



## JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS

### APPLICATION ESSAYS AND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Documents can be uploaded to your application at any time prior to the deadline. All documents (essays, resume, transcripts, and health forms-*international program applications only*) must be uploaded or submitted by the deadline for your application to be considered complete.

Documents should be saved as PDF documents before uploading. This page details all required documents including:

- Essays (2)
- Resume
- Transcript
- Medical forms (international program only)

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### APPLICATION ESSAYS

We wish to hear about your life experience. Your candid answers to the following questions will help both you and JVC examine your readiness to make the commitment to JVC and to carry out its mission to work for justice and peace.

Essays should be typed in 12point, standard fonts, using 1 inch margins, and 1.5 spaced lines.

Documents should be saved as PDF files prior to uploading.

Please be sure to include your name and the title of the essay on each page of each document.

#### **Essay A: Autobiography** (3-5 pages total)

Please compose a brief and cohesive autobiographical essay that shares with JVC information about who you are and the background and experiences you would bring to the program.

Consider including information about the following:

- Persons, experiences, and identities that have helped shape who you are today including your personality, faith, and ideals
