inter-America

In one Central American country, Volunteers work with the Ministry of Education and local organizations to help build entrepreneurial skills among youth both in and out of the classroom. They teach business education courses in public high schools and develop workshops and training courses for out-of-school youth in the community. Through these hands-on initiatives, Volunteers foster interest in entrepreneurship at a young age and encourage young men and women to contribute to the economic growth of their own communities.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a master's degree in business administration, public administration, management, accounting, banking, or finance; OR

A bachelor's degree in business administration, management, accounting, banking, finance or public administration with two years full-time relevant experience; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline and three to five years of relevant full-time experience.

Experience

Most applicants have at least two years of business experience in accounting, finance, management, or marketing. Many have experience starting and running their own businesses.

Other relevant experience includes knowledge of various management theories and practices, computer skills, financial or budget experience, and significant hands-on entrepreneurial or business experience.

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NGO Development

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Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of NGO Development Volunteers

Non-profit organizations, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), endeavor to fill the gap between governments' provision of services and local needs. Many NGOs have recognized the need to improve their project management and organizational development capabilities. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you facilitate the development of a strong and effective organization by working with key decision-makers of local NGOs. You do not have a preconceived set of answers, but have the skills, ideas, and knowledge to enable an organization to meet the needs of the population served while balancing future consequences. You work as an advisor to NGOs that deal with issues of environment, youth, social services, or business development. You mentor and train staff in the following areas:

Strategic Planning

- Conduct a community assessment that analyzes trends, opportunities, assets and issues in the political, social, economic and technological realm.
- Conduct an internal organizational assessment that identifies strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop a vision and mission statement for the organization to clarify its future direction.

Organizational Development

- Develop a governance structure, such as a board of directors, staffing plans, and organizational policies.
- Train board and staff in management skills and leadership responsibilities.
- Facilitate community participation and collaboration with other organizations.
- Establish administrative systems and controls to monitor progress, evaluate results, and track expenditures.

Program Planning and Implementation

- Develop goals, objectives, and action plans with the community.
- Conduct outreach to community members to promote volunteerism and create awareness of assets and activities.

Long-Range Planning

- Translate action plans into operating budgets and marketing and outreach plans.
- Train staff in resource development and information systems, including: fundraising methods, membership recruitment, database management, information sharing, networking, and grant proposal writing.
- Provide technical assistance to NGOs to ensure sustainability and reduce dependency on a single financial source.

In Their Own Words

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NGO Development Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

The tasks of NGO Development Volunteers vary depending on sites and counterparts. Volunteers may be matched with small credit organizations, NGOs, or institutions supporting income generation on a regional level. Volunteers assist in the development of their organization's strategies and by-laws; advise and train staff on budgeting, marketing, inventory control, and accounting; execute activities targeting participation of women and youth in business development; and assist host institutions in incorporating sound management practices into daily activities. HIV/AIDS is a primary focus among many NGOs, and awareness activities are integrated into all Volunteer trainings.

Eastern Europe

In one Eastern European country, government decentralization reforms localized authority for education, healthcare, infrastructure development, and other services. At the same time, a rapidly growing non-profit sector assumed greater roles locally. In light of this new environment and shift of power to local systems, organizations strive to operate effectively while maintaining financial sustainability. Volunteers support these offices by creating strategic plans, introducing technology to manage information, and utilizing community assets. They also assist counterparts in identifying funding sources, designing fundraising campaigns, and using public relations to network with outside donors.

Inter-America

With a new constitution mandating decentralization after years of a dictatorial government, local mayors in one South American country face the challenge of "inventing" their new municipality offices. Besides the lack of organizational and administration processes, these localities also experience limited citizen participation. NGO Development Volunteers work within these offices to identify community leaders, promote local interest groups, and strengthen ties between municipalities and committees. They enable both municipal staff and community members to prioritize needs, fund projects, and understand their roles as citizens.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in any discipline and two years of full-time experience in management or organizational development with non-profit organizations; OR

A master's degree with a concentration in nonprofit management, public administration, or organizational development; OR

No college degree and five years of relevant experience in a nonprofit organization.

Experience

Most applicants have at least two years of management or organizational development experience with nonprofit organizations, as staff members or volunteers. Recent college graduates may have experience as founders or leaders of a community or school-based organization.

Other relevant experience includes a demonstrated commitment to a project's issues, working with a community services organization, and supervision of community or student volunteers. Some applicants also have networking skills, a law degree, information technology experience, or strategic planning abilities.

The Rewards of Peace Corps Service

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Volunteer service develops or accentuates your professional abilities and enhances your personal growth. Virtually all returning Volunteers agree they have received far more than they have given. Recent college graduates gain hands-on experience and often further define their career goals. Others confirm their commitment to their profession and receive career-boosting international experience. Retirees bring their accumulated life experiences to those who need and respect them.

Some of the many **benefits** that come with Peace Corps service include: student loan deferment and/or partial cancellation, transportation to and from country of service, in-country training, medical and dental care, living allowance, 48 paid vacation days, a \$7,400+ "readjustment" allowance upon completion, graduate school opportunities, etc.



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Public Health Degreed

Creating Sustainable Solutions

As a Peace Corps Volunteer you arrive in your assigned country of service, not with funds or equipment, but with skills and knowledge as well the willingness to adapt them to your community. The primary focus of all volunteer work is building the capacity of local communities to meet their own needs through sustainable activities. A successful project is one that continues to function effectively after the Volunteer leaves.

Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

It is vital that Volunteers understand not only the myriad of technical problems, but also the cultural views and socio-political context in which they operate. The assignment may have little or no established structure or schedule. You continually define your role in response to the needs of the local people. Your willingness to integrate into your community and help your hosts find appropriate solutions can encourage people to participate. Your creativity, flexibility, self-motivation, and self-discipline may be vigorously challenged as you establish credibility and adapt to your new environment.

The Work of Public Health Degreed Volunteers

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you may serve in a healthcare system either as a regional health educator for a government ministry of health, or as community health and nutrition promoter working out of a rural dispensary or health clinic. To encourage community members to adopt behaviors that promote health, prevent illness, treat disease, and facilitate rehabilitation, you collaborate with your host country counterparts on education, awareness, and other relevant projects. Health projects may include:

Maternal/Child Health

- Train and mobilize health workers or community volunteers to set up infant growth monitoring systems and teach women about nutrition, malaria prevention, and other issues.
- Conduct workshops on health-related topics.
- Assist traveling immunization teams to show village mothers the benefits of child immunizations.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education

Collaborate with local AIDS coordinators to provide education and counseling services, especially targeting women and youth. Activities may involve the use of radio for information dissemination, facilitating support group discussions, developing an AIDS Action Center and conducting outreach programs.

Nutrition

- Work with rural community leaders and health workers to increase their knowledge of nutrition.
- Help communities improve their overall health by educating mothers about the benefits of breast feeding, appropriate weaning practices, and eating a balanced diet.
- Teach women, farmers, or school children to cultivate gardens that will add variety to the food their families consume.

In Their Own Words

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In whatever capacity you serve, you are a catalyst for change. You work with local people, especially women and children. Health education classes may be held in an open air meeting place. Clinics and healthcare centers, if available, vary considerably in terms of equipment, medical supplies and sanitary conditions. Your can-do attitude, patience and sensitivity to your community's needs are essential to empowering people to make informed choices about their health. Your success hinges on the ability of the community members to assume responsibility for the continued operation of their health systems.

Public Health Degreed Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

Public Health programs in many African countries are beginning to streamline their efforts into a few main health priorities, including HIV/AIDS, food security, and malaria prevention. Volunteers work with individuals, service providers, and organizations to address these issues. They may co-train a group of women on how to grow soya beans to enhance their children's diet; work with traditional birth attendants on techniques to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV; and/or facilitate a neighborhood health committee's organization of a vaccination campaign. Rather than creating "dependencies," Volunteers build relationships that result in individuals and communities taking the lead to improve their standard of living, health, and well-being.

