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 generally then return to complete any remaining academic degree requirements.

MATESOL (Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
Since 1994, 42 graduates have completed the PCMI program in TESOL at MIIS, and 10 students are currently in the field. They teach in a wide range of contexts, including universities, secondary schools, community centers, and vocational institutes.

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. Five MBA students are either currently serving or awaiting assignment to country of service.

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 five MPA PCMI students at MIIS, and another 12 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 seven MAIEP PCMI students at MIIS, and four 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
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Estonia
Ethiopia
Guatemala
Guinea
Honduras
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Macedonia
Malawi
Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
Namibia
Nepal
Nicaragua
Panama
Peru
Poland
Russia
Rwanda
Slovakia
South Africa
St. Vincent
Togo
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
Vanuatu

Pamela Schrier (MBA-PCMI ’10) in the Dominican Republic.
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 Third in Nation in PCMI Participation

With 26 participants in service in September 2012, the Monterey Institute of International Studies ranked third in the nation 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 (35)
2. Tulane University (29)
3. Monterey Institute of International Studies (26)
4. University of Denver (25)
5. University of South Florida (24)

In addition, 12 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: 210,000+
- Total number of countries served: 139

Volunteers
- Current number of Volunteers and trainees: 8,073
- Gender: 62% female, 38% male
- Marital Status: 93% single, 7% married
- Minorities: 22% of Volunteers
- Average Age: 28
- Volunteers over age 50: 7%

Countries and Projects
- Current number of countries served: 76 countries

Volunteers by Work Area
- Education: 43%
- Health & HIV/AIDS: 21%
- Community Economic Development: 12%
- Environment: 12%
- Youth in Development: 6%
- Agriculture: 4%
- Other: 2%

Where Volunteers Serve
- Africa: 43%
- Latin America: 21%
- Eastern Europe/Central Asia: 15%
- Asia: 10%
- The Caribbean: 4%
- North Africa/Middle East: 4%
- 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.

The Institute currently has eight Peace Corps Fellows enrolled, who previously served in Bulgaria, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Moldova, and Paraguay.

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 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.

Sky Lantz-Wagner (TESOL-PCMI ‘12) with students in China.

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