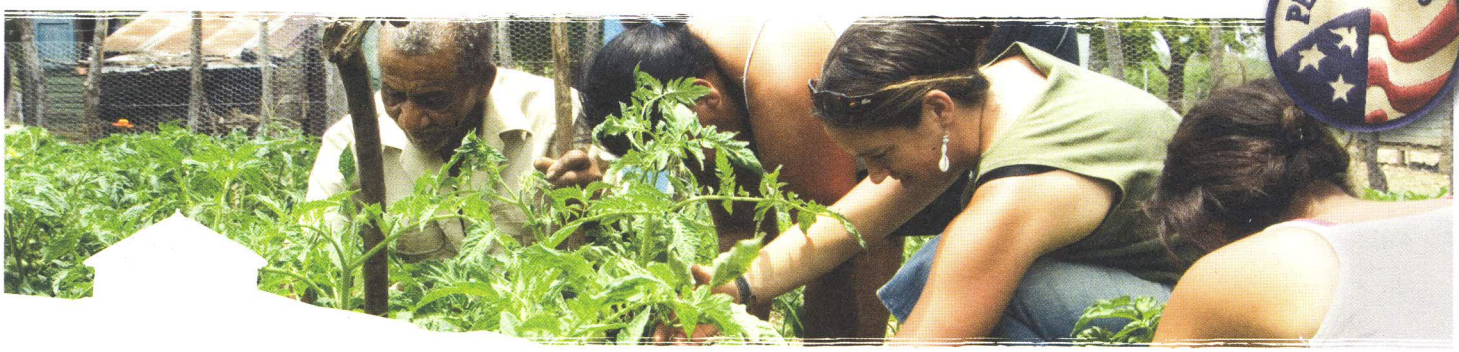
Peace Corps | Becoming a More Competitive Candidate



To be considered for Peace Corps service

You must meet the minimum education and experience qualifications for an assignment. To become a more competitive applicant, continue gaining relevant experience as you move through the application process. This strengthens skills and demonstrates a continued commitment to the Peace Corps. It is recommended you submit your application as early possible so your skills can be matched 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, livestock care or management, 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.

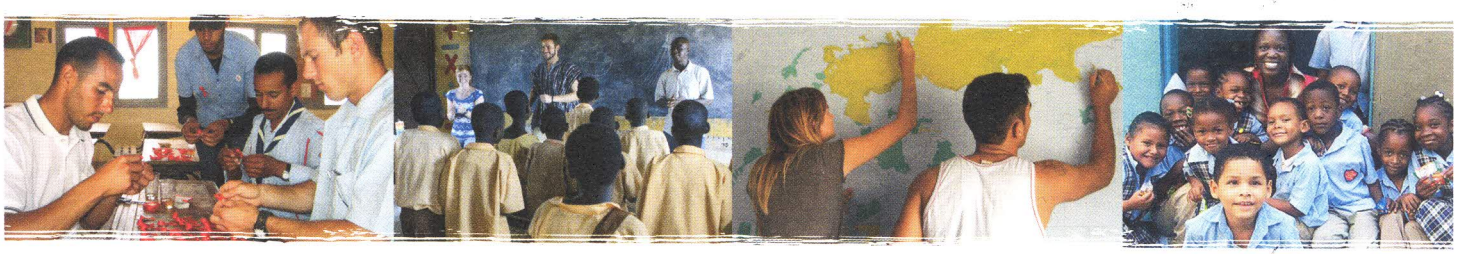
Health Extension

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.

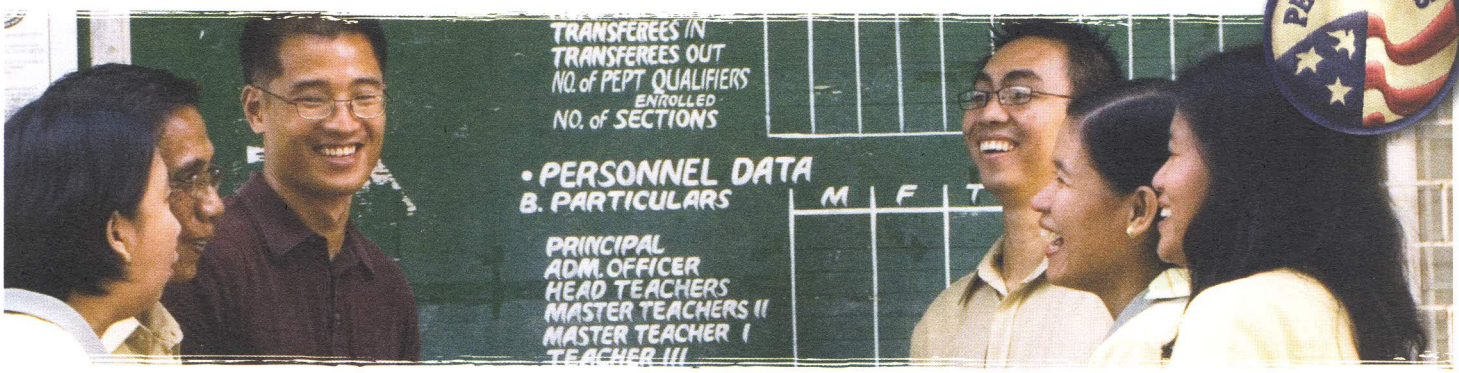
The following skill sets make you very competitive for Peace Corps service:

- 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)

For more information on requirements or ideas about how to be a more competitive candidate, call **800.424.8580, option 1** to talk with a recruiter.



www.peacecorps.gov/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 at least 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

The ability to speak a second language is not required to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. However, some regions, including Latin America and parts of Africa, prefer Volunteers to know Spanish or French prior to arrival. To minimally qualify for these placements, candidates should have completed 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 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, 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.

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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Live, learn, and work with a community overseas. Be a Volunteer.

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