

Peace Corps Macedonia



Application guidelines for English Education Program

I. BACKGROUND

Peace Corps is an independent US government agency that provides Volunteers to countries that have requested support. Its establishment was initiated in 1960 when US senator (and later president) John F. Kennedy called United States citizens to serve their country by living and working in developing countries and to promote world peace and friendship. To this day, the three original goals of Peace Corps remain the same:

1. Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their needs for trained men and women.
2. Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
3. Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of all Americans.

Through a formal intergovernmental agreement signed in 1996, Peace Corps Volunteers started working with schools and organizations in Macedonia to help meet the diverse needs of their communities.

Peace Corps in Macedonia conducts its activities through two programs:

- **English Education Development Program**
- **Community Development Program**

In the last 21 years more than 550 Volunteers have served in Macedonia working in the field of Education and Community Development.

II. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

Peace Corps Volunteers commit to serve for a minimum of two years. Placement of Volunteers is all around Macedonia with priority on villages. The Volunteers receive 11 weeks of intensive training in the local language(s), traditions and customs of their host country in order to become part of the communities in which they serve. They also receive technical orientation to their project to ensure that they are able to adapt and apply their skills effectively in the host country environment. The agency devotes significant resources to provide Volunteers with the training, support and information they need to stay healthy and safe.

Volunteers receive a living allowance that covers housing, food and incidentals, enabling them to live the lifestyle of the people in their local communities.

The Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. is responsible for recruiting Volunteers throughout the United States. Peace Corps Volunteers must be American citizens, above eighteen years of age, and must possess the necessary skills and training required for the program for which they apply.

Volunteers are expected to devote at least two years to carry out their duties as Volunteers. There are no restrictions regarding age, sex, ethnicity or religion. Most volunteers worldwide have at least a bachelor's degree and many possess advanced degrees in their area of work. Some are recent graduates, others are mid-career professionals, and some are retired.

III. ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Peace Corps Macedonia implements the English Education program in collaboration of the Ministry of Education and Science of Macedonia, as well as other agencies and organizations dedicated to improving educational opportunities. The program is designed to address English language learning of students, teachers and community members improve teaching methodologies and practices.

English Education Program in Macedonia has following goals and objectives:

GOAL 1: Improve Teaching

Objective 1: Improve Teachers' Communication Skills in English

Assist English language teachers from primary and secondary schools to demonstrate improved proficiency in English.

Objective 2: Improve English Teachers' Instructional Practice

English language teachers from primary and secondary schools in Macedonia will implement more student-centered English lessons, practice effective classroom management techniques, conduct classroom-based assessments and improve methodology for working with students with special needs.

Objective 3: Improve Resource Development and Use by the English Teachers

English language teachers from primary and secondary schools in Macedonia will develop additional resource materials or introduce new or better ways to preserve and use resources.

GOAL 2: Increase Student Success in English Language Learning

Objective 1: Improve Achievement and Participation in English Class

Students from primary and secondary schools in Macedonia will demonstrate improved achievement and confidence in English and increased participation in the English language classroom.

Objective 2: Improve Community Participation and Life Skills

Students from primary and secondary schools in Macedonia will show improved achievement and confidence in English, community participation and/or life skills as a result of participation in extracurricular activities.

GOAL 3: Improve the School Community

Objective 1: Improve Achievement and Participation in English Class

School community members (including teachers, staff, and administration), and other community members (including parents and local government) will participate in activities that enhance the school environment and/or operations and support students' learning.

Objective 2: Language Resource Centers

School members will be involved in the creation or improvement of existing language and/or ICT resource centers that will support students' English language learning.

IV. HOW TO REQUEST A VOLUNTEER?

Step 1

Before filling out the application form, please discuss with the team of English teachers what activities the volunteer will be doing at your school for English Education, which areas of teaching needs improvement.

Having a clear idea about the work of the volunteer will allow your team to better utilize the skills of the volunteers as well as to achieve better success. Volunteers will co-teach with English teachers in the school, should have at least 20 English classes per week.

The counterpart is the English teacher who will work very closely with the volunteer; will participate in trainings organized by Peace Corps Macedonia; will stay in regular communication with Peace Corps staff; will plan and implement the joint work with the volunteer.

