



peacecorpsprep@neiu.edu

PEACE CORPS PREP STUDENT GUIDE

The Peace Corps Prep program will prepare you for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. To accomplish this, you'll build four core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support. These four competencies are the following:

- 1. Training and experience in a work sector
- 2. Foreign language skills

- 3. Intercultural competence
- 4. Professional and leadership development

This document explains each of these requirements in detail. *Use this guide to map out your Peace Corps Prep course of study.* In particular, refer to this when completing your PC Prep application, where you'll need to document how you plan to fulfill each requirement. **This guide aligns point-by-point with each section of the application!**

1. Training and experience in a specific work sector

3 courses + 50 hours related experience

Leveraging concrete knowledge and skills is central to on-the-ground international development work. Through this PC Prep program, you will begin to build a professional specialty, which should serve you well in your career well whether or not you become a Peace Corps Volunteer.

For PC Prep, you need to complete at least **3 courses** that align with a specific work sector. These courses can, but do not need to be, in your academic major or minor.

You also must accumulate a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in that *same* sector, preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity.

If you intend to apply to the Peace Corps, the best way to assure that you will be a strong candidate is to explore Peace Corps' openings and identify the type-of-assignments in which you'd like to serve (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer-volunteer-



<u>openings</u>). Review the positions' required and desired qualifications and build then take steps to build your abilities accordingly. in the process, you should fulfill the PC Prep experiential requirements.

There are <u>six sectors</u> (<u>www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/</u>) in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve. These are

noted in detail below.

<u>Choose one sector to focus on.</u> In that sector, complete at least 3 courses + 50 hours of related experience.

Note: Actual Peace Corps assignments are based on local needs, and thus may or may not align seamlessly with your qualifications. Flexibility is central to the Peace Corps experience!

1. EDUCATION



Teach lessons that last a lifetime. Education is the Peace Corp's largest program area. Volunteers play an important role in creating links among schools, parents, and communities by working in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools as math, science, conversational English, and resource teachers or as early grade reading and literacy teacher trainers. Volunteers also develop libraries and technology resource centers.

If you choose Education, take 3 courses from one of the following areas

- General Prep
- Elementary, Secondary Education
- English / Linguistics
- Math / Computer Science
- Physical or Biological Science
- Special Education
- o TEFT/TESL

General Prep Courses (each student should take at least one of the following. The other 2 courses can be selected from subsequent categories under this section. Students should not only take General Prep courses.

BLBC-339. Culturally Responsive Teaching in Diverse Classrooms.

EDFN-305. Philosophical and Historical Foundations of Public Education.

EDFN-306. Education and Individual Differences.

PSYC-370. Theories of Learning.

TESL-330. Language, Society, and Education.

Recommended courses for Elementary Education:

ELED-304. Inquiry-Based Social Studies in The Elementary Grades.

ELED-305. Teaching Science in The Elementary School.

ELED-306. Methods of Literacy Instruction.

- ELED-310. Methods of Teaching Mathematics in The Elementary Grades.
- ELED-320. Classroom Management. 1.5 Hour
- ENGL-291. Children's Literature.
- MATH 148A Stretch I: Math for Elementary Teachers I. 2 Hours.
- MATH 148B Stretch II: Math for Elementary Teachers I. 2 Hours.
- MATH 149 Math for Elementary Teachers I. 4 Hours.
- MATH 150 Math for Elementary Teachers II with Problem Solving. 5 Hours.
- MATH 151 Bridge Course in Mathematics for Elementary Teachers.
- SWK-321 Social Work Practice in Schools.

Recommended courses for teaching English or Linguistics:

- BLBC-340. Teaching English Learners in Diverse Classrooms.
- ENGL-375. Becoming a Writing Tutor.
- LING-300. English Grammar in the Classroom.
- LTCY-301. Teaching Literacy in Junior & Senior High Schools.
- LTCY-311. Fundamentals of Literacy Instruction.
- TESL-301. The English Language for Teachers.
- TESL-310. English Grammar: Description & Instruction.
- WLC-302. Introduction to Teaching World Languages.

Recommended courses for students selecting Physical / Biological Education:

- BIOS-110. Introduction to Biology for Educators. 4 Hours.
- BIO-301. Communicating Biology.
- BIOS-310. Ecology Concepts for Educators.
- PEMT-201. Introduction to Principles and Methods in Physical Education.

