The Peace Corps Master's International Program

For nearly 20 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. Today, the Monterey Institute ranks second in the nation in PCMI participation.

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 Monterey to complete any remaining academic degree requirements.

MATESOL (Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
Students in the PCMI program in TESOL at MIIS have the opportunity to 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.

MPA (Master of Public Administration)
PCMI students pursuing their MPA have related field assignments working on projects including poverty alleviation, human rights, human security, social development, and NGO capacity building.

MAIEP (Master of Arts in International Environmental Policy)
PCMI students pursuing their MAIEP often have field assignments focusing on alternative energy sources, environmental education, water supply, forest conservation, and wildlife protection and park management.

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.

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

MIIS Ranks Second in Nation in PCMI Participation
With 25 participants in service in September 2013, the Monterey Institute of International Studies ranked second 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 (32)
2. Monterey Institute of International Studies (25)
3. Tulane University (24)
4. University of Denver (22)
5. University of South Florida (21)

In addition, the Monterey Institute’s faculty and staff typically includes around a dozen Returned Peace Corps Volunteers at any given time. The Institute is regarded by the Peace Corps organization as a model PCMI program.
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.

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
- A readjustment allowance of $7,425 following service
- Career and transitional assistance

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

Peace Corps: Fast Facts

History
- Peace Corps officially established: March 1, 1961
- Total number of Volunteers and trainees to date: 205,000+
- Total number of countries served: 139

Volunteers
- Current number of Volunteers and trainees: 7,209
- Gender: 63% female, 37% male
- Marital Status: 93% single, 7% married
- Minorities: 24% of Volunteers
- Average Age: 28
- Volunteers over age 50: 8%

Countries and Projects
- Current number of countries served: 65 countries

Volunteers by Work Area
- Education: 40%
- Health: 22%
- Community Economic Development: 22%
- Environment: 12%
- Youth in Development: 7%
- Agriculture: 5%
- Other: 3%

Where Volunteers Serve
- Africa: 46%
- Latin America: 20%
- 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 ranks 10th in the nation with 15 Peace Corps Fellows enrolled, who previously served in Bulgaria, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Moldova, Paraguay, and Ukraine.