Asia

Many Asian health systems have shifted focus from primarily curative care to preventive care and health education over the past few decades. Primary care facilities use this new approach to address the most common health problems affecting the general public: poor nutrition, lack of exercise, infectious diseases, prenatal conditions, and others. Volunteers partner with health care professionals to conduct workshops on promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing common diseases. Volunteers also develop health education materials and carry out activities in non-traditional settings, such as HIV/AIDS education centers, youth clubs, or rehabilitation centers.

Inter-America

The Public Health project in one South American country focuses on three main goals: promoting healthy behaviors, improving environmental health indicators, and encouraging low-income youth to make healthy life decisions. Volunteers conduct community assessments to determine the top health priorities in the area, develop awareness campaigns on topics ranging from latrine maintenance to maternal nutrition, and train youth to become peer educators on HIV/AIDS and healthy lifestyles. Health education can be a slow process, but Volunteers find it immensely fulfilling to work at the community level in improving lives and helping community partners address basic causes and effects of poverty.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in health, nutrition, dietetics, or nursing; OR

A master's degree in public health; OR

A public health nurse or a certified physician's assistant.

Experience

Most applicants have been active in:

- health-related activities on a volunteer basis in college or in their community;
- working as peer nutritionists, AIDS or STI counselors, or resident advisors in dormitories; or
- shadowing doctors in hospitals, as pre-med students.

Other relevant experience includes disease surveillance, creative training and adult education techniques, and community entry and survey methods.

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Health Extension

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of Health Extension Volunteers

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you may serve in a healthcare system either as a regional health educator for a government ministry of health or as a community health or nutrition promoter in a rural dispensary or health clinic. Collaborating with your host country counterparts on education, awareness, and other relevant projects, you encourage community members to adopt behaviors that promote health, prevent illness, treat disease, and facilitate rehabilitation. Health projects may include:

Maternal/Child Health

- Train and mobilize health workers or community volunteers to set up infant growth monitoring systems and teach women about nutrition, malaria prevention, and other issues.
- Conduct workshops on health-related topics.
- Assist a traveling immunization team to show village mothers the benefits of child immunizations.

Nutrition

- Promote a nutritious diet that includes vitamins and minerals, particularly Vitamin A, Iron, and Iodine.
- Help communities improve their overall health by educating mothers about the benefits of breast feeding, appropriate weaning practices, and eating a balanced diet.
- Teach women, farmers, or school children to cultivate gardens that will add variety to the food their families consume.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education

Collaborate with local AIDS coordinators to provide education and counseling services, especially targeting women and youth. Activities may involve the use of radio for information dissemination, facilitating support group discussions, developing an AIDS Action Center and conducting outreach programs. The work often takes place in environments with abnormally high mortality rates, and exposure to death and grief is common.

Water/Sanitation

Work with communities to manage their water and sanitation resources or increase access to adequate water and sanitation services. Facilitate the adoption of new hygiene practices to help prevent the occurrence of water-borne diseases.

Nurse Training

Help a country meet its demand for qualified professionals by developing curricula and teaching nurses, auxiliary health workers and other health professionals.

In Their Own Words

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Health Extension Projects

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Africa

In one African country, lack of effective health education and information has contributed to high rates of child and maternal mortality, sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS, and malnutrition. Although local clinics offer medicine and HIV tests free of charge, not all community members are aware that these resources exist. The main goals of the Health Extension project are to promote preventive health care and to find creative ways to convey health messages effectively to all community members. Through outreach activities such as school health fairs, vaccination campaigns, expectant mother clubs, and peer educator trainings, Volunteers and counterparts use social marketing to increase awareness about community resources and to promote healthy lifestyles.

Central Asia

Central Asia faces a vast array of health issues: from a need for basic education about common conditions, such as anemia and poor nutrition, to broader social challenges such as HIV/AIDS, smoking, alcoholism, and human trafficking. Volunteers work in local clinics, in provincial health departments, and with national and international NGOs to increase awareness of these societal issues. They implement health programs in schools, and educate children and adolescents through games, youth clubs and hands-on activities. They organize training-of-trainer workshops to improve skills of local health educators. Volunteers assist program coordinators in evaluating prevention programs and replicate successful techniques to be used long after they have left.

Inter-America

The Health Extension project in one Latin American country aims to educate youth on HIV/AIDS prevention, promote sound maternal and child nutrition, and improve reproductive health practices among rural women. Volunteers assess needs through community health diagnostics and partner with local women and youth groups to impart trainings and distribute educational materials. They may work on small projects such as latrine construction, community gardens, or clay stoves. Volunteers often walk several miles to reach communities. They provide technical assistance to organize health education in the most remote areas of the country.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Currently Registered Nurse (RN) with a bachelor's in Nursing and a demonstrated interest in community health, or a 3 year Nursing Diploma and a demonstrated interest in community health; OR

Currently Registered Nurse (RN) with an associate degree in Nursing and a demonstrated interest in community health, or LPN/LVN with two years post-license experience and a demonstrated interest in community health; OR

Bachelor's in any discipline with three months or 30 hours of experience in health (e.g., AIDS outreach, family planning counseling, First Aid, EMT or CPR certification, hospital or clinic experience, or lab technician experience).

Experience

Most applicants will have demonstrated their interest in health through volunteer or work experience in areas such as AIDS outreach, Planned Parenthood counseling, Red Cross EMT or CPR certification, and hands-on care-giving in a hospice, hospital, clinic, or lab technician setting.

Counseling or teaching can also qualify as experience.

Applicants are encouraged to pursue health outreach-related volunteer opportunities prior to their departure.

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Community Services

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of Community Service Volunteers

Community Service Volunteers contribute to local development efforts by working on projects that address immediate needs, improve the quality of life, identify community assets, and build long-term self-sufficiency. Depending on your skills and abilities, you will be placed in a rural community, in a grassroots citizen organization or NGO, or at a youth center. You will focus on projects related to health, life-skills, environmental protection, small enterprise development, or livelihoods. Your work may be that of facilitator, evaluator, organizer, resource provider, or educator. Projects are designed, implemented, and evaluated by employing appropriate methodologies and technologies and through extensive, broad-based local input including consultation with community representatives. In collaboration with project-related groups, schools and government agencies, your duties may include:

Community Development

- *Assessment:* Coordinate a participatory-style needs assessment and feasibility study to identify issues and determine appropriate projects.
- *Capacity-building and leadership development:* Train community members in leadership skills, project management, bookkeeping methods, curriculum development, and staff development.
- *Community organizing:* Form local groups such as women's cooperatives, youth clubs, summer camps, or environmental clubs.
- Mobilize local people to create awareness and initiate activities; for example work with women's groups to develop income generating crafts or garden projects, or parent-teacher associations to conduct literacy campaigns.
- Encourage parental involvement in education and mobilize environmental awareness efforts.

Non-Formal Education/Youth Centers

- Work in government or community-sponsored youth centers with after-school or at-risk youth. Develop lessons; teach English, other academic subjects, life-skills/self-esteem, health/HIV awareness, or IT skills; and support other activities.
- Work with youth, empowering them to develop their own programs to meet their own self-identified needs for training or income-generation projects.
- Work with early childhood education/development.

Organizational Development

- Work with local government offices, citizen's organizations or grassroots NGOs to support local development initiatives, including small enterprise development and social service provision.
- Strengthen organizational capacity, including improving financial, planning, fundraising and administrative systems.
- Transfer business, IT, or English skills and knowledge to counterparts in order to help them to function effectively at their job.
- Assist the community in identifying locally available funds and resources to meet project goals.

In Their Own Words

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Community Service Projects

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Africa

Volunteers in one West African nation support initiatives that educate and empower girls. They are assigned to regional education offices and work with teachers and apprentice supervisors to integrate gender and equality issues into their curricula. By organizing extra-curricular activities with students and non-formal education organizations, communities value girls and women for their economic and family contributions. In recent years, this program also incorporated men and boys as important partners, thus promoting gender equality in communities.

