

Master's International
Current Master's International Students

Welcome!

Congratulations on your admission to the Master's International program and welcome to the Peace Corps!

The most important component of Master's International (MI) and the Peace Corps is staying connected and that starts from the moment you arrive on campus. First, check in with your MI Campus Coordinator and provide her or him with your updated contact information. They will keep you informed about any upcoming MI events and help you get in touch with other MI students and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the area. You should remain in contact with your MI Campus Coordinator throughout the program and keep them updated on any changes or developments. A good way to do this, if possible, is by creating a personal Web Page that can be updated often. This is also a great way to stay connected to family and friends.

Next, contact your Peace Corps Recruiter. If your recruiter has already nominated you, then please be sure to respond as quickly as possible to any requests for medical, dental or legal reports. In some cases, you may also receive requests from the Placement Office for updated or more complete information. Responding to these requests quickly will help to facilitate receiving an invitation for a Peace Corps assignment. If you know you have yet to be nominated, be sure to send any outstanding materials that your recruiter has requested. If you are not sure whether or not you have been nominated, contact your recruiter immediately.

If for some reason you have not yet spoken to a Peace Corps recruiter at all, then you need to do so immediately by calling your regional office or headquarters at 1.800.424.8580. The nomination process includes submission of your Peace Corps application, an interview, and your official acceptance letter to an MI school and program. This is a lengthy process and should be started immediately. The entire application process that must be completed before receiving an invitation and can take from nine to twelve months.

As you proceed with your coursework, you should send in quarterly updates to be added to your Peace Corps file. For example, a copy of semester or quarter transcripts, information on any newly acquired skills or internship experiences, and other updates can be helpful. These will keep the Placement Office informed of the work you are doing during the on-campus portion of your MI Program. This information can be sent by fax to the attention of the Placement Office at 202.692.1897 or via mail to Peace Corps, Placement Office, 6th Floor, 1111 20th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20526.

Please be sure to keep the Placement Office and your MI Campus Coordinator informed of any changes in your contact information and expected availability date for Peace Corps service. Your fastidiousness is necessary for timely approval and placement. Good luck with your academics and remember to STAY IN TOUCH!

Going Overseas

Finally, you have received your invitation and are planning to go overseas. Begin discussing communication strategies with your MI Campus Coordinator and Faculty Advisor prior to leaving campus. Remember to keep in mind that communication systems are not always reliable nor accessible in many countries where Peace Corps Volunteers serve. The most difficult times to communicate will be when you first arrive in your host country and again, when you first arrive at your site. You will be acclimating yourself and making connections. It is important that you have established varying strategies before you leave your campus and remain determined and flexible while in country.

Overseas you will be a Peace Corps Volunteer first. You will not be able to predetermine your project prior to traveling overseas. Your Peace Corps assignment and the needs of your community will shape your MI project. Broad timeframes and guidelines can be revised based upon the resources available at your site, as well as alternative forms of communication, and should be discussed with your MI Campus Coordinator. Keep in mind that you are usually able to arrange secondary projects with the approval of your community and the Peace Corps.

If you have any questions about the country you are going to, your assignment, the communication systems and resources available in-country, or other country specific questions, please contact the Country Desk Unit (CDU). Contact information for your CDU should be listed at the end of your Volunteer Assignment Description (VAD), which came with your letter of invitation.

You will begin the overseas part of your Peace Corps experience with a pre-departure orientation, or staging. If you have received your staging materials and still have questions, please contact the Staging Office at 1.800.424.8580, option #2, extension 1865. If you have reviewed the staging materials and have questions about your visa, passport, or travel arrangements, please contact Sato Travel at 1.800.424.8580, option #2, extension 1170.

Returning from Overseas

Welcome back from your Peace Corps service! Amid the chaos of your readjustment, be sure to contact your MI Campus Coordinator and your Peace Corps Regional Recruiting Office to let them know that you have returned and to update your contact information. Most importantly, share your experiences, stories, pictures, and accomplishments with them! Once you have finished your academic project, forward a copy to the MI office at Peace Corps headquarters so it can become part of the MI Knowledge Management Initiative.

Finally, congratulations on persevering. You've accomplished a great deal and your efforts will be remembered and cherished by many. May the skills, experiences, and networks you have gained through the Peace Corps Master's International program serve you – and the communities in which you choose to live – well throughout your life.