The Peace Corps Master's International Program

For more than 15 years, the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) has partnered with the Peace Corps to offer the Peace Corps Master’s International (PCMI) program. The PCMI program combines a master’s degree with 27 months of hands-on Peace Corps service, offering students the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom to a real-life professional experience in developing and transitioning countries. PCMI students at MIIS can earn master’s degrees in four programs: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MATESOL), International Business (MBA), Public Administration (MPA), and International Environmental Policy (MAIEP).

Participants in a PCMI program typically finish one year of graduate study in the U.S. before beginning a 27-month Peace Corps assignment overseas, where they can earn additional academic credit for their service. They typically then return to complete any remaining academic degree requirements.

**MATESOL (Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)**
Since 1994, 46 graduates have completed the PCMI program in TESOL at MIIS, and 10 students are currently in the field.

**MBA (Master of Business Administration)**
PCMI students pursuing their MBA have business-related assignments in the field, including microfinance, small business development, NGO development, and eco-tourism and general economic development. Since 1995, 25 graduates have completed their MBAs through the PCMI program, with Peace Corps assignments in 17 different countries. Four MBA students are currently in the field on their Peace Corps assignments.

**MPA (Master of Public Administration)**
PCMI students pursuing their MPA have related field assignments, including poverty alleviation, human rights, human security, social development, and NGO capacity building. There are currently 11 MPA PCMI students at MIIS, and another 10 serving their Peace Corps terms.

**MAIEP (Master of Arts in International Environmental Policy)**
PCMI students pursuing their MAIEP have related field assignments, often focusing on alternative energy sources, environmental education, water supply, forest conservation, and wildlife protection and park management. There are currently five MAIEP PCMI students at MIIS, and five serving their Peace Corps assignments in the field.

The Monterey Institute is proud to offer preferential scholarship consideration for returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs). The Institute values RPCVs’ on-the-ground, hands-on development experience, their flexibility and adaptability, and the experiences and insights they are able to share with classmates at MIIS.

Recent Monterey Institute PCMI Placements

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belize
- Benin
- Bolivia
- Bulgaria
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- China
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Estonia
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Honduras
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Macedonia
- Malawi
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Peru
- Poland
- Russia
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- St. Vincent
- Togo
- Turkmenistan
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Vanuatu

Pamela Schrier (MBA-PCMI ’10) in the Dominican Republic
Peace Corps Named by Longtime MIIS Staff Member

Although the term “Peace Corps” first achieved widespread public recognition when President John F. Kennedy signed legislation authorizing the new program in 1961, the name of the now internationally renowned program was actually coined by a Stanford graduate student working for Senator Hubert Humphrey, sponsor of the legislation. That student, Peter Grothe, went on to earn a Ph. D. from George Washington University, and later served for more than 30 years at the Monterey Institute, both as director of international student programs and as an adjunct faculty member specializing in cross-cultural communication. In addition to naming the organization and working on the legislation that created it, Dr. Grothe also composed the initial draft of the first major speech delivered by President Kennedy on the Peace Corps. Dr. Grothe passed away in 2012, leaving a legacy that includes his work with the Peace Corps, the connections he forged with thousands of individual international students, and the Peter Grothe Scholarship Fund for Women in Developing Countries at MIIS.

Application Process and Benefits
Students apply to the Monterey Institute and the Peace Corps separately and simultaneously, and must be accepted by both institutions.

Peace Corps benefits include:
- Language, cross-cultural, and technical training
- Travel costs to and from the country of service
- Overseas living and housing expenses
- Medical and dental coverage
- Vacation time
- Transitional funds of $7,425 following service
- Career and transitional assistance

For more information, visit go.miis.edu/peacecorps.

MIIS Ranks Top 3 in PCMI Participation

With 26 participants in service in September 2011, the Monterey Institute of International Studies ranked in a tie for third for the number of students participating in a Peace Corps Master’s International Program. The top five schools for participation rates were:

1. Michigan Technological University (31)
2. Tulane University (27)
3. Monterey Institute of International Studies (26)
4. University of Washington (26)
5. University of South Florida (22)

In addition, 11 returned Peace Corps volunteers are currently members of the Monterey Institute’s faculty and staff. The Institute is regarded by the Peace Corps organization as a model PCMI program.

Peace Corps: Fast Facts

History
- Peace Corps officially established: March 1, 1961
- Total number of Volunteers and trainees to date: 200,000+
- Total number of countries served: 139

Volunteers
- Current number of Volunteers and Trainees: 9,095
- Gender: 61% female, 39% male
- Marital Status: 93% single, 7% married
- Minorities: 20% of Peace Corps Volunteers
- Average Age: 28
- Volunteers over age 50: 7%

Countries and Projects
- Current number of countries served: 75 countries

Volunteers by Work Area
- Education: 40%
- Health & HIV/AIDS: 23%
- Business Development: 12%
- Environment: 12%
- Youth Development: 5%
- Agriculture: 4%
- Other: 4%

Where Volunteers Serve
- Africa: 39%
- Latin America: 24%
- Eastern Europe/Central Asia: 18%
- Asia: 9%
- The Caribbean: 4%
- North Africa/Middle East: 3%
- Pacific Islands: 3%

Peace Corps Fellows Program

The Monterey Institute’s partnership with the Peace Corps includes the Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program, a graduate fellowship that offers financial assistance to returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs). Peace Corps Fellows work closely with their Career and Academic Advisor at the Monterey Institute to find a degree-related, professional internship in underserved American communities. Through the program, RPCVs also receive reduced tuition at participating graduate schools. Volunteers who have satisfactorily completed Peace Corps service have lifetime eligibility. For more information, visit www.peacecorps.gov/fellows, where you can also learn about the role that Professor Beryl Levinger of the Monterey Institute played in founding the Fellows program.

Scholarships Available

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