

## How to be a more competitive applicant

“How hard is it to get in?” is one of the most common questions Peace Corps recruiters hear. The Peace Corps application process is very competitive, just like it would be for any employer. Each year over 12,000 applications are received for approximately 4,000 Volunteer positions.

### Minimum requirements for non-specialist programs:

The information below is intended to give you an idea of the minimum requirements that you need in order to qualify for consideration. Remember, applicants with more skills, education and experience have a greater chance of receiving an invitation.

#### **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN:**

#### **YOU WILL NEED:**

##### **English Teaching**

3-6 months of English or foreign language tutoring in a structured program that provides training. Your student(s) must be at least 12 years old, and you must complete at least 10 hours of tutoring each month.

##### **Health Extension**

3-6 months volunteer or work experience in health care, such as EMT, CPR, or First Aid certification; hospital or clinic work; HIV/AIDS or family planning education or counseling; or lab tech experience.

##### **Hygiene Education/ Sanitation**

At least three months (i.e. one summer) of experience in hands-on skilled work, such as mechanical repair, construction, carpentry, or set design.

##### **Agriculture & Forestry Extension**

At least 3-6 months of experience in large-scale vegetable gardening, farming, nursery work, tree planting, tree care, or urban forestry.

##### **Youth Development**

Six months of full-time work experience with at risk youth 10-25 in a youth-oriented organization.

#### **SOME THINGS TO BECOME EVEN MORE COMPETITIVE:**

##### **Professional Skills and Experience**

The more skills and experience you can gain before you depart in the above areas, the more competitive you will be. Ask your recruiter for some ideas on how to be more competitive.

##### **Flexibility**

The more flexible you are in terms of geographic location and your desired departure date will allow your recruiter and placement officer to find appropriate matches for your skills and education.

##### **Language**

Take at least a year of college level French or two years of college level Spanish. The ability to learn a new language is an important ingredient in a successful Peace Corps experience. Currently, there is a much greater need for French speakers than for Spanish speakers.

##### **Leadership and Community Service**

Get involved! Peace Corps service requires commitment and the ability to work well with people. Demonstrated leadership skills are essential qualifying factors in your Peace Corps application, especially for the programs listed here. Taking a leadership role in your community, school, church, or service organization – particularly in planning activities, organizing and motivating groups of people, and project supervision – will strengthen your application.