

Peace Corps | Becoming a More Competitive Candidate



To be considered for Peace Corps service

You must meet the minimum education and experience qualifications for an assignment. Please keep in mind that the most competitive applicants continue to gain relevant experience as they move through the application process. This strengthens skills and demonstrates a continued commitment to Peace Corps. We recommend you submit your application as early possible so we can match your skills to openings as they become available. Plan ahead and apply one year in advance of your target departure date. To be eligible for Peace Corps service, you must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen.

If you do not have a specialized degree

You may qualify with a bachelor's degree in any discipline paired with the experience listed below:

Agriculture

3-6 months of full-time experience with a large-scale commercial or family-run business involving vegetable gardening, farming, nursery work, tree planting and care, urban forestry, or fisheries work.

English Teaching

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. All education positions require a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Health Extension

3-6 months of 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. The most in-demand experience is with HIV/AIDS, family planning, and nutrition. Public health departments and local community health organizations are the best resources for finding volunteer opportunities.

If you have these skills, you are very competitive for Peace Corps service

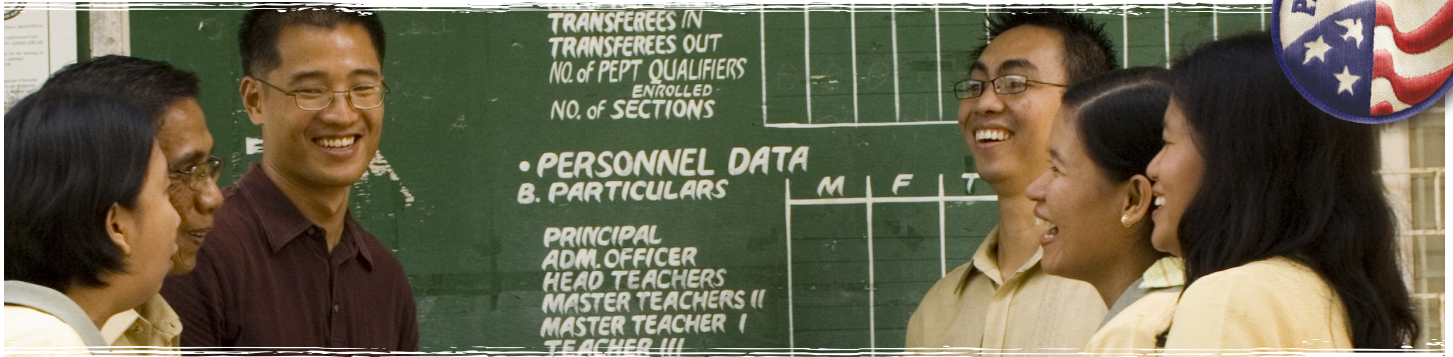
The following skill sets are highly sought by our host countries:

- Agriculture Economics with or without a foreign language
- Forestry with French
- Environment with Spanish
- Agriculture with Spanish or French
- TEFL/TESL with classroom teaching
- Teaching credential (BA/BS)

If you have one of the skill combinations above, or would like more information on requirements or ideas on how to be a more competitive candidate for Peace Corps service, call **800.424.8580, option 1** to talk with a recruiter.

See back for ways to become more competitive





Ways to Become More Competitive

Education

Highly competitive candidates have a college degree in agriculture, forestry, or environment, paired with Spanish or French language skills. Ninety percent of Volunteer positions require a bachelor's degree. Competitive non-degree candidates can qualify for agriculture and forestry extension with more than one year of full-time work experience in agriculture or environment. The Peace Corps also considers work, hobbies, and volunteer experiences that align with the skills it is seeking.

The Peace Corps is partnering with minority education institutions to increase access to higher education. Visit peacecorps.gov/higheredpartners for a list of higher education partners.

Language

There is no second language requirement to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer; however, some regions, including Central and South America and parts of Africa, require Volunteers to know Spanish or French prior to arrival. To minimally qualify, candidates should have at least two semesters of Spanish or French at the university level or have completed four years of a romance language in high school within the last eight years. If you have learned a language informally, the Peace Corps may consider the CLEP and ACTFL exam results for placement. Applicants are encouraged to build upon their existing foreign language skills through coursework or self-study.

Leadership and Community Service

The Peace Corps seeks applicants with leadership skills and community service. Leadership in your community, school, faith-based group, 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.

Your recruiter can advise you on the best type of volunteer work to complete according to your skills and interests. Visit peacecorps.gov/volunteerpartners for volunteering and service opportunities that can strengthen your Peace Corps application and prepare you to support community projects around the world.

Professional Skills and Experience

Demonstrating motivation and commitment, work skills and knowledge, social sensitivity, and emotional maturity will help any applicant. Establishing a good track record of employment and successfully achieving job competence may help demonstrate your productivity.

Flexibility

The more flexible you are in terms of your Peace Corps geographic location, your assignment area, 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.

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with a community overseas.
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