Central Asia

Government officials in one Asian country are increasingly recognizing youth as a crucial target for development activities. Volunteers are placed in community youth groups, NGOs, and/or centers working with youth both in and out of school. They train local staff on English, IT knowledge, and networking with other like-minded organizations. Volunteers implement community projects and mobilize young people for youth-focused activities and events. Through these and other efforts, Volunteers also engage parents and other adults and help them recognize young people and support their work towards more productive futures.

Inter-America

Community Service Volunteers in Latin America work in a variety of sectors, from youth development and outreach activities to business advising and IT education. In one Caribbean country, Volunteers focus on economic development in small communities by supporting small businesses' competitiveness in the globalized market. Through skills trainings, assessment plans for NGOs, and business plan creations for current and aspiring entrepreneurs, Volunteers help empower all sectors of the community with the tools to determine and manage economic progress at the grassroots level.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants can qualify with a bachelor's degree in social work, counseling, community development, or any other discipline with at least three months leadership, community service, or volunteer experience.

Experience

All qualified applicants will have experience in planning, organizing, counseling, or leadership within the last five years.

Other relevant experience includes knowledge of adult education and teaching methodology, conducting needs assessments, and a leadership position in a club or organization.

Qualified Community Services applicants are flexible, motivated, and prepared to work in an unstructured setting.

Prior to their departure, applicants are encouraged to pursue work or volunteer opportunities with community service organizations, especially positions in leadership, facilitation, teaching, tutoring, and organizing.

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Youth Development

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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The Work of Youth Development Volunteers

As a Youth Development Volunteer, you do hard work that makes a real difference in communities. You work alongside youth, grassroots leaders, parents, and teachers to motivate young people (between the ages of 10 and 25 years) to become positively involved in their family, learning, work, and community. You could be assigned to a government agency, community-based youth center, or school center. Successful youth development activities require you to act as a catalyst to empower youth to develop their own programs, rather than merely developing programs for them. This work takes patience! In collaboration with community members, your job responsibilities may include:

Community Organizing

- Mobilize young people and promote their involvement in initiating community activities such as conservation projects.
- Coordinate a participatory-style community assessment to identify resources and determine programming priorities.
- Create interest in youth programs by forming youth groups and developing community campaigns and fairs.
- Develop financial, planning and administrative systems to strengthen organizational capacity

Programming

- Create recreational and cultural activities that serve as alternatives to formal education.
- Collaborate to develop programs that provide employment skills training, promote income-generating activities and entrepreneurship, and encourage responsible parenthood.

Education and Training

- Design educational activities and training materials that facilitate the development of literacy and numeracy competency, leadership skills, health skills, and independent living skills.
- Engage and train young people to be health educators who can foster good health practices that can decrease the spread of AIDS.
- Provide on-the-job training to street educators and parents about issues affecting youth.
- Promote physical education and sports as a means to increase the skills and self-confidence of youth.

In Their Own Words

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The agency with which you work may provide limited guidance and resources. Much of your initial work is to establish direct contact and trust with youth, parents, and community members. To be successful, you need a sense of humor, individual initiative, an open mind, and the ability to listen.

Youth Development Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

Throughout much of Africa, the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS poses the greatest social, economic and health challenge. To address this epidemic, the Ministry of Education in one country is rolling out a life skills curriculum for all grades in the public school system that promotes healthy behavior change and teaches how to prevent the spread of HIV. Volunteers help implement this new curriculum in schools, working with teachers and guidance counselors, and creatively adapting lesson plans to spark student interest and commitment. Volunteers also address life skills tools through activities with parents, community leaders, and youth both in and out of school.

Central Asia

In one Asian nation, more than 25% of the population is defined as a young adult. In this changing environment, young adults try to discover their place in light of a depressed economy, ethnic conflicts and lack of resources for youth. Volunteers work in colleges, local NGOs, youth centers and orphanages, to support the government's new youth development goals. They teach English, business development, financial literacy, and other marketable skills related to professional development. They work with youth service clubs to encourage volunteerism and help youth make positive contributions to their communities. Volunteers have a unique opportunity to help young adults directly to better prepare them in an evolving social and cultural context.

Inter-America

While the government of one Central American country is well-positioned to address the needs of its large youth population, a lack of after-school facilities, unemployment, and high levels of social exclusion hamper efforts to assist them. Youth Development Volunteers help increase youths' awareness and participation in advocating their rights and asserting themselves as community leaders. They work with local counterparts to train youth in business, IT literacy, leadership skills, and promotion of healthy lifestyles. All activities are directed at mentoring these young adults as they acquire the knowledge, skills, and essential attitudes necessary to break the cycle of poverty and access positive life opportunities.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a master's degree or license in social work with youth experience; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with six months of relevant experience; OR

An associate degree with at least one year of relevant experience; OR

No college degree and five years of relevant full-time work experience with at-risk youth.

Experience

Applicants must have at least six months of full-time work experience with at-risk youth in areas such as designing, planning, implementing, and evaluating programs; coordinating volunteers; writing grants; teaching; and counseling. Some applicants may have experience in physical education coupled with three months of experience working with at-risk youth.

Other relevant experience includes a demonstrated desire to work with youth, conflict resolution or mediation skills, HIV/AIDS counseling or awareness training, fundraising, coaching, working with disabled youth, knowledge of arts and music, and affiliation with AmeriCorps or the YMCA.

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Primary Teacher Training

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

It is vital that Volunteers understand not only the myriad of technical problems, but also the cultural views and socio-political context in which they operate. The assignment may have little or no established structure or schedule. You continually define your role in response to the needs of the local people. Your willingness to integrate into your community and help your hosts find appropriate solutions can encourage people to participate. Your creativity, flexibility, self-motivation, and self-discipline may be vigorously challenged as you establish credibility and adapt to your new environment.

The Work of Primary Teacher Trainers

Education Volunteers provide classroom teaching and foster learning environments that encourage cross-cultural exchange. The education sector promotes four capacity-building goals within its projects: raising the formal and non-formal educational quality of the in- and out-of-school experience for students; increasing interaction between Volunteers and counterpart teachers; enhancing local technical and technological resources; and increasing links between the school, local and global communities.

As a Peace Corps Primary Education Teacher Trainer, you work alongside host country teachers as a classroom instructor and as a resource for innovative teaching techniques. You may be assigned to a school, a regional office of the ministry of education, a regional teachers' resource center, or a teacher training college. You may be involved in the following activities:

- Engage in classroom teaching in an elementary school, assist other teachers with lesson planning and methodology, and teach English as a Second Language to elementary students and teachers.
- Assist teachers' and students' needs within the cultural context and educational system of that country
- Develop appropriate instructional materials and workshops.
- Provide ongoing professional support to help teachers integrate participatory techniques into their own teaching.
- Work with a host country counterpart to plan and conduct in-service trainings for teachers at specified training sites. Training topics may vary from child psychology and development to general teaching methodology.
- Develop cooperative relationships between a school's educational and administrative staff as well as parents and community leaders in an effort to improve community support for education.
- Assist parent-teacher associations or other local education groups with implementation of meaningful projects.

In Their Own Words

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You will be called upon to use your own ingenuity to make the best of limited resources. Common conditions include: lack of tangible support from the school administration or government; lack of appropriate facilities; outdated or nonexistent materials; and the necessity of adapting your methods to a nationally established syllabus and to a different cultural context. Despite these limitations, your efforts to earn the trust of your colleagues by understanding their perspective will be respected and appreciated.

Primary Teacher Training Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

Although access to education has increased significantly in recent years, African education systems are still facing many challenges. One of the most pressing issues in one southern African country is the shortage of trained primary teachers. Volunteers work with school staff in rural areas to encourage creative lesson planning and improve teaching methodology. They help establish resource centers with materials for use by teachers, students, and community members. Through collaborations with teachers and administrators, Volunteers also find ways to link classroom learning and extra-curricular activities to relevant community issues, through field trips, theater productions, extra-curricular workshops and sports teams.