Recommended courses Special Education:

- SPED-272. The Development & Characteristics of Children and Youth with Exceptional Learning.
- SPED-316. Professional Development of the Special Educator. 1 Hour
- SPED-317. Inclusive Teaching Strategies. 1.5 Hour.
- SPED-376. Teaching Learners with Moderate to Severe Disabilities.

Recommended courses for TESL Education:

- TESL-301. The English Language for Teachers.
- TESL-310. English Grammar: Description & Instruction.
- TESL-321. 1st & 2nd Language Acquisition.
- TESL-330. Language, Society, and Education.
- TESL-340. Practices & Procedures.
- TESL-341. Principles of Language Teaching.

TESL-343. Introduction to Language Assessment.

Recommended courses for Math/Computer Science Education:

CS-108. Computer Science for All.

CS-421. Applied Programming Fundamentals I.

CS-300. Client Side Web Development.

CS-315. Modern Database Management.

CS-347. Mobile Application Development.

MATH 145 - Algebra Concepts for Educators. 4 Hours

MATH 147 - Statistical Concepts for Educators. 4 Hours

MATH 148A - Stretch I: Math for Elementary Teachers I. 2 Hours

MATH 148B - Stretch II: Math for Elementary Teachers I. 2 Hours

MATH 149 - Math for Elementary Teachers I. 4 Hours.

MATH 150 - Math for Elementary Teachers II with Problem Solving. 5 Hours

MATH 151 - Bridge Course in Mathematics for Elementary Teachers.

MATH 163 - Mathematical Modeling with Elementary Functions for Business.

MATH 165 - Finite Mathematics for Business and the Social Sciences.

and do 50 hours of related field experience through activities such as:

- Teaching in one of these or a similar fora: a classroom, a community outreach organization, or in a formal tutoring capacity, etc.
- The subject of the teaching may be in any of the subject areas noted above.
- Student teaching (SCED) courses can count toward the 50 hour requirement

2. HEALTH



Serve on the front lines of global health. Health Volunteers work within their communities to promote important topics such as nutrition, maternal and child health, basic hygiene, and water sanitation. Volunteers also work in HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs to train youth as peer educators, develop appropriate education strategies, provide support to children orphaned by the pandemic, and create programs that provide emotional and financial support to families and communities affected by the disease.

If you choose Health, take three (3) courses in one of the following areas:

- Biology
- o Health / Pre-med

Recommended courses in the area of Biology:

BIO-300A. Foods and Drugs: Biology and Society.

BIO-326. Animal Parasitology. 4 Hours.

BIO-342. Pathogenic Microbiology.

BIO-343. Virology.

BIO-345. Emerging Infectious Diseases.

BIO-346. Parasites and Human Health.

BIO-363. Immunology. 4 Hours.

Recommended courses in the area of Health / Pre-Med:

ANTH-317. Medical Anthropology.

CHEM-350. Principles of Toxicology.

CHEM-353. Principles of Pharmacology.

CHEM-355. Principles of Medicinal Chemistry.

CMTC-329. Health Communication.

HSCI-200. Community Health.

HSCI-303. Human Sexuality and Sex Education.

HSCI-309. Nutrition and Health.

HSCI-314. Epidemiology and Human Diseases.

HSCI-323. Mental and Emotional Health.

HSCI-364. Theories and Concepts of School Health Education.

HSCI-107. Health for Effective Living.

HSCI 370 or 375: Health Promotion Field Experience.

SOC-312. Sociology of Health and Illness.

SOC-352. Sociology of HIV/AIDS.

and engage in 50 hours of related field experience through an activity such as:

- Volunteer or work experience in HIV/AIDS outreach, hospice, family planning counseling, emergency medical technician (EMT) or CPR teaching/certification, maternal health, and hands-on caregiving in a hospital, clinic, or lab technician setting.
- Counseling or teaching in health subjects
- Working as a resident advisor in a dormitory, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor

3. Environment



Help forge a global movement to protect our planet. Volunteers lead grassroots efforts in their communities to protect the environment and strengthen understanding of environmental issues. They teach environmental awareness in elementary and secondary schools and to youth groups and community organizations, empowering communities to make their own decisions about how to protect and conserve the local environment. Volunteers also address environmental degradation by promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

If you choose Environment, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Biology / Ecology
- Botany
- o Environmental Science
- Natural Resources

Recommended courses for the Biology / Ecology Area:

- BIO-104. The Changing Natural Environment.
- BIO-357. Community Ecology.
- BIO-359. Ecological Methods. 4 Hours.
- PSYC-369. Conservation Psychology.