The work of the volunteer is supervised by the Director of the school as well as the staff from Peace Corps Macedonia office.

Step 2

Identify at least three options for housing available at your community. More information about this program can be found below.

Step 3

Primary and secondary schools should use the template for English Education program that can be found on the following link: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/macedonia/ask-for-a-volunteer/>

The completed applications should be sent to: pcv@mk.peacecorps.gov or by post to: Peace Corps Macedonia str. 8 Udarina Brigada br. 2, 1000 Skopje.

V. SELECTION PROCESS

In period of two months after the application form is submitted, the Peace Corps staff will contact you and will organize a visit at your school. The counterpart and the director of the school must be present at the visit as well as other English teachers that will potentially work with the Volunteer.

Peace Corps Staff will review the application form and discuss in details about expectations and volunteer responsibilities.

The staff will organize a visit to homestay families. After two months if necessary the staff will contact you and schedule a second visit to your organization or potential homestay family.

Minimum Criteria for Schools to get approved for Volunteer:

- School director English teachers and other community members are supportive of hosting a Volunteer and are willing to provide assistance as needed.
- School director, English teachers and other community members actively seek out and identify viable host family options.
- The host school has a demonstrated organizational need and strong interest in and commitment to hosting a Volunteer.
- There is a clearly identified role for the Volunteer as an English co-teacher in the school.
- There is/are available, interested, and committed counterpart(s) in the school willing to work with and provide support to the Volunteer.
- The school offers sufficient workload for the Volunteer, has an English language program of at least 20 hours a week, and has at least one English teacher, who will act as the Volunteer's Counterpart and will co teach in the same classroom.
- Community meets the safety and security and medical criteria according to the Peace Corps Macedonia requirements

Only the selected schools will be contacted with information about the Volunteer's profile and will be informed about the next steps.

VI. HOMESTAY FAMILY PROGRAM

Provide contact information of three potential host families in your community who are willing to host the Volunteer for at least the first 6 months (potentially two years). The potential HSFs should be open to share their home and culture with the American volunteer and to accept him/her as a member of their family.

After applications are received, host families will be called for initial interviews. Staff will then visit host families to ensure they meet Peace Corps housing criteria.

Peace Corps housing criteria list:

- Room with a bed (mattress), a desk or table, a chair, a wardrobe, that will be used only by the volunteer;
- Heating provided in the room;
- Windows that close properly;
- Lockable door;
- Access to a toilet and a bathroom;
- Water heater in the bathroom;
- Access to kitchen and cooking facilities;
- Housing located within 30 minutes' walk from work;
- Located in a safe neighborhood with a respectable family;
- The Volunteer is not allowed to live with their supervisor's and potential counterpart's families.

Payment:

The Head of the household will receive 8,000 MKD per month to offset the costs of heating, electricity and other increased expenses of the HSF. If the house has available separate floor with access to separate kitchen and bathroom, the payment is 9,500 MKD. Volunteers will additionally cover costs for internet and food.

TIPS HOW TO IDENTIFY HOMESTAY FAMILIES:

- ✓ Make an announcement to all staff members of your school / organization, regardless of their position;
- ✓ Organize community meetings to spread the information out. Talk to your relatives, friends and neighbors;
- ✓ Distribute the Host family brochures to interested host families;
- ✓ Make sure the interested families are already aware of the basic requirements of the PC HSF program and are truly willing to have PC volunteer 6 to 24 months in their home;
- ✓ Make sure that the families understand that the payment is not a rent, but an amount to cover the increased costs.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Peace Corps Macedonia
Program Managers and the Housing Coordinator:

Nadica Georgieva - Program Manager

Phone: 070 385 642

Email: ngeorgieva@mk.peacecorps.gov

Ivana Tomovska Efremov - Program Manager

Phone: 070 306 049

Email: itomovska@peacecorps.gov

Lindita Rexhepi -Program Manager

Phone: 070 383 780

Email: lredzepe@peacecorps.gov

Lidija Vangelova - Housing Coordinator

Phone: 071 366 428

Email: lvangelova@peacecorps.gov

Peace Corps Macedonia

8 Udarne Brigada #2, 1000 Skopje

Email: pcv@mk.peacecorps.gov

Tel: + 389 2 3090-012 ext. 23, 25, 26