Eastern Europe

The newly independent citizens of many former Soviet republics are anxious to learn English in order to improve access to information and technical resources, and to strengthen links with democratic nations. The Peace Corps has been invited to participate in improving the effectiveness of English language instruction in rural primary schools. Volunteers collaborate with teachers on new methods and approaches, especially interactive and communicative techniques. They teach English to primary students while also integrating relevant content such as computer literacy, science, arts, and technology into lesson plans. Both through in-class and extracurricular activities, Volunteers are helping teachers to improve students' English language abilities at a young age, which will serve as a marketable skill to them in an increasingly global society.

Inter-America

In one Central American country, Volunteers support a new government initiative to improve the quality of education in primary schools. They conduct teacher trainings on areas such as English, HIV/AIDS awareness, and Junior Achievement courses, as a way to encourage students to make healthy life choices and continue their education after 6th grade. They work to establish parent-teacher associations to support students and school activities. Volunteers also organize local children's sports teams as a vehicle for teaching valuable lessons in leadership, social skills and living well.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants will have a bachelor's degree in pre-school, early childhood, middle school or elementary education; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with one year of classroom teaching and/or state certification.

Experience

Virtually all applicants have some teaching experience, ranging from one semester of student teaching to many years of full-time teaching.

Other relevant experience includes knowledge of teaching methodologies at the K-6 level; experience in development of educational materials; and demonstrated skills in classroom management.

In addition, many applicants have prior work, leadership, or volunteer experience in the secondary program areas mentioned.

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Some of the many **benefits** that come with Peace Corps service include: student loan deferment and/or partial cancellation, transportation to and from country of service, in-country training, medical and dental care, living allowance, 48 paid vacation days, a \$7,400+ "readjustment" allowance upon completion, graduate school opportunities, etc.



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Secondary Education English Teaching

Creating Sustainable Solutions

As a Peace Corps Volunteer you arrive in your assigned country of service, not with funds or equipment, but with skills and knowledge as well the willingness to adapt them to your community. The primary focus of all volunteer work is building the capacity of local communities to meet their own needs through sustainable activities. A successful project is one that continues to function effectively after the Volunteer leaves.

Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of Secondary Education English Teachers

The primary goals of Peace Corps education projects are to strengthen teacher-to-teacher relationships, build links between schools and local communities, provide quality teacher-to-student instruction, and develop resource centers. As a Teacher of English as a Foreign or Second Language (TEFL/TESL), you help students gain access to the world through textbooks and cultural exchanges, as well as prepare them for advanced education and future employment. Some Volunteers are asked to assist business and health professionals in improving their English skills. A Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to a secondary school is supervised by the school principal considered a professional member of the school faculty. Duties may include:

- Teaching English for an average of 20 to 25 hours per week following guidelines set by a national syllabus which outlines the recommended sequence of activities for English. Class levels may vary from beginner to advanced. Class size is between 20 and 100 students, ranging in age from 12 to 20 years. When presenting your lessons, you need to take into consideration that students may be accustomed to rote learning methods. You must often prepare students for passing national exams.
- Assisting host country colleagues as a resource and peer to help improve their English proficiency and create teaching materials such as visual aids and lesson plans.
- Using English classes as a launching point for teaching about health, nutrition, the environment, or job skills.
- Participating in activities that extend beyond the walls of your classroom. Examples of projects include: adult literacy education, establishing sports or English clubs, school construction, and health education. The Peace Corps provides assistance with project planning and implementation.

In Their Own Words

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The Peace Corps delivers intensive training and practice teaching to Volunteers in education methodology, lesson plan preparation, and classroom management.

As a Volunteer, you will use your ingenuity to maximize limited resources. Common conditions include overcrowded classrooms, outdated or nonexistent textbooks and equipment, and inadequate facilities. Your efforts to improve the English proficiency of your students and to collaborate with your colleagues will be respected. Students are usually highly motivated. This is an assignment that demands more than a college degree – you need a sense of humor, perseverance, patience, individual initiative, an open mind, and the ability to listen.

Secondary Education English Teaching Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

In one western African nation, the high school student population has quadrupled in just ten years. This increase in students, coupled with stronger emphasis on English language education, creates a high demand for quality TEFL teachers. Education Volunteers are assigned to secondary schools with enrollment of up to 5,000 students. Volunteers work with teachers on strategies for teaching English to large multi-level classes. Their role in the classroom, in planning, in material development and in meetings is that of teacher, facilitator, organizer and educational advocate.

Asia

Many education systems in Asia actively integrate English into their required curricula, as the demand for English proficiency increases among local and overseas employers. Native English speakers as classroom facilitators are considered a valued asset. Volunteers assist middle and high school teachers in developing lesson modules and conduct trainings for teachers and administrators in English methodologies. In addition to co-teaching and teacher trainings, they support development of English language libraries and assist in extracurricular activities such as debate teams, English clubs, and team sports. Some Volunteers facilitate remedial reading classes and provide one-on-one tutoring to struggling students. Some countries use Volunteer-generated resources to form part of the national English language curricula.

Inter-America

In one Central American country, English learning is needed to support a growing tourism industry and greater participation in the global economy. The government has invited Peace Corps Volunteers to support their efforts to improve the quality of English teaching as part of educational reforms. Volunteers cooperate and co-teach English lessons with a local counterpart. They work to design and use low-cost supplementary materials for the classroom and incorporate dynamic topics into lessons to motivate students. Outside the classroom, Volunteers undertake activities that continue to support English learning such as monthly workshops for community members.

Volunteer Profile

Education

A bachelor's degree in English, TEFL, Linguistics or Secondary Education (with concentration in English, TEFL or a foreign language), OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with certification at the secondary level in any discipline (English, TEFL, foreign language, library science, art, or social science); OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with three months or 30 hours of English, foreign language, or literacy tutoring experience or library science experience.

Experience

Most applicants have at least three months of teaching or tutoring experience in English or ESL. This experience can be in classrooms or one-on-one.

Applicants can be recent college graduates or those with classroom experience or experience training youth or adults.

Other relevant work includes community organizing; drama activities; health or HIV/AIDS education; civics education; youth development work, such as day care or Head Start; and computer literacy or programming.

Applicants are encouraged to gain experience in English, foreign language or literacy teaching/tutoring prior to their departure.

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University English Teaching

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of University English Teachers

The goals of Peace Corps education projects are to strengthen teacher-to-teacher relationships, build links between schools and local communities, provide quality teacher-to-student instruction, and develop resource centers. As an English Teacher, you help students and colleagues gain access to the world through textbooks, cultural exchanges, and training for advanced education and future employment.

You work alongside host-country teachers as a classroom instructor and as a resource for innovative teaching methodologies. You may be assigned to a university, technical institute, a regional teachers' resource center, or a teacher training college and be supervised by the department head. Your responsibilities as a teacher may include a combination of classroom instruction, resource center development, lesson planning, teacher training, and materials development.

Classroom Instruction and Materials Development

You teach an average of 10 to 16 hours a week and follow the recommended sequence of activities for English as outlined in the national syllabus. Classes are multi-level, and you will teach both basic and advanced English. Typical courses are: English conversation, composition, reading, and grammar. Depending on your knowledge and the needs of the school, you may also teach other subjects, such as literature, American civilization, drama, poetry, or linguistics.

You are responsible for developing lessons, handouts, visual aids, and exams. Textbooks and resource materials vary in their availability and usefulness; you will often rely on your own materials. You may be expected to tutor your colleagues and students, administer and grade exams, and supervise thesis preparation.

Teacher Training

Through classroom observation and peer mentoring, you can assess teachers' and students' needs within the cultural context and educational system of that country. Then you can begin to develop appropriate instructional materials and workshops. You may plan and conduct in-service trainings in topics ranging from English grammar to general teaching methodology. You provide on-going professional support to help participants integrate the new techniques into their own teaching.

