

Combine a Peace Corps Experience
with a Professional Master's Degree in
Planning, Policy, or
Public/Nonprofit Management

Masters International Program

For more information:

Urban Affairs and Planning
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UAP website: <http://www.uap.vt.edu>

For an application contact the above or go to
<https://www.rgs.vt.edu/grads/>

For other program information
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peace corps - virginia tech



School of Public and International Affairs
Urban Affairs & Planning Program



College of
Architecture &
Urban Studies

Peace Corps – Virginia Tech Masters International Program

Combine a Peace Corps Experience
with a Professional Master's Degree in
Urban and Regional Planning, Public Policy,
or Nonprofit Organization and Management

The School of Public and International Affairs offers both a Master of Urban and Regional Planning and a Master of Public and International Affairs degrees in conjunction with the Peace Corps – the Masters International Program (MIP). The program is designed to prepare students for their Peace Corps service in non-governmental organization (NGO) and urban development and subsequent careers in urban planning, policy-making, and international development. Elective and required core courses cover such subjects as community and economic development, international development planning and policy, land use and environmental planning, public and non-profit organization and management. Students spend the next two years overseas as Peace Corps Volunteers, integrating their experiences and graduate studies. Students return to Virginia Tech at the beginning of the fourth academic year to complete their degree, usually in one semester. Financial support is available for qualified students on a competitive basis. Minority students are encouraged to apply. Only U.S. citizens are eligible to serve as Peace Corps Volunteers.

The Setting

Virginia Tech's Urban Affairs and Planning Program combines a core of outstanding professional degree courses with an array of electives in 7 curricular concentrations: Environmental planning and policy, international development planning and policy, economic and community development, physical development planning, social policy and planning, public and non-profit management and comparative urban policy. The Program's distinction derives from its interdisciplinary, comparative, and applied approach to instruction and research. Faculty with advanced education and experience in planning, geography, engineering, economics, sociology, political science, and law work collaboratively to provide students with a coherent vision of how communities, large and small, work and how to facilitate positive change within them.

Virginia Tech, ranked among the top 50 research institutions of higher education in the United States, is Virginia's largest university with 26,000 students and 5,100 faculty and staff. A publically-supported, land-grant university that serves the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation and the international community by generating and disseminating knowledge in the humanities, arts, social sciences, scientific and professional disciplines through instruction, research and extension. Inspired by its motto, *Ut Prosim* ("That I May Serve"), the University advocates an appreciation of the values and obligations of productive citizenship and the responsibilities of leadership while promoting personal and intellectual development.

Four hours drive from Washington, D.C., Blacksburg is located in the rolling hills of the southeast Virginia highlands and features an array of cultural and natural amenities unrivalled among small communities on the East Coast. The Blue Ridge Parkway is forty minutes drive, the Appalachian Trail is 15 minutes from downtown Blacksburg, and the New River, the oldest river in the western Hemisphere, with related canoeing, kayaking, and camping opportunities is 20 minutes away. Roanoke, 40 miles away, features it's own professional symphony orchestra, a professional opera company, art museum and science center, and a regional airport served by 3 national airlines.

ADMISSION

Prospective students apply to both Virginia Tech's Graduate School and the Peace Corps separately, indicating the MIP program in both applications. To ensure timely processing of application materials students should have submitted all of the required application materials to the Peace Corps before arriving on campus for their first semester. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that their Peace Corps application materials are completed on time. Given the normal Peace Corps placement cycle, new MIP students are strongly encouraged to begin their graduate studies in the Fall semester. While prospective MIP students who meet admission requirements for the graduate degree programs in Urban Affairs and Planning will be admitted into the Program with the expectation that they will serve a full two-year term in the Peace Corps, the approval of applications for field service are made entirely by the Peace Corps. Students admitted to either graduate program who do not receive Peace Corps field service invitations may complete their graduate studies as any other graduate student.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A limited number of graduate assistantships (GAs) are available to incoming students on a competitive basis. A 10-hour assistantship covers one-half of in-state tuition and waives the out-of-state tuition increment, while providing a monthly stipend starting at \$582.50. Students receiving GAs are assigned to a department faculty member and frequently assist in faculty research, service, teaching and program development activities.

