

**Graduate Program in Public Health
Colorado State University
Peace Corps Masters International**



MPH/PCMI PROCESS

1 – MPH Application

The very first step in applying for the Peace Corps Masters International (PCMI) program as part of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at Colorado State University (CSU) through the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) is to complete the online application for the MPH program through SOPHAS. PCMI doesn't want you to apply before you receive an official offer of admission to the MPH program.

2 – PCMI Admissions Letter

Once you have received an official offer of admission to the MPH program on the CSU campus then you can begin the PCMI application process. We have been told that it currently takes 6-12 months for a PCMI application to be processed. You will need to receive a letter from the CSU MPH program confirming your admission to the CSU PCMI program. Individuals applying will submit this letter at a later point in the application process

This letter is separate from the application that you submit to Peace Corps. In order to receive this letter, please contact Dr. Lorann Stallones, Director of the CSU Graduate Program in Public Health, and inform her of your interest in applying to PCMI. She can be reached at lorann.stallones@colostate.edu or at 970-491-6156.

3 – PCMI Application Deadlines

The Peace Corps is using a deadline-based application submission process for PCMI candidates in order to ensure that students can be considered for departure in a timeframe that best suits the academic calendar.

A majority of program departures occur from June to the end of September. It is important that students are aware of this when expressing their availability to a recruiter.

Please note- PCMI students will apply to the Peace Corps using an application process that takes approximately one hour to complete; all applicants including Master's International applicants must apply within 12 months of when they are available to depart using the "Map Your Peace Corps Future" guidance on the Peace Corps website. Applying within a year of their desired departure dates ensures

that all Master's International students are seeing the most up-to-date list of available programs and locations they can choose from.

When applicants submit their application, they will not be required to upload an acceptance letter from the university at that time; they will simply be required to assert that they are an MI student at their university. Documentation will be required later in the application process

If a PCMI student wants to depart for their Peace Corps service in **April, May or June**, they need to submit their application by **mid-June of the year before they plan to leave**.

If a PCMI student plan to depart in **July, August, or September**, they need to submit their application no later than **mid-September of the year before they plan to leave**.

4 – PCMI Recruiter

Talk with the CSU Peace Corps Recruiter. The CSU Peace Corps Recruiter can help you to understand the general PCMI application process and requirements. You can find general PCMI information here: http://international_initiatives.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=pcmi_newer.

5 – MPH Practicum/Capstone

Once approved for PCMI service, work with the MPH practicum advisor, Kendra Bigsby, to understand how the PCMI service can fulfill the practicum requirement. Depending on what a student does during their time abroad they may also be able to receive credit toward their capstone project.

6 – Before Leaving for Peace Corps

- Check in with the Office of International Programs and return required forms
- Meet with your academic advisor to go over any practicum or project questions
- Clear all financial or academic holds on your CSU accounts. See Ram web for more details.
- Arrange to receive an absentee ballot
- Arrange for someone to have power of attorney for your finances while you are away
- Request contact information for CSU Registrar staff for continuous registration process
- Complete the Biodata form for the PCMI found at: http://international_initiatives.colostate.edu/peace-corps-master-international-forms/
- Make arrangements to change your billing address if needed
- Remain in regular contact with the Peace Corps Office throughout your placement

7 – MPH/PCMI Stipend

In the semester following a PCMI student's return from service that student will receive their MPH/PCMI stipend from the CSU Graduate Program in Public Health. This stipend will be the equivalent of either 2 or 4 credits worth of tuition within the student's residency status, and is in addition to the general PCMI

stipend that all Peace Corps volunteers receive. If the student only receives credit toward the practicum they will receive the equivalent of 2 credits of tuition costs. If the student also receives credit toward their capstone project they will receive the equivalent of 4 credits of tuition costs. Please note that students must complete their entire Peace Corps service to be eligible for this stipend.

8 – Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF)

The Department of Education's [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#) (PSLF) allows qualifying federal student loans to be forgiven after 120 months of on-time payments, on a qualifying repayment plan, while working for a qualifying employer. While Peace Corps service is considered "qualifying employment" for PSLF, MI students' eligibility for repayment depends on their student status.

If you are a Master's International student interested in PSLF, contact your school and FedLoan Servicing at 855-265-4038 as soon as possible and before you leave for Volunteer service to determine if and how your loan(s) can qualify to be in "repayment." For more information, please visit: [Dept of Education FAQ](#) and [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's PSLF Guide](#).

Contacts

CSU MPH Program:

Dr. Lorann Stallones at lorann.stallones@colostate.edu or 970-491-6456

Peace Corps:

<http://international-initiatives.colostate.edu/pcmi/>