Other Activities

You also participate in activities that extend beyond the walls of your classroom. Volunteers develop literacy programs, establish libraries, initiate youth groups or culture clubs, and teach other subjects. The Peace Corps assists you with project planning and implementation by providing training and advisory support.

In Their Own Words

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University English Teaching Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

Education Volunteers in one western Africa country are placed in university foreign language departments, adult education centers, and TEFL teacher-training institutes. In addition to teaching English, they assist in developing instruction materials that focus on critical thinking and creative learning. They also partner with organizations engaged in improving basic literacy, education, and governance in rural areas.

Eastern Europe

As countries throughout Eastern Europe define their roles in the global community, there is a strong demand for English language learning throughout the region. Current language teaching methodologies follow traditional patterns of grammar-translation, and modern approaches have only been recently introduced. Volunteers teach university-level English and model communicative methodologies and approaches that promote analysis, decision-making, and peer-to-peer learning. They work to integrate language skills and content related to history and culture both in their countries and in the United States.

Inter-America

In recognition of English as an increasingly valuable language in Latin America, many governments in the region have invited Peace Corps to help improve the quality of English teaching in universities. Volunteers participate in this new initiative by helping teachers strengthen their teaching and language skills. Volunteers, counterparts, and other faculty participate in meetings, plan and teach lessons, host clubs and extra-curricular activities, and discuss grades and classroom management through positive reinforcement. Volunteers may focus lessons on critical thinking through research, debates, competitions, essay writing, and cultural events. By strengthening the capacities of educators, they help create a cadre of trained, capable individuals with far-reaching and sustainable impacts.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants must have a master's degree in English, teaching, TEFL, TESOL, EFL, TESL or Linguistics; OR

A master's degree in a foreign language.

Experience

Most applicants have full- or part-time experience as graduate teaching assistants, substitute teachers, tutors, or student teachers.

Other relevant experience includes working with community organizations or projects, working with adult literacy programs or environmental or health education, drama activities, and editing or writing for college literary magazines or newspapers.

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Secondary Education Math Teaching

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of Secondary Education Math Teachers

The goals of Peace Corps education projects aim to strengthen teacher-to-teacher relationships, build links between schools and local communities, provide quality teacher-to-student instruction, and develop resource centers and materials. As a Math Teacher, you help countries meet their immediate needs for an educated populace and their future needs for trained math teachers. You are assigned to a secondary school, and are considered a professional member of the faculty, supervised by the school principal. Your duties may include:

Classroom Instruction

- Teach math for an average of 25 hours per week, following the national syllabus which outlines the recommended sequence of activities for math. Subjects include remedial math, geometry, algebra, statistics, probability and calculus. Class size is between 20 and 100 students, ranging in age from 12-20 years.
- Present lessons making sure to consider that students may be accustomed to rote learning methods.
- Prepare students for national exams.

Teaching Other Subjects

Teaching basic science, environmental education, or English depending on the needs of the school and your own knowledge.

Secondary Activities

You may also participate in activities that extend beyond the walls of your classroom. Initiating extra-curricular or community activities helps you gain greater satisfaction from your Peace Corps experience. Examples of projects include:

- library development,
- adult literacy education,
- tutorial projects,
- sports or conservation clubs,
- latrine construction,
- health education, and
- vegetable gardening.

The Peace Corps provides assistance in project planning and implementation through training and advisory support.

In Their Own Words

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Secondary Education Math Teaching Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Sub-Saharan Africa

Education Volunteers are in high demand in one sub-Saharan country due to the shortage of qualified teachers in math, science, English, and information communication and technology (ICT). Volunteers are placed in rural areas or small towns and are assigned to secondary schools as teachers in math and other subjects. They work with local teachers to develop teaching aids and integrate ICT activities and technology into school curricula. In addition to direct teaching, Volunteers train fellow teachers and students of teacher training colleges.

West Africa

The Ministry of Education in one West African country has prioritized quality education and is working to lower class sizes by increasing teacher training in critical subjects. Volunteers support this initiative by providing instruction in subjects ranging from algebra, trigonometry, or remedial math to science, ICT, or English. Volunteers promote interactive teaching methods in a school environment which often emphasizes rote learning techniques. By enhancing students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills and increasing teachers' capacities through formal and informal training, Volunteers play a role in improving the quality of math education in the country.

Inter-America, Pacific, Eastern/Central Europe, Asia

There are currently no Secondary Match teaching projects in these regions.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants qualify with a bachelor's degree in math, engineering, computer science or secondary education (with a concentration in math); OR

A bachelor's in any discipline with a minor in math (15 semester or 22 quarter hours) that includes two calculus courses.

Experience

Qualified applicants typically have at least three months of experience in tutoring or informal teaching with small groups, classrooms, or one-on-one.

Other relevant experience includes community service, especially with young adults; youth development work, such as day care or camp counseling; health and environment education, and computer literacy or programming.

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Secondary Education Science Teaching

Creating Sustainable Solutions

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Flexibility is your key to success

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The Work of Secondary Education Science Teachers

The primary goals of Peace Corps education projects are to strengthen teacher-to-teacher relationships, build links between schools and local communities, provide quality teacher-to-student instruction, and develop resource centers and materials. As a Secondary Science Teaching Volunteer, you are helping countries meet their immediate needs for an educated populace, and their future needs for teachers. You are assigned to a secondary school and considered a professional member of the school faculty, supervised by the school principal. Your duties may include:

Classroom Instruction

Teaching general science, biology, chemistry, or physics for an average of 25 hours per week following the guidelines set by a national syllabus which outlines the recommended sequence of activities for science. Class size is between 20 and 100 students, ranging in age from 12-20 years. When presenting your lessons, you need to take into consideration that students may be accustomed to rote learning methods. You may be expected to prepare students for passing national exams.

In Their Own Words

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Teacher Training

Peace Corps provides intensive training – including practice teaching – in education methodology, lesson plan preparation and classroom management. In addition to your primary duty of teaching science, you may also teach basic math, environmental education, or English depending on the needs of the school and your own knowledge.

Secondary Activities

You may also participate in activities that extend beyond the walls of your classroom. Examples of projects include: library development, adult literacy education, tutorial projects, sports or conservation clubs, latrine construction, health education, and vegetable gardening. Assistance in project planning and implementation comes through your Peace Corps training and advisory support.

You will be challenged to make the best use of limited resources. Common conditions include overcrowded classrooms, outdated or nonexistent textbooks and equipment, lack of support from the school administration, or inadequate facilities. In some countries, students leave their schools to assist with planting and harvesting of crops. Despite these limitations, your efforts to develop the knowledge and problem solving skills of your students will be an important contribution to their education. Students are typically eager to learn. This is an assignment that demands more than a science degree – you need a sense of humor, perseverance, patience, individual initiative, an open mind, and the ability to listen.

Secondary Education Science Teaching Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

After decades of centralized governmental structure, one country in West Africa is reorienting its focus to urgent development issues in small communities; among these issues, science education is near the top of the list. Volunteers support this initiative by teaching secondary school physics in classrooms ranging in size from 25 to 100 students. They collaborate with teachers through on-the-job trainings, development of teaching materials, and other activities to increase the capacity of local teachers. Volunteers also promote gender equality by using curricula that integrates gender-sensitive issues relevant to immediate needs. They work closely with the community to encourage young women to stay in school, and organize hands-on science activities to keep both girls and boys interested in science.

Inter-America

As part of an initiative to promote environmental awareness in communities, Science Teaching Volunteers in one South American country create lesson plans for teaching environmental sciences in schools. They develop curricula for subjects related to earth science, biology and biodiversity, and environmental conservation, and present these lesson plans to teachers through workshops and team teaching in secondary school classrooms. Volunteers engage in various activities throughout the community to increase awareness of environmental issues, such as organizing science camps with environmental themes.

