



Peace Corps asks a lot, but it also has a lot to give.

The Peace Corps takes a unique approach to making a difference by working for the world. If you are inspired by impact that is hands-on, grassroots-driven, and lasting, learn more about our mission of promoting peace and friendship through service.

Find your passion project

Peace Corps service can be the first step toward a career or the continuation of a life's work. Sharpen your skills in a field you've always loved, or challenge yourself with a new opportunity. The type of work a Volunteer does is determined by the needs and priorities of a host country; and the volunteer's potential to contribute to those priorities. You must meet the minimum education and experience qualifications of an available assignment to be considered for Peace Corps service. Choose from one of our six sectors: Agriculture, Environment, Community Economic Development, Health, Education, and Youth in Development.

What Peace Corps is Looking for in a Volunteer Applicant

Education

The majority of successful applicants have a bachelor's degree, though professional experience may be accepted in lieu of a degree for some positions. The most competitive applicants are those who can meet requirements for high demand positions and have a degree in agriculture, forestry, or environmental studies, and Spanish or French language skills. The Peace Corps actively seeks to attract a diverse population of American college graduates and, to that end, partners with historically black colleges and universities and Minority Serving Institutions.

Professional Skills and Experience

Prior professional experience can help demonstrate relevant technical and leadership skills and can highlight the ability to work effectively as part of a team. The Peace Corps also considers the applicant's work, hobbies, and volunteer experiences that align with sought-after skills.

Foreign Language Skills

The ability to speak a second language is not required to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. However, in some regions, including Latin America and parts of Africa, it is requested that Volunteers know Spanish or French. Competitive candidates have completed at least two semesters of Spanish or French at the university level or four years in high school (within the last eight years). French is preferred, but some francophone countries will also consider applicants with other Romance Languages. If you have learned a language informally, the Peace Corps may consider College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) exam results for placement. Applicants are encouraged to build upon their existing foreign language skills through coursework or self-study during the application process.

Leadership and Community Service

Demonstrating leadership in your community, school, faith-based group, or service organization—particularly in terms of planning activities, organizing, motivating groups, and project supervision—will strengthen your application. Qualifying volunteer experiences are supervised, structured assignments that meet specific community needs.

Interpersonal Attributes

Attributes that help drive Peace Corps' mission are highly valued. They include motivation and commitment; cultural sensitivity and curiosity; the ability to observe, adapt and take initiative; and resiliency. The attributes are gauged during the interview and through the applicant's references, motivation statement, and resume.

Specialized Skills in High Demand

There are several key positions with specialized requirements that make finding qualified candidates challenging. Many host countries request positions with specialized requirements that make candidates with these skill sets very competitive:

- Agriculture economics • Environment with Spanish • Agriculture or Forestry with Spanish or French
- TEFL/TESL with classroom teaching experience • Teaching credential (BA/BS)

Candidates without a specialized degree in any work sector can qualify by pairing a bachelor's degree in any discipline with the volunteer and work experience listed below:

Agriculture

Professional or volunteer work experience in agriculture; specifically, experience in a commercial or family-run business involving vegetable gardening, farming, nursery work, tree planting and care, urban forestry, livestock care or management, or fisheries work may qualify you for additional assignments.

English, Foreign Language, or Literacy Instruction

We recommend at least 30 hours of English or foreign language instruction or tutoring in a structured program with training. Many Volunteer opportunities in this sector do not require a foreign language.

Health Extension

Professional or volunteer work experience in health education; specifically, educating youth, high-risk groups, peers, or the general public in healthy lifestyle promotion and/or disease prevention. In highest demand is experience in HIV/AIDS, family planning, and/or nutrition education. Public health departments and local community health organizations are the best resources for finding volunteer opportunities.

The Best Way to Strengthen Your Application

Talk to a recruiter! The majority have served in the Peace Corps and have unique insight into what it takes to serve, the Volunteer experience, tips related to the application process, financial benefits, and the best type of volunteer work to complete according to your skills and interest. To learn more, connect with a recruiter in your area.

“ Given the challenges, the Peace Corps seeks candidates with a proven track record of excellence. If you really want to become a Volunteer, help your chances by gaining the desired skills, doing research before applying by connecting with a recruiter, submitting a quality application, and staying professional throughout the process. ”

- Ashley Butterfield,
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer,
Swaziland



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