Recommended courses for the Botany Area:

- BIO-330. Plant Anatomy and Morphology. 4 Hours.
- BIO-331. Plant Physiology. 4 Hours.
- BIO-333. Economic Botany.
- BIO-334. General Mycology. 4 Hours.

Recommended courses for the Environmental Science Area:

- CHEM-321. Environmental Chemistry in The City. 2 Hours.
- ENVI-101. Introduction to Environmental Science.
- GES-150. Introduction to Environmental Studies.
- GES-307. Environmental Education.
- GES-311. Social Dimensions of Water Resources Management.
- GES-360. Environmental Justice and Activism.
- HIST-346 Environmental History
- HSCI-312. Global and Environmental Health.
- JUST-390. Social Justice and The Environment.

Recommended courses for the Natural Resources Area:

- GES-218. Conservation of Natural Resources.
- GES-327. Forest Resource Management.
- GES-328. Wildlife Resource Management.
- ECON-337. Environmental Economics.

and build 50 hours of related field experience through an activity such as:

- Educating the public on environmental or conservation issues, or working on environmental campaigns
- Conducting biological surveys of plants or animals
- Gardening, farming, nursery management, organic or low-input vegetable production, or landscaping
- Providing technical assistance and training in natural resource management
- Participating in on-campus prairie burn
- Participate in on-campus tree cataloging

4. AGRICULTURE



Lead grassroots efforts to fight hunger in a changing world. Agricultural Volunteers work with small-scale farmers and families to increase food security and production and adapt to climate change while promoting environmental conservation practices. They introduce farmers to techniques that prevent soil erosion, reduce the use of harmful pesticides, and replenish the soil. They work alongside farmers on integrated projects that often combine vegetable gardening, livestock management, agroforestry, and nutrition education

If you choose Agriculture, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- o Food
- Sustaining Agricultural

Recommended courses for Food:

GES-396. Food and The City.

HIST-355. History of Food and Drink.

JUST-395. Hunger & Homelessness.

PSYC-367. Psychology of Food.

Recommended courses for Sustainable Agriculture:

ESCI-211. Physical Geology. 4 Hours.

ESCI-307. Climate Change: Evidence/Causes/Effects. 4 Hours

GES-205. Physical Geography.

GES-218. Conservation of Natural Resources.

GES-308. Conservation Psychology.

GES-319. Environmental and Natural Resources Policy.

GES-350. Climate Change: International Policy and Politics.

And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:

- Working with a large-scale or family-run business involving vegetable gardening, farming, nursery work, tree planting or care, urban forestry, landscaping, livestock care and management, or fish cultivation and production
- Teaching or tutoring the public in environmental or agricultural issues/activities
- Working on the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm
- Working in a local community gardening project
- Working in the on-campus or another food pantry

5. YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT



Empower the next generation of change makers. Volunteers work with youth in communities on projects that promote engagement and active citizenship, including gender awareness, employability, health and HIV/AIDS education, environmental awareness, sporting programs, and info technology.

If you choose Youth in Development, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Community Development
- Developmental Psychology & Human Development
- o Family Studies
- Social Work

Recommended courses in Community Development:

- HIST-308. Human Rights in History, Literature and Law.
- SOC-311. Sociology of Sports.
- SOC-358. Sociology of Youth and Youth Culture.
- PSYC-348. Community Psychology.
- PSYC-360. Social Psychology.

Recommended courses in Developmental Psychology & Human Development:

- PSYC-110. Life Span Development.
- PSYC-215. Child Psychology.
- PSYC-311. Psychosexual Development.
- PSYC-320. Adolescent Psychology.
- PSYC-322. Emotional Disturbances of Adolescence.

Recommended courses in Family Studies:

- CAST-301. Introduction to Child Advocacy Studies.
- CMTC-316. Family Communication.
- JUST-321. Violence Against Women.
- SWK-313. Child Advocacy Studies: Assessment and Evaluation.
- SWK-320. Domestic Violence Social Work: Theory and Practice.
- SWK-327. Social Work Practice with Families.
- PSC-210. Parenting.
- PSYC-364. Theories of Intimate Relationships.