CURRICULUM

Students may apply to either the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) or Masters of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) degree programs, both housed in Virginia Tech's Urban Affairs and Planning Program. The MURP is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board of the American Planning Association and was ranked 7th in the country by the 1997 Gourman Report. The normal sequence of courses for each degree option are indicated below:

MURP Option: 48 credit hours

Year 1: at Virginia Tech (all courses 3 credit hours unless noted)

Fall Semester: 13 credit hours

UAP 4764 International Development Planning and Policy
UAP 5174 Theory and Practice of Planning
UAP 5224 Research Methods in Planning and Policy (4 hrs)
Elective

Spring Semester: 12-15 credit hours

UAP 4244 Non-profit Organization and Management
UAP 5124 Urban and Regional Planning Studio
UAP 5984 Non-governmental Organizations and Development
UAP 5404 Strategies for Third World Urban Development
Elective

Year 2-3: on Peace Corps field assignment: 8-12 credit hours

UAP 5964 Field Study (3 hrs)*
UAP 5974 Independent Study (1-3 hrs)*
Capstone (may be taken in year 4):
UAP 5804 Practicum Problem (2 hrs), or
UAP 5904 Major Paper (3 hrs), or
UAP 5994 Thesis (6 hrs)

* may be repeated

Year 4: at Virginia Tech

Fall and/or Spring Semester: 12-15 credit hours

UAP 5554 Land Use Law **
UAP 5234 Urban Economy and Policy **
UAP 5494 Advanced Quantitative Techniques
Elective
Capstone (may be taken in years 2-3)
UAP 5804 Practicum Problem (2 hrs), or
UAP 5904 Major Paper (3 hrs), or
UAP 5994 Thesis (6 hrs)

** or appropriate substitute

MPIA Option: 36 credit hours

Year 1: at Virginia Tech (all courses 3 credit hours unless noted)

Fall Semester: 13 credit hours

UAP 4764 International Development Planning and Policy
UAP 5164 Collaborative Processes and Civil Society
UAP 5224 Research Methods in Planning and Policy (4 hrs)
UAP 5634 Global Change and Local Processes
UAP 5754 Professional Development Colloquium (1 hr)

Spring Semester: 12-15 credit hours

PSCI 5444 International Politics
UAP 4184 Community Involvement
UAP 4244 Non-profit Organization and Management
UAP 5404 Strategies for Third World Urban Development
UAP 5984 Non-governmental Organizations & Development, or
Elective

Year 2-3: on Peace Corps field assignment: 4-12 credit hours

UAP 5964 Field Study (3 hrs)*
UAP 5974 Independent Study (1-3 hrs)*
Capstone (may be taken in year 4):
UAP 5804 Practicum Problem (2 hrs), or
UAP 5904 Major Paper (3 hrs), or
UAP 5994 Thesis (6 hrs)

* may be repeated

Year 4: at Virginia Tech

Fall and/or Spring Semester: 6-12 credit hours

UAP 5474 Program Evaluation**
Elective
Capstone (may be taken in years 2-3)
UAP 5804 Practicum Problem (2 hrs), or
UAP 5904 Major Paper (3 hrs), or
UAP 5994 Thesis (6 hrs)

** or appropriate substitute

FACULTY

John O. Browder

(Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, 1986). Urban and regional development, natural resources and environmental planning.

Heike Mayer

(Ph.D. Portland State University, 2003). Regional industrial development.

Alnoor Ebrahim

(Ph.D. Stanford, 1999). Environmental planning, collaborative processes, non-governmental organizations, and civil society, accountability.

Wilma Dunaway

(Ph. D. University of Tennessee). Sociology, gender and development.

GRADUATE COURSES

Collaborative Processes & Civil Society

Examines strategies of collaborative governance and planning involving citizens, non-profit organizations and governmental agencies. Domestic and international case studies are used to illustrate different types of collaborative efforts.

International Development Planning & Policy

Introduces the leading theories of economic development and examines contemporary issues facing developing countries: rural poverty, industrialization, urbanization, migration, external debt, and environmental degradation and sustainable development.

Global Change and Local Impacts

Examination of the structure and dynamics of the global market and the impacts of globalization on local processes.

Community Involvement

Issues, concepts and techniques of citizen participation in community development.

Non-governmental Organizations & Development

Explores theory and practice of non-governmental organizations in international development. Examines various roles of NGOs, and their interactions with local communities, government agencies, international organizations and private businesses.

Strategies for Third World Development

Analyzes the reciprocal relationships between development strategies and urbanization at international, regional, and local scales.

Women, Environment and Development

Critically examines roles of gender, culture, and socio-economic status in uses of nature, environmental management, and experiences of environmental change.