**Peace Corps Master’s International (PCMI)**

**English as a Second Language (ESL): Alternative Track**

**Prerequisites: 2.75 GPA in a language major from an accredited college, MAT/GRE, and AECTP Basic Skills**

**Program: 41-44 semester credit hours with initial K-12 teacher certification**

***Below is a plan for starting in Fall. A similar plan would be followed for starting in Spring.***

**Step 1: Applying to UAB for starting the traditional MAEd/ESL in Fall 2016:** [admission process](http://www.uab.edu/education/ci/english-as-a-second-language-program-description/program-admissions)

**May 1, 2016 – Submit degree-seeking** [application](https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantLogin.asp?id=uab-grad) **to UAB Graduate School (Absolute deadline, July 1st)**

**May 15, 2016 – Participate in an initial interview with School of Education’s PCMI selection committee**

**May 20, 2016 – Learn about competitive graduate assistantship:** [spezzini@uab.edu](mailto:spezzini@uab.edu) **(usually just for Fall start)**

**June 15, 2016 – Be admitted to Graduate School and be accepted as a PCMI candidate in education**

**June 20, 2016 – Participate in an interview for a graduate assistantship**

**June 30, 2016 – If selected, be offered a graduate assistantship to start in August**

**Step 2: Applying as a PCMI student to the Peace Corps for going overseas in Summer 2018**

**June 2017 – Submit** [Peace Corps application](http://www.peacecorps.gov/apply/)

**August 2017– Participate in a final interview with the School of Education’s PCMI selection committee**

**September 2017 – Receive letter from PCMI selection committee confirming final selection as PCMI student**

**December 2017 (approx.) – Be informed by Peace Corps of being considered for a specific country**

**February 2018 (approx.) – Be invited by Peace Corps to serve in that country; Receive targeted departure date**

**June 2018 (approx.) – Depart for host country and start Peace Corps service**

**On campus at UAB: August 2016 – April 2108 (projected dates and possible course sequence)**

**44 semester credit hours**

**Fall 2016 (mid August – mid December)**

**EDU 500 *Education as a Profession***

**EESL 510 *Second Language Acquisition***

**EESL 515 *Grammar for ESL Teachers***

**ECY 600 *Introduction to Exceptional Learners***

**Spring 2017 (early January – late April)**

**EESL 525 *Phonology for Second Language Teachers***

**EESL 530 *Methods and Materials for Teaching ESL***

**EESL 540 *Teaching ESL through Reading and Writing***

**Summer 2017 (early May – early August)**

**EESL 512 Curriculum, Programs, and Policies**

**EESL 513 *Teaching ESL in a multicultural society***

**EPR 510/511 *Measurement and Assessment***

**Fall 2017 (mid August – mid December)**

**Submit Application for Degree**

**EESL 660 *Research in ESL***

**EEC 674 *Language Development***

**EHS 556 *Classroom Management***

**Spring 2018 (early January – late April)**

**Submit Certification Application**

**EESL 589 *Internship Seminar***

**EESL 590 *Internship, K-12* (student teaching)**

**Comprehensive Examination**

**Graduation from UAB (and be issued teacher certification from the ALSDE)**

**Practicum Activities**

* **Field Experiences, Student Teaching Internship, and outreach projects at SOE partner schools**
* **If awarded a graduate assistantship through the department, work about 10 hours a week at UAB and be eligible for reclassification of residency and corresponding in-state tuition.**

**Prior to Departure**

* **Submit non-degree seeking application to the Graduate School for Summer 2020 *(optional)***

**Overseas: June 2018 – October 2020 (targeted dates)**

* Complete intensive in-country training as Peace Corps trainee (3 months)
* Serve as Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) teaching English and/or training English teachers (24 months)
* *Optional:* Complete a graduate course that can be used towards another degree (3 credit hours)

Complete coursework from July 2018 to February 2020

Enroll in coursework for UAB’s summer 2020 term

**Example of a course to be completed** **overseas by PCMI students in the Alternative Track**

***Practicum, field study, independent study, and/or elective course (probably EESL 677)***

After completing their on-campus MA program and probably also graduating, PCMI students go overseas and take a course in conjunction with their Peace Corps experience. This course is usually a practicum, field study, independent study, or elective. Here are three potential assignments for a course such as this.

**First Potential Assignment**: PCMI students meet the expectations for the first assignment by completing 3 months of required Peace Corps training in their host country and submitting a 5-page paper about their experiences learning a new language and adjusting to life in a new culture. They will submit this paper to their UAB course instructor, either electronically or by courier.

**Second Potential Assignment**: The PCMI students’ second course assignment can consist of several parts: working in their career as a primary PCV responsibility for one year, maintaining correspondence with their UAB course instructor (either electronically or by mail), communicating actively with their fellow PCMI students in other countries via UAB’s online Discussion Board (if internet accessibility is available in their host country), posting a monthly blog, and creating a teaching portfolio based on their overseas teaching. They will submit this portfolio to their UAB course instructor, either electronically or by courier.

**Third Potential Assignment**: Shortly after starting their second year serving in the Peace Corps, PCMI students can be expected to complete their final course assignment. For this assignment, they can be asked to diagnose specific needs in their respective sites based on what they had experienced during their first year in site and on what they had learned in their MA program. They can then develop an action plan and targeted materials to meet those needs. For example, part of their action plan could entail developing a program to train host country teachers. They will complete this final assignment about 18 months after having arrived in their host country.

***NOTE:*** Before starting their overseas service, PCMI students in the ESL master’s Alternative Track should have already graduated from UAB and obtained their certification from the Alabama State Department of Education. If they wish, they could take a course while serving overseas in anticipation of using this course towards an advanced degree such as an EdS. If they arrive in their host country in June 2018, they will probably submit their final course assignment about 18 months later, which would be January 2020. In April 2020, these PCMI students will actually enroll in this course, which would be for the summer 2020 term.They will have completed all course requirements before actually enrolling in this course. This approach is followed because of frequent interruptions with online communication in remote parts of the developing world. By first completing the coursework and then enrolling in this course, PCMI students will be ensured that a grade can be posted during the term in which they are enrolled.