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

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

**Prerequisites: Valid teacher certification from any state and either MAT (388) or GRE (290)**

**Program Length: 34-37 semester credit hours and advanced 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 Fall 2017**

**September 2016 – Submit** [Peace Corps application](http://www.peacecorps.gov/apply/)

**December 2016– Participate in a final interview with the School of Education’s PCMI selection committee**

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

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

**May 2017 (approx.) – Be invited by Peace Corps to serve in that country; Receive targeted departure date**

**On campus at UAB: August 2016 – August 2017 (projected dates and possible course sequence)**

**31-34 semester credit hours**

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

**EDU 600 *Education as a Profession* (online)**

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

**EESL 615 *Grammar for ESL Teachers* (Wednesdays, 5:00-7:30 pm)**

**EEC 674 *Language Development* (online)**

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

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

**EESL 630 *Methods and Materials for Teaching ESL* (Tuesdays, 5:00-7:30)**

**EESL 640 *Teaching ESL through Reading and Writing* (online)**

**ECY 600 *Introduction to Exceptional Learners* (if not taken as an UG)**

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

**EESL 612 Curriculum, Programs, and Policies (one week in June, Monday-Friday, plus 3 days in schools)**

**EESL 613 *Teaching ESL in a multicultural society* (one week in June, Monday-Friday)**

**EESL 660 *Research in ESL* (online)**

**EESL 690 *Internship, K-12* (two weeks teaching in K-12 English Learner summer programs)**

**Comprehensive Examination**

**Practicum Activities**

* **Field experiences (about 150 clock hours) in fall and spring; internship (2 weeks) in summer**
* **If awarded a graduate assistantship, work about 10 hours a week at UAB, and be eligible for reclassification of residency and corresponding in-state tuition.**

**Overseas: September 2017 - December 2019 (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)
* Complete program’s elective course (3 credit hours), probably EESL 677 *Field Studies*, which is targeted for December 2017 - April 2019, as is described on the following page
* Graduate with a master’s degree (targeted graduation: August 2019)

**Example of an elective course to be completed** **overseas by PCMI students**

This example is for an MA program with 30-33 credit hours.

***Practicum, field study, independent study, and/or elective course***

After completing all of their on-campus courses, PCMI students go overseas and take a final 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.

**Finishing this course and graduating**: If PCMI students are pursuing a 30-33 hour MA degree, they will probably take one final course during their Peace Corps service. If they arrive in their host country in September 2017, they will probably submit their final course assignment about 18 months later, which would be March 2019. At this same time, they should send a request to the Graduate School for lifting their Leave of Absence. They should also remind the SOE’s Peace Corps coordinator about submitting their already-signed Application for Degree. In April 2019, these PCMI students will actually enroll in their program’s final course (for which they have already completed the coursework), which would be for the summer 2019 term. If everything goes as planned, they will graduate with their master’s degree in August 2019, which would be while they are still in the Peace Corps.

*NOTE*: PCMI students will complete all course requirements before actually enrolling in their final 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 and that they will graduate as planned. That is because students must be enrolled in a course during the semester in which they anticipate graduating from UAB.