Pacific, Eastern/Central Europe, Asia

There are currently no Secondary Science teaching projects in these regions.

Volunteer Profile

Education

Applicants can qualify with a bachelor's degree in general science, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, or any physical or biological science; OR

A degree in secondary education with a concentration in any science; OR

A degree in any discipline with either certification in secondary science or a minor in biology, chemistry or physics.

Experience

Qualified applicants typically have at least three months of experience in tutoring or informal teaching with small groups. This experience can be in classrooms or one-on-one.

Other relevant experience includes: community service, especially with youth; youth development work, such as day care or camp counseling; health and environment education; and computer literacy or programming.

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Special Education

Creating Sustainable Solutions

As a Peace Corps Volunteer you arrive in your assigned country of service, not with funds or equipment, but with skills and knowledge as well the willingness to adapt them to your community. The primary focus of all volunteer work is building the capacity of local communities to meet their own needs through sustainable activities. A successful project is one that continues to function effectively after the Volunteer leaves.

Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

It is vital that Volunteers understand not only the myriad of technical problems, but also the cultural views and socio-political context in which they operate. The assignment may have little or no established structure or schedule. You continually define your role in response to the needs of the local people. Your willingness to integrate into your community and help your hosts find appropriate solutions can encourage people to participate. Your creativity, flexibility, self-motivation, and self-discipline may be vigorously challenged as you establish credibility and adapt to your new environment.

The Work of Special Education Volunteers

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you share the latest knowledge and methodology with host country teachers, government staff, and individual caseworkers to improve the quality of services to people with special needs and their families. Through your work and community involvement, you help to strengthen teacher-to-teacher relationships, build links between schools and local communities, provide quality teacher-to-student instruction, and develop resource centers. Depending on your skills, you may be working with people who are hearing, visually, or speech impaired; have communication or learning disabilities; are mentally retarded; or have cerebral palsy or other brain disorders. You may train teachers and instruct students in a school setting or work in conjunction with a therapist in a community organization or governmental agency. Assignments may involve:

Classroom Instruction

- Teach four to six hours a day. Conduct initial diagnosis and periodic evaluations of children.
- Write assessment and progress reports.
- Teach classes such as reading, arithmetic, and life skills; organize sports activities.
- Design instruction materials and lesson plans that will develop students' abilities to communicate, for example, in a local sign language.

Individual Casework

- Screen and assess children for developmental behavior and learning problems through interviews with parents, observation, informal testing, and social interaction.
- Work in conjunction with a physiotherapist or occupational therapist to treat children.
- Provide parents education and design programs to conduct in a home environment. Conduct workshops for families and professionals.

Teacher Training

- Work closely with colleagues to share methods, ideas, and insights.
- Conduct needs assessments of people with whom and facilities in which you work.
- Organize workshops and seminars.
- Give demonstration lessons.
- Observe and provide feedback to teachers in classroom situations.

In Their Own Words

Visit the Peace Corps website at www.peacecorps.gov and find the link "In Their Own Words" to read first-hand accounts of what it is like to be a Peace Corps Volunteer.

An important aspect of your responsibilities lies in your example to the school and community. Through your attention to people with special needs, you demonstrate that they deserve respect.

Special Education Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Inter-America

In one South American nation, youth rank among those most affected by a declining economy, particularly children with special needs. Residential facilities that serve special needs children provide few vocational or life skills. Special education classrooms are often ill-equipped to address children with widely varying conditions. Peace Corps and a number of excellent national institutions are collaborating to address these problems. Acting with social service agencies in small to mid-sized towns, Volunteers help communities plan programs for children with special needs. They facilitate vocational and life skills training for young adults and promote local employment opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged youth. Using their skills and enthusiasm, Volunteers impart knowledge and build new capacities and self-esteem among special needs youth.

Eastern Europe

While many communities in former Soviet bloc countries have experienced rapid growth and higher standards of living, many young adults and special needs populations remain underserved. Volunteers provide technical assistance to these populations in communities ranging from large towns to rural villages. They may work with institutions or NGOs which support children with special educational, emotional, or physical needs, or with NGOs that support parents of special needs children. Volunteers help staff increase their youth-directed programs through grant proposals, website development, and staff trainings. They also work to involve parents and community members in special education development through parent-teacher groups, concerts, art shows, and other community-wide activities

Africa

There are currently no Special Education projects in this region.

Volunteer Profile

Education and Experience

A bachelor's degree in Special Education (general or with emphasis in visually or hearing impaired); OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with state certification in special education; OR

A bachelor's degree in Education with one year full-time experience working with individuals who are learning or developmentally disabled, emotionally and/or physically handicapped, and hearing- or visually-impaired; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with one year full-time experience working in classrooms or residential homes with persons who are learning disabled, developmentally disabled, emotionally handicapped, physically handicapped, multiply handicapped, hearing impaired, or visually impaired.

The Rewards of Peace Corps Service

As a Peace Corps Volunteer you can make a tremendous contribution to the lives of others. At the same time, you discover that your experience is as much about your learning as it is about teaching.

Volunteer service develops or accentuates your professional abilities and enhances your personal growth. Virtually all returning Volunteers agree they have received far more than they have given. Recent college graduates gain hands-on experience and often further define their career goals. Others confirm their commitment to their profession and receive career-boosting international experience. Retirees bring their accumulated life experiences to those who need and respect them.

Some of the many **benefits** that come with Peace Corps service include: student loan deferment and/or partial cancellation, transportation to and from country of service, in-country training, medical and dental care, living allowance, 48 paid vacation days, a \$7,400+ "readjustment" allowance upon completion, graduate school opportunities, etc.



Life is calling. How far will you go?

800.424.8580

www.peacecorps.gov

It is the policy of the Peace Corps to provide equal opportunity in all its programs for all persons and to prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, age (over 40), sex, disability, political affiliation, and sexual orientation in the recruitment, selection, placement, service, and termination of Peace Corps Volunteers.

Secondary Education English Teacher Training

Creating Sustainable Solutions

As a Peace Corps Volunteer you arrive in your assigned country of service, not with funds or equipment, but with skills and knowledge as well the willingness to adapt them to your community. The primary focus of all volunteer work is building the capacity of local communities to meet their own needs through sustainable activities. A successful project is one that continues to function effectively after the Volunteer leaves.

Before starting your two-year assignment, you receive approximately three months of in-country training, focusing on language, cross-cultural, and technical skills as well as on health and safety. The training program is designed to help you become an integral member of the community by giving you an understanding of the country's governmental system, cultural norms, and interpersonal relations. Technical training enhances your ability to effectively transfer your skills and knowledge to host-country people.

Flexibility is your key to success

It is vital that Volunteers understand not only the myriad of technical problems, but also the cultural views and socio-political context in which they operate. The assignment may have little or no established structure or schedule. You continually define your role in response to the needs of the local people. Your willingness to integrate into your community and help your hosts find appropriate solutions can encourage people to participate. Your creativity, flexibility, self-motivation, and self-discipline may be vigorously challenged as you establish credibility and adapt to your new environment.

The Work of Secondary Education English Teacher Trainers

The primary goals of Peace Corps education projects are to strengthen teacher-to-teacher relationships, build links between schools and local communities, provide quality teacher-to-student instruction, and develop resource centers. Your goal as an English Teacher Trainer is a critical one: you are helping countries improve their standard of English language education. English proficiency enables local people to pursue higher education through which countries can begin to meet their own needs for trained people in the areas of health, education, business, and agriculture. This human capacity development will ultimately allow a country to support its own development. You work alongside host country teachers in secondary schools, teacher training colleges, or other institutions of higher education and serve as a resource for innovative teaching methodologies. You may be assigned to a school, a regional office of the ministry of education, a regional teachers' resource center, or a teacher training college.

Teacher Training

Your primary responsibility is to train and support teachers of English as a Foreign or Second Language. Through classroom observation and peer mentoring, you assess teachers' needs within the cultural context and educational system of that country and develop appropriate instructional materials and workshops.

