

Peace Corps Master's International (PCMI) Master of Arts in Education (MAEd)

English as a Second Language (ESL)

www.uab.edu/esl-mip

Step 1: Applying to UAB for starting the MAEd/ESL program in Fall 2015: [admission process](#)

May 1, 2015 – Submit degree-seeking [application](#) to UAB Graduate School (Absolute deadline, July 1st)

May 10, 2015 – Inquire about competitive graduate assistantships: Dr. Susan Spezzini, spezini@uab.edu

June 15, 2015 – Participate in an interview for admission to the MAEd/ESL and consideration for the PCMI

August 24, 2015 – Start the MAEd/ESL program at UAB as a potential PCMI student

Step 2: Applying as a PCMI student to the Peace Corps for starting overseas service in Fall 2016

November 5, 2015 – Participate in an interview with School of Education's PCMI selection committee

November 10, 2015 – Receive a letter from the School of Education confirming selection as a PCMI student

November 15, 2015 – Submit [Peace Corps application](#) and include acceptance letter as a PCMI student

On campus at UAB: August 2015 – August 2016

9 Courses (27 semester credit hours)

Fall 2015 (August 24-December 11)

EESL 610 *Second Language Acquisition* (Professional learning communities: Mondays, 5:00-7:30 pm)

EESL 637 *Methods for Teaching English as an International Language* (Thursdays, 5:00-7:30 pm)

EESL 647 *Instruction and Assessment: Reading/Writing* (3 Saturdays, 8:00-4:45, plus also online)

Spring 2016 (January 4 – April 22)

EESL 617 *Teaching English in a Global Context* (online)

EESL 625 *Phonology for Second Language Teachers* (6 Saturdays, 8:00-4:45)

EESL 657 *Instruction and Assessment: Listening/Speaking* (Thursdays, 5:00-7:30 pm)

Summer 2016 (May 2 – August 10)

EESL 615 *Grammar for ESL Teachers* (one week in June, Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:45)

EESL 627 *Teaching Adult English Language Learners* (3 Saturdays, 8:00-4:45, plus also online)

EESL 687 *Practicum Seminar* (2 Saturdays at UAB and finish during Peace Corps training)

Comprehensive Examination

Practicum Activities

- Co-teach the School of Education's Community English Classes (i.e., weekly "lab school").
- Observe lessons, do 30-hour internship in UAB's Intensive English Program, and visit other IEPs.
- If awarded a graduate assistantship, work about 10 hours a week in UAB's English Language Institute (ELI) and be eligible for reclassification of residency and corresponding in-state tuition.

Overseas: September 2016 - December 2018 (targeted dates)

- Participate in intensive training as Peace Corps trainees and finish EESL 687 (3 months)
- Serve as Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) teaching English and/or training English teachers (24 months)
- Complete final two courses (6 credit hours) as described on the next page:
 - EESL 697 *ESL Practicum* (targeted: January-December, 2017)
 - EESL 677 *Field Studies* (targeted: January-July, 2018)
- Graduate with a master's degree (targeted graduation: August 2018)
- Participate in UAB's commencement ceremony – *optional* (December 2018)

Course to be started at UAB and finished overseas during Peace Corps training**EESL 687 Practicum Seminar**

PCMI students will meet most of the EESL 687 course requirements while still on campus at UAB. Before starting their overseas service, they will have attended two day-long seminars at UAB and completed most of the writing assignments. They will have completed the course component related to Intensive English Programs (IEPs) by observing ESL classes at UAB and by doing full-day visits to the IEPs at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and at Gadsden State Community College, each located 60 miles from UAB. They will meet the expectations of the EESL 687 course's administrative component by spending 30 clock hours at UAB's English Language Institute (ELI) assisting with targeted projects and/or by helping to coordinate the School of Education's Community English Classes. (PCMI students who are graduate assistants at the ELI meet this expectation as part of their work). After going overseas, they will meet the expectations of this course's EFL component upon the completion of their in-country Peace Corps training by submitting two course-related papers related to their initial experiences with learning a new language and adjusting to life in their host country. The first will be a 3- to 5-page paper where PCMI students reflect on their experiences as Peace Corps trainees in learning a new language and culture. The second will be a 10- to 15-page paper, which PCMI students may have already completed or almost completed while still at UAB, on the role of English in their host country and the types of English instruction normally offered to children and adults. Upon finishing their 3-month pre-service Peace Corps training, the PCMI students will send these papers and their EESL 687 course portfolio, either electronically or by courier, to their EESL 687 instructor.

Courses to be completed entirely overseas while serving as Peace Corps Volunteers**EESL 697 ESL Practicum**

All MAEd/ESL students must complete a capstone practicum of 200 hours. PCMI students will fulfill this requirement in their first year as PCVs. It will consist of teaching English as a primary PCV responsibility, maintaining correspondence with their EESL 697 instructor (either electronically or by mail), participating actively with their EESL 697 classmates on the EESL 697 Discussion Board (if internet accessibility is available in their host country), and creating a teaching portfolio based on their first year as an EFL teacher. They will send this portfolio, electronically or by courier, to their UAB course instructor. PCMI students will enroll in EESL 697 towards the end of their first year as PCVs, which is when they will have already completed the expectations for this course.

EESL 677 Field Studies

PCMI students will fulfill this field studies requirement during their second year as PCVs. After having completed their first year at their host country site teaching English, the PCMI students will diagnose specific English learning needs in their respective sites and develop targeted materials and lessons. Such needs could entail developing a program to train host country English teachers. To meet EESL 677 course expectations, the PCMI students must also correspond with their EESL 677 instructor as regularly as possible (either electronically or by mail). Depending upon accessibility to internet in their host site and/or host country, PCMI students will maintain a blog and/or wiki about their PCV experiences. They will also submit a course portfolio, either electronically or by courier, to their UAB course instructor. PCMI students will be expected to complete most of the requirements for EESL 677 by April 2018 and enroll in this course for UAB's summer 2018 term. They must complete all EESL 677 coursework by July 2018 in order to be eligible to graduate in August 2018. *NOTE: At UAB, students must be enrolled in a course during the semester in which they anticipate graduating from UAB.*