Recommended courses in Social Work:

- SWK-202. Community Analysis.
- SWK-203. Analysis of Cross Culture Interaction.

SWK-207. Social Welfare Policy I.

SWK-250. Issues in Social Service Delivery.

SWK-300. Human Sexuality and Social Work.

SWK-306. Human Behavior in The Social Environment II.

SWK-307. Services to Children & Adolescents.

SWK-313. Child Advocacy Studies: Assessment and Evaluation.

SWK-314. Social Work Advocacy.

SWK-321. Social Work Practice in Schools.

SWK-330. Social Work Practice in Community Settings.

SWK-337. Child Welfare II.

And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:

- Teaching or counseling in at-risk youth programs
- Activities that involve planning, organizing, assessing community needs, counseling, and leadership, in areas such as education, youth development, health and HIV/AIDS, the environment, and/or business
- Peer counseling on-campus
- Serving as an RA in the campus residence hall.

6. COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Harness 21st-century tools to help communities lift themselves. Volunteers work with development banks, nongovernmental organizations, and municipalities to strengthen infrastructure and encourage economic opportunities in communities. They frequently teach in classroom settings and work with entrepreneurs and business owners to develop and market their products. Some Volunteers also teach basic computer skills and help communities take advantage of technologies such as e-commerce, distance learning, and more.

If you choose Community Economic Dev., take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Accounting, Banking, Finance
- Business or Public Administration
- International Business
- Nonprofit Management
- Computer Science
- o Graphic Design
- Mass Communications

Recommended courses in Accounting, Banking, Finance

- ACTG-201. Introduction to Financial Accounting.
- ACTG-300. Principles of Accounting.
- BLAW-285. Legal Environment of Business.
- BLAW-310. Legal Issues in International Business Transactions.
- BLAW-380. Business Law I.
- FINA-360. Principles of Financial Management.
- FINA-364. Problems in Business Finance.
- FINA-366. Financial Institutions and Markets.
- FINA-368. Financial Management of Financial Institutions.
- FINA-372. Portfolio Management.
- FINA-373. Intermediate Financial Management.
- FINA-378. Introduction to Risk Management and Insurance.
- FINA-380. Entrepreneurial Finance.

Recommended courses in Business or Public Administration

- ABF-350. Management Information Systems.
- ACTG-201. Introduction to Financial Accounting.
- MNGT-201. Introduction to Business.
- PSCI-346. Public Personnel Administration.

<u>Recommended courses in International Business:</u>

- BLAW-310. Legal Issues in International Business Transactions.
- BLAW-380. Business Law I.
- ECON-322. International Economics.
- FINA-371. International Financial Management.
- MNGT-370. Writing Intensive Program: Managing Global Business Organization.
- MNGT-381. Managing International Business.
- MKTG-358. International Marketing.

Recommended courses in Nonprofit Management:

- ABF-350. Management Information Systems.
- ACTG-201. Introduction to Financial Accounting.
- CMTC-214. Business and Professional Communication.
- CMTC-215. Small Group Communication.
- CS-300. Client Side Web Development.

Recommended courses in Computer Science:

CS-108. Computer Science for All.

CS-200. Programming Fundamentals. 4 Hours.

CS-260. Computer Security.

CS-300. Client Side Web Development.

CS-315. Modern Database Management.

CS-347. Mobile Application Development.

Recommended courses in Graphic Design

ART-280. Art + Tech I.

ART-281. Graphic Design I.

ART-285. Image.

ART-289. Graphic Design (Survey).

ART-301. Contemporary Design.

ART-314. Typography.

Recommended courses in Mass Communication

CMTC-213. Interpersonal Communication.

CMTC-314. Organizational Communication.

CMTC-315. Leadership Communication.

CMTC-317. Intercultural Communication.

CMTC-319. Conflict Communication.

CMTC-329. Health Communication.

And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:

- Working with businesses, organizations, or cooperatives in accounting, finance, microfinance, management, project management, budgeting, or marketing
- Starting and running your own business or other entrepreneurial activity
- Training others in computer literacy, maintenance, and repair
- Website design or online marketing
- Founding or leading a community- or school-based organization

Peace Corps Tip!