You will work with a host country counterpart to plan and conduct in-service trainings for teachers at specified training sites. Training topics may vary from English grammar to general teaching methodology. You provide ongoing professional support to help participants integrate the new techniques into their own teaching.

English Teaching

In some countries, your daily schedule may also include classroom teaching of junior and senior high school students.

Other Activities

You also participate in activities that extend beyond the walls of your classroom. Volunteers develop literacy programs, establish libraries, initiate youth groups, and teach other subjects. The Peace Corps assists you with project planning and implementation by providing training and advisory support.

In Their Own Words

Visit the Peace Corps website at www.peacecorps.gov and find the link "In Their Own Words" to read first-hand accounts of what it is like to be a Peace Corps Volunteer.

You will be called upon to use your own ingenuity to make the best of limited resources. Common conditions include lack of support from the school administration or government, shortage of appropriate facilities, outdated or nonexistent materials, and the necessity of adapting your methods to a nationally established syllabus and for a different cultural context. This assignment stretches your creativity. Come with a sense of humor, perseverance, and patience.

Secondary Education English Teacher Training Projects

Peace Corps Volunteer opportunities represent host country national needs and applicants are encouraged to honor host country national needs when being placed. Projects vary and are uniquely defined at the local level. Here are some program descriptions:

Africa

In one southern African country, the Ministry of Education has invited Peace Corps to promote a new education model focusing on critical thinking and innovation. Education Volunteers work alongside teachers and school administrators to instill creative learning, teaching, and service. Volunteers engage in a range of activities to assist teachers in improving classroom practices such as class observations, feedback, team teaching, workshops, and creating learning aids with limited resources. Volunteers often expand their reach to include parents, local community groups, and out-of-school youth.

Asia

Based on agreements between Peace Corps and the Department of Education in one Asian country, Volunteers actively teach in classrooms along with local teachers and officials. They participate in developing lesson plans, materials, and techniques. In addition, Volunteers assist with extracurricular activities such as school newspapers and debate, drama, English, sports, and environmental clubs. They also facilitate remedial reading classes and tutoring and support the development of school resources such as libraries, computer rooms, speech labs, school management systems, textbook and curriculum development.

Inter-America

English education plays a key factor in the region's global competitiveness. In one project, Education Volunteers work directly with students in the classroom, while simultaneously building local teachers' capacities for English instruction through co-planning and co-teaching. As fully integrated staff members, Volunteers introduce their co-teachers to modern language teaching methodologies, designing and conducting communicative activities in the classroom, and enhancing conversation skills. Volunteers also facilitate community activities, such as technical English classes for NGO professionals and women's groups.

Volunteer Profile

Education

A MAT in English, TEFL, foreign language or applied linguistics or an M.Ed. with a graduate or undergraduate concentration in English, TEFL or foreign language; OR

A bachelor's degree in secondary education with a concentration in English, TEFL or foreign language or a bachelor's degree in English, TEFL or foreign language with 6 months of teaching at the secondary level in English, TEFL or foreign language; OR

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with either secondary education state certification in English, TEFL or foreign language or one year full-time classroom teaching experience at the secondary level in English TEFL or a foreign language.

Experience

Many applicants are recent university graduates with student teaching, graduate teaching assistant, or substitute teaching experience, or have at least six months of teaching experience. Some applicants are mid-career teachers, retired teachers, or mid-career professionals transitioning into teaching. Other relevant experience includes developing non-formal or youth education programs, leadership or organizational experience, or experience in health, HIV/AIDS, the environmental, or theater.

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Volunteer service develops or accentuates your professional abilities and enhances your personal growth. Virtually all returning Volunteers agree they have received far more than they have given. Recent college graduates gain hands-on experience and often further define their career goals. Others confirm their commitment to their profession and receive career-boosting international experience. Retirees bring their accumulated life experiences to those who need and respect them.

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www.peacecorps.gov

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Language Requirements

While Peace Corps makes every effort to recruit a sufficient number of French and Spanish speakers, the demand for qualified applicants with language skills is much higher than the supply of applicants each year. To help reduce the gap between supply and demand, Spanish-speaking posts currently request applicants at the Spanish 1 level with the expectation that applicants will be “actively learning” Spanish through the application process (either through self-study, private tutoring, or enrollment in an online or college Spanish course). Additionally, most French-speaking posts request applicants with appropriate experience with Romance languages (RL).

Language requirements for Spanish, French, and Romance Language are listed below. Please note that native/bilingual speakers are self-reported. Otherwise, applicants must demonstrate language level through the criteria listed below

Spanish 1

- A. Completed 4 years of high school Spanish coursework within the past 8 years
- B. Completed college-level Elementary II Spanish semester (Elementary III in quarter system) within the past 6 years
- C. Score between 50-62 on the Spanish College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam in the past 6 years
- D. Score Novice-High or Intermediate-Low on official American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) in Spanish within the past 6 years

French 1

- A. Completed 4 years of high school French coursework within the past 8 years
- B. Completed minimum 2 semesters/3 quarters of French college-level coursework within the past 6 years
- C. Completed 3 years of high school French coursework within the past 8 years and 1) a minimum of 5 on the high school International Baccalaureate Assessment or 2) a score of 4 on the Advanced Placement (AP) exam
- D. Attained a score of 50 on the French College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam or a score of Novice-High on official American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL OPI) within the past 6 years

Romance Language (RL)

- A. Any French language competency
- B. Completed 4 years of high school coursework within the past 8 years in a Romance language and 1) willingness to take a French course or 2) commit to self-study and a subsequent placement test
- C. Completed a minimum of 2 semesters/3 quarters of college level coursework within the past 6 years in a Romance language and 1) willingness to take a French course or 2) commit to self-study and a subsequent placement test

French Speakers



Your Skills. Our Jobs.

French is the official language of many countries in Africa, and the common language among a region that has thousands of indigenous languages and dialects. With the development needs of those nations so great, French speakers are in high demand. The Peace Corps is responding to the hundreds of requests for Volunteers who speak French and calling on you to join the effort and become part of a service legacy that dates back to 1961. While you may have many job prospects, nothing in your career is likely to compare to the challenges and rewards of the Peace Corps.

Si Vous Pouvez Lire Ceci, Nous Avons Besoin de Vous.

Add a new dimension to your career. Discover innovative ways to apply your classroom, volunteer, or work experiences. Work in an unforgettable location in West or North Africa and forge new and lifelong relationships within the communities you serve, while empowering communities to sustainably improve their quality of life. The possibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer are endless and allow you to leave an indelible mark.

Upon returning to the U.S., you'll discover open doors leading to new and exciting personal and professional opportunities. Fluency in a foreign language combined with international work experience and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today's global economy. You'll take away the satisfaction of knowing your efforts will have a lasting influence abroad while helping you stand out here at home.

Peace Corps French-language experience is valued by numerous organizations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of State, Millennium Challenge Corporation, United Nations agencies, the World Wildlife Fund, Africare, many private companies, and nongovernmental organizations seeking individuals with unique skills.

The Work.

As a Francophone Volunteer, your role will be to work alongside a host country counterpart and provide tools, teaching, new perspectives, facilitation, and encouragement to tackle some of the region's most critical needs. Your job might be with an NGO, a school, a local or regional community-based organization, or any number of other formal or informal institutions focused on different aspects of development. Depending on your specific assignment, you might:

- Teach English, math, or science at the primary, secondary, or university level, to children or adults
- Promote business development and growth, one-on-one with entrepreneurial farmers or artisans, or in larger groups through cooperatives or financial institutions
- Coordinate community or NGO workshops to teach health education and awareness
- Train farmers in organic farming to address pest control and increased production
- Work with youth to build skills, confidence, and self-esteem
- Equip communities with tools to protect natural resources and generate income
- Empower communities to continue the positive steps you will introduce them to, and in turn improve their quality of life for their families and future generations



As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, it continues to promote peace and friendship, with Volunteers serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world

Are You Ready?



