

French Speakers



Your Skills. Our Jobs.

French is the official language of many countries in Africa, and the common language among a region that has thousands of indigenous languages and dialects. With the development needs of those nations so great, French speakers are in high demand. The Peace Corps is responding to the hundreds of requests for Volunteers who speak French and calling on you to join the effort and become part of a service legacy that dates back to 1961. While you may have many job prospects, nothing in your career is likely to compare to the challenges and rewards of the Peace Corps.

Si Vous Pouvez Lire Ceci, Nous Avons Besoin de Vous.

Add a new dimension to your career. Discover innovative ways to apply your classroom, volunteer, or work experiences. Work in an unforgettable location in West or North Africa and forge new and lifelong relationships within the communities you serve, while empowering communities to sustainably improve their quality of life. The possibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer are endless and allow you to leave an indelible mark.

Upon returning to the U.S., you'll discover open doors leading to new and exciting personal and professional opportunities. Fluency in a foreign language combined with international work experience and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today's global economy. You'll take away the satisfaction of knowing your efforts will have a lasting influence abroad while helping you stand out here at home.

Peace Corps French-language experience is valued by numerous organizations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of State, Millennium Challenge Corporation, United Nations agencies, the World Wildlife Fund, Africare, many private companies, and nongovernmental organizations seeking individuals with unique skills.

The Work.

As a Francophone Volunteer, your role will be to work alongside a host country counterpart and provide tools, teaching, new perspectives, facilitation, and encouragement to tackle some of the region's most critical needs. Your job might be with an NGO, a school, a local or regional community-based organization, or any number of other formal or informal institutions focused on different aspects of development. Depending on your specific assignment, you might:

- Teach English, math, or science at the primary, secondary, or university level, to children or adults
- Promote business development and growth, one-on-one with entrepreneurial farmers or artisans, or in larger groups through cooperatives or financial institutions
- Coordinate community or NGO workshops to teach health education and awareness
- Train farmers in organic farming to address pest control and increased production
- Work with youth to build skills, confidence, and self-esteem
- Equip communities with tools to protect natural resources and generate income
- Empower communities to continue the positive steps you will introduce them to, and in turn improve their quality of life for their families and future generations



As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, it continues to promote peace and friendship, with Volunteers serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world

Are You Ready?



How do I qualify?

To qualify for an assignment in a French-speaking country, you will need at a minimum to have:

- Completed four years of high school French coursework within the past eight years; OR
- Completed a minimum of two semesters or three quarters of French college-level coursework within the past six years; OR
- Completed three years of high school French coursework within the past eight years and have attained either a minimum of a 5 on the high school International Baccalaureate Assessment or a score of 4 on the Advanced Placement exam

Is this the right fit?

Let the Peace Corps match your skills and ambitions with the right type of program. While you will likely learn a local, tribal language spoken in your assigned region, your French language competency will enable you to hit the ground running. Whatever you do, you will have the opportunity to put your knowledge and ideas into practice and, in the process, be a catalyst for change and set the groundwork for a truly sustainable impact.

How can I stand out?

In addition to the language requirement, competitive applicants will need to have a degree or demonstrated work in environment, agriculture, youth and community development, health, business, or education.

If you are close but do not yet fully meet these requirements, please speak to a recruiter to find out what you can do to become qualified. Applicants may be considered if they have any college or high school French, a French-speaking study abroad experience, or other French placement exam scores within the past eight years and are willing to sign an agreement to either take additional French coursework or commit to self-study and a subsequent placement test.

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Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk to a recruiter near you.

“The beauty of the Peace Corps is realizing that I have much more in common with a group of African villagers than I ever thought possible. John F. Kennedy, in creating the Peace Corps, said one of its goals would be to foster a cultural understanding between peoples all over the world. To me, that goal, beyond any work I did in Burkina Faso, is the one I am most proud to have achieved.”

— Caroline Chambre, Volunteer in Burkina Faso