Nearly two-thirds of Peace Corps Volunteers serve in Education or Health. Coursework and meaningful experience in one of these areas—especially teaching English as a second/foreign language—produce some of the strongest candidates.

2. Foreign language skills

Requirements vary by region of interest

Most students must hone their capacity to interact professionally using a non-English language. Minimum course requirements vary by desired placement region.

The World Languages and Cultures Department offers courses in 15 languages: Aramaic, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Kurdish, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Swahili. Each of these languages has course offerings at least through the intermediate level (i.e., three consecutive semesters), with the exception of Hebrew and Persian which are offered for only two semesters. One can earn a minor in either French or Korean. Spanish is offered as a minor, a major, and as a major for a K-12 teaching certification. Each language is complemented by a corresponding culture class that is taught in English and introduces students to the wealth of literary, artistic, and musical cultures of the region specified.

In addition, the department provides a free language assessment test (Emmersion Language) which assesses the ability of students who may have studied in high school or have skills as heritage language learners. If students are able to demonstrate prior knowledge, the department can award up to 9 credits of the language coursework (101, 102, 201) upon successful completion of the courses indicated by the placement test.

Students who do not opt to go into teaching may participate in other internship opportunities currently being developed. WLC offers internships in partnership with <u>El Consulado General de México</u>, <u>Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center</u> and with <u>Association House High School</u>.

<i>Latin America</i> : Students indicating an intention to serve in Spanish-speaking countries
must build strong intermediate proficiency, having completed two 200-level courses or
learned Spanish through another medium.

SPAN 201-Intermediate Spanish I

SPAN 202-Intermediate Spanish II

SPAN 206-Spanish for First Responders

SPAN 209-Spanish for Spanish Speakers I

SPAN 211-Spanish for Spanish Speakers II

SPAN 220-Conversation Skills for Community Action

SPAN 224-The World of Texts: Developing Essential Reading Skills in Spanish

SPAN225-Practical Writing: An Introduction to Personal Expression in Spanish

SPAN 251-Oral Skills for Public Speaking and Podcasting

SPAN 252-Introduction to Literary & Cultural Analysis

SPAN 253-Academic Research & Writing in Spanish

West Africa: Students indicating an intention to serve in French-speaking African
countries must build proficiency in French or another Romance language, having

completed one 200-level course or learned the language through another medium.

FREN 201-Intermediate French I

FREN 202-Intermediate French II

FREN 210-Reading Modern French

FREN 220-French Conversation I

FREN 221-French Grammar and Composition I

FREN 230-French Phonetics

FREN 251-French Conversation II

FREN 252-Grammar & Composition II

☐ <u>Everywhere else</u>: Students indicating an intention to serve anywhere else do not have explicit language requirements to complete the Program, but they should still be encouraged to study a foreign language.

In addition to Spanish and French, the program participants can select among other world languages, including: Arabic, Aramaic, Chinese, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Kurdish, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, and Swahili

Arabic: ARAB 101, 102, 203 (Beginning and Intermediate) Aramaic: ARAM 101, 102, 201 (Beginning and Intermediate)

Chinese (Mandarin) CHIN 101, 102, 201, 202 (Beginning and Intermediate)

Korean: KOR 101, 102, 103 (Beginning and Intermediate)

KOR 205 Business Korean

KOR 220 Korean Conversation I

KOR 221 Korean Grammar and Composition I

KOR 222 Korean Conversation II

KOR 223 Korean Grammar and Composition I

KOR 313 Introduction to Korean Literature

KOR 360 The Confucian Tradition in Korea

Kurdish: (Kurmanji) KURD 101, 102, 201 (Beginning and Intermediate)

Japanese: JPN 101, 102, 103, 104 Persian: PERS 101, 102 (Beginning)

Portuguese: PORT 101, 102, 201 (Beginning and Intermediate)

Swahili: SWAH 101, 102 (Beginning and Intermediate)

<u>Note</u>: If you are a strong native speaker and hope to serve in a country that speaks your same language, you can skip this requirement! Consult with the World Language Department and your PC Prep advisor to learn more.

3. Intercultural competence

3 approved courses or 1-2 courses + substantive intercultural experience

Engaging thoughtfully and fluidly across cultures begins with one's own self-awareness. With this learning objective, you will deepen your cultural agility through **a mix of either three introspective courses or two such courses plus an emersion experience** in which you learn about others while reflecting upon your own self in relation to others. The goal is for you to build your capacity to shift perspective and behavior around relevant cultural differences.

