



UA Returned Peace Corps Fellows Program

The University of Arizona Graduate College maintains a program for returned Peace Corps volunteers to continue their academic goals. The program is the 3rd largest in the country, with 15 departments participating including the School of Natural Resources (SNR).

Partnership with Community Agencies

Returned Peace Corps volunteers play critical roles in addressing the needs of rural Southern Arizona plus several communities and Colonias in the greater Tucson area. Peace Corps fellows are required to participate in an internship throughout the fellowship that benefits an underserved community. Matches between student and agency commonly occur through an orientation session held at the beginning of the Fall semester. Examples of current and prior internships include the UA Cooperative Extension's Master Watershed Steward and 4-H Programs, the National Park Service, USGS Fire Management & Planning Division, The Sonoran Institute, Water Casa, Sif Oidik District of the Tohono O'odhom Nation and Pima County Environmental Services. For Fall 2006, the program expects to have opportunities available with the Bureau of Land Management, UA Cooperative Extension, San Pedro Natural Resources Conservation District, and the Water Resources Research Center.

Mentoring

Monthly gatherings

Monthly meetings are held for Fellows, alternating a professional development event with a social event. Students get together across departments through the meetings and have partnered on projects such as Engineers Without Borders which combined Fellows from Civil Engineering, Hydrology, and Public Health for a water project in Ghana, West Africa.

Teams

Fellows serve on a "team" – 3rd goal, community partnerships, sustainability, or organizational planning and development. These teams add strength, continue growth and development, and evaluate progress of the UA Fellows program. Recently, several Fellows spoke during International Education Week to 40 students regarding ways they have found funding to carry out international research and internships as well as to discuss their Peace Corps experiences. Others have worked at the Fourth Avenue Street Fair to sell Peace Corps calendars and talk to people interested in the program.

Support

Graduate students support is determined by the admitting program. The Graduate College provides a tuition waiver for each Fellow. Additional support may be provided at the discretion of each admitting program. Additional support is provided through the internship agency. Assistance is available for students seeking extramural funding.

Application

Applications for the Peace Corps Fellowship program are required by January 15th for the following Fall semester. A full description of the program, eligibility requirements, support received, and application materials can be found on the University Arizona Website at:

<http://grad.arizona.edu/peacecorp/>

For additional information, please email or call Georgia Ehlers, Program Director, at rpcf@grad.arizona.edu or (520) 621-9103