How do I qualify?

To qualify for an assignment in a French-speaking country, you will need at a minimum to have:

- Completed four years of high school French coursework within the past eight years; OR
- Completed a minimum of two semesters or three quarters of French college-level coursework within the past six years; OR
- Completed three years of high school French coursework within the past eight years and have attained either a minimum of a 5 on the high school International Baccalaureate Assessment or a score of 4 on the Advanced Placement exam

Is this the right fit?

Let the Peace Corps match your skills and ambitions with the right type of program. While you will likely learn a local, tribal language spoken in your assigned region, your French language competency will enable you to hit the ground running. Whatever you do, you will have the opportunity to put your knowledge and ideas into practice and, in the process, be a catalyst for change and set the groundwork for a truly sustainable impact.

How can I stand out?

In addition to the language requirement, competitive applicants will need to have a degree or demonstrated work in environment, agriculture, youth and community development, health, business, or education.

If you are close but do not yet fully meet these requirements, please speak to a recruiter to find out what you can do to become qualified. Applicants may be considered if they have any college or high school French, a French-speaking study abroad experience, or other French placement exam scores within the past eight years and are willing to sign an agreement to either take additional French coursework or commit to self-study and a subsequent placement test.

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- Twitter: twitter.com/peacecorps
- YouTube: youtube.com/peacecorps
- Flickr: flickr.com/peacecorps
- Local event info: peacecorps.gov/events
- Grad school programs: peacecorps.gov/gradschool

Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk to a recruiter near you.

“The beauty of the Peace Corps is realizing that I have much more in common with a group of African villagers than I ever thought possible. John F. Kennedy, in creating the Peace Corps, said one of its goals would be to foster a cultural understanding between peoples all over the world. To me, that goal, beyond any work I did in Burkina Faso, is the one I am most proud to have achieved.”

— Caroline Chambre, Volunteer in Burkina Faso

How to be a more competitive applicant

peacecorps.gov



How hard is it to get in?

Serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer is prestigious and the application process is very competitive, just as it would be for any employer. Each year approximately 15,000 applications are received for about 4,000 Volunteer positions.

What are the minimum requirements for the following programs?

In addition to a college degree OR 3-5 years equivalent work or life experience, you will need:

If you are interested in:

English Teaching

You will need:

3-6 months of English or foreign language tutoring in a structured program that provides training. Your student(s) must be at least 12 years old, and you must complete at least 10 hours of tutoring each month. Many opportunities in this area do not require a foreign language

Health Extension

3-6 months volunteer or work experience in health care, such as EMT, CPR, or first aid certification; hospital or clinic work; HIV/AIDS or family planning education or counseling; or lab tech experience

Hygiene Education/Sanitation

At least 3 months of experience in hands-on skilled work, such as mechanical repair, construction, carpentry, or set design

Agriculture & Forestry Extension

At least 3-6 months of experience with large scale or family-run business in vegetable gardening, farming, nursery work, tree planting, tree care, urban forestry, or fisheries work

Youth Development

Six months of full-time work experience with at-risk youth ages 10-25 in a youth-oriented organization

How can I stand out?

Professional Skills and Experience

The more skills and experience you can gain before you depart in the above areas, the more competitive you will be. You may consider the Master's International program, which combines graduate school with Peace Corps service.

Flexibility

The more flexible you are in terms of your Peace Corps geographic location and your desired departure date the greater your chance of being nominated and possibly invited to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Your flexibility allows placement staff to find the most appropriate matches for your skills and education.

Language

The ability to learn a new language is an important ingredient for a successful Peace Corps experience. Competitive candidates have at least two semesters of Spanish or French at the university level or have completed 4 years of a romance language in high school within the last 8 years. If you have learned a language informally, Peace Corps may take the CLEP and ACTFL exams into consideration for placement.

Leadership and Community Service

Demonstrated leadership skills are essential qualifying factors, especially for the programs listed here. Leadership in your community, school, church, or service organization – particularly in planning activities, organizing and motivating groups of people, and project supervision – will strengthen your application. Qualifying volunteer experiences are supervised, structured assignments that meet specific community needs with expected outcomes. Check out www.SERVE.gov and www.nationalservice.gov for short and long-term volunteer opportunities.

Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk with a recruiter near you for more information on specific education and experience requirements and about ideas on how to be a more competitive candidate for Peace Corps service.

Peace Corps | Benefits of Service



Peace Corps is a life-defining leadership experience you will draw upon throughout your life.

The most significant accomplishment will be the contribution you make to improve the lives of others. There are also tangible benefits for you personally and professionally.

Dollars and Sense

- **Student Loans:** some are eligible for deferment and some for partial cancellation
- **Transition Funds:** receive \$7,425 (pre-tax after you complete your 27 months of service)
- **Free Travel:** expenses for travel to and from your country of service are paid for
- **Living Allowance:** a monthly stipend to cover living and housing expenses
- **Vacation:** earn two vacation days per month of service
- **Medical and Dental:** receive complete medical and dental care while serving
- **Health Insurance:** an affordable plan is available for up to 18 months following service
- **No Fee:** unlike other international volunteer programs, there is no fee to participate in the Peace Corps

Career Builder

Whether you are just out of college, mid-career, or retired, the skills you learn as a Volunteer can help you achieve your goals and enhance your marketability with prospective employers.

Peace Corps provides training in a foreign language, technical skills, and cross-cultural understanding. This, combined

with the experience of living, learning, and working with a community overseas for 27 months, augments any career path.

Services and Benefits for Returned Volunteers

- **Job Placement Support** – Peace Corps' Returned Volunteer Services provides assistance in finding a job following service. The office publishes an online newsletter with job announcements, graduate school information, and career-related articles; sponsors career events throughout the year; and helps returned Volunteers translate their field experience for prospective employers and other professional contacts.
- **Advantages in Federal Employment** – Volunteers who complete two years of service receive one year of noncompetitive eligibility for employment in the federal government. This means that at the hiring agency's discretion, if a Volunteer meets the minimum qualifications for a position, he or she can be hired without going through the standard competitive process. Federal employees can receive credit toward retirement for their years of Volunteer service.
- **Network with vibrant alumni** – Be part of the network of over 200,000 returned Volunteers worldwide, many of whom actively participate in local returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) groups.





Graduate School Advantages

Volunteers can earn academic credit for their Peace Corps service and are eligible for scholarships, reduced tuition, internships, and stipends through participating schools. The Peace Corps offers two unique programs through partnerships with over 130 colleges and universities across the United States.

Before and During Your Service

Master's International allows Volunteers to incorporate Peace Corps service as credit in a master's degree program in a variety of fields at more than 80 academic institutions nationwide.

Following Your Service

Fellows/USA offers returned Volunteers scholarships or reduced tuition, stipends, and internships at more than 50 participating campuses in a variety of subject areas, combining graduate study with substantive, degree-related internships that help meet the needs of underserved communities in the U.S.

A list of schools and fields of study can be found at peacecorps.gov/gradschool

“When I decided to serve with the Peace Corps, it was the biggest risk I’d ever taken in life. I was the first person to graduate from college in my family and their concern was that I take that tremendous achievement and settle down and have a normal career. My mother, however, thought Peace Corps was an excellent idea and she supported me. The Peace Corps is a marvelous way for a young person to develop leadership skills at a very early age that will hold you in good stead for the rest of your life.”

Aaron S. Williams
Director of the Peace Corps
Volunteer in Dominican Republic

Peace Corps Recruitment Offices

Atlanta Region

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Chicago Region

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*For more information, talk to a Peace Corps recruiter
at 800.424.8580, and visit peacecorps.gov.*



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Master's International

Office of Recruitment

1111 20th Street, NW Washington, DC 20526

202.692.1812 or 1.800.424.8580, option 2, x1812.

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