Take at least one of the following core introspective diversity and inclusion courses:

- ANTH-321. Race and Language.
- BLBC-339. Culturally Responsive Teaching in Diverse Classrooms.
- CMTC-317. Intercultural Communication.
- JUST-332. Race & Ethnic Relations.
- LING-335. Language and Discrimination.
- WLC 320- Feminisms in Islam
- WLC 340-Latina/x Feminisms and Social Media

<u>Plus choose either 2 additional courses from the above list or the elective list below. Or choose 1 additional elective & an immersion experience (see the next section):</u>

- ANTH-212 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.
- BLBC-338. Bilingualism and Education.
- BLBC-340. Teaching English Learners in Diverse Classrooms.
- GS-201. Introduction to Global Studies I.
- HIST-111D. World History: Latin America
- HIST-111E. World History: Africa
- HIST-111F. World History: Islam
- HIST 345. Mexican American History
- HIST 351. Central America and the Caribbean
- HIST-354. Contemporary Latin America
- HSCI-316. Health Disparities: Individual, Communities, and Systems.
- LING-316. Languages and Cultures: Middle East and North Africa.
- LING-320G. Language and Culture: Aboriginal Australia.
- LING-320N. Language and Culture: Native American.
- LING-337. Ethnography of Communication.
- LING-361. Introduction to World Englishes.
- JUST-370. Immigration in Global Perspective.
- JUST-371. U.S. Immigration Policy & Human Rights in The Americas.
- LING-316. Languages and Cultures: Middle East and North Africa.
- LING-320G. Language and Culture: Aboriginal Australia.
- LING-320N. Language and Culture: Native American.
- PEMT-310. Socio-Cultural Influences on Physical Activity.

WLC 200A Introduction to Arab Cultures

WLC 200B Introduction to Brazilian Culture

WLC 200C Introduction to Chinese Culture

WLC 200E Introduction to Korean Culture

WLC 200F Introduction to French and Francophone Cultures

WLC 200K Kurdish Culture

WLC 200L Introduction to Latin American Cultures

WLC 200S Introduction to Assyrian Culture

WLC 220 French Culture through Film

WLC 220A Arab Culture through Film

Is there another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement? Please discuss it with your PC Prep Coordinator.



Prolonged intercultural experiences completed concurrently with your undergraduate studies—such as studying or volunteering abroad, supporting new immigrants or refugees acculturate to the United States, or volunteering in diverse schools—would also strengthen your Peace Corps candidacy significantly.

Contact the **Office of International Programs (OIP), LWH 0008B**, to learn more about the following ways you can study abroad:

- Short term, NEIU Faculty-led study tours: Sign up for a course that includes an international exposure segment (typically 1-4 weeks abroad in a context related to the topic of the course). NEIU offers 5-8 such study tours annually.
- Summer session abroad: Some of NEIU's 40+ partner universities offer intensive summer session courses. Some are intensive-language learning opportunities, others are cultural immersion, with or without a discipline specific focus.
- Semester abroad: NEIU's 40+ partner universities are located in all parts of the world, including several of the countries in which Peace Corp operates. Study for one or two semesters at another school to either advance your language studies or take classes in your major.
- OIP also runs a "buddy program." Sign up to serve as a buddy to a newly arrived international student.

4. Professional and leadership development

Resume and interview support + leadership experience

Peace Corps service and similar international development work opportunities are highly professional and selective. PC Prep requires **three specific activities** that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps (or any other professional endeavor):

- 1. Have your **resume** critiqued by someone in NEIU's Career Services Office.
- 2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** offered by NEIU's Career Services office/center].
- 3. Develop at least one significant **leadership experience** and be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully, for example, organizing a campus event, leading a work or volunteer project, or serving on the executive board of a student organization.

For more information contact:

Coordinator: Denise Cloonan Cortez, Ph.D.

peacecorpsprep@neiu.edu

Recruiter: Trina Van Schyndel, M.S, Ph.D.

(she, her, hers)

Recruiter, Greater Chicago +

Western Indiana Peace Corps Office of Recruitment and Diversity PCV Ukraine 2006-2008

+1 202.985.7637

tvanschyndel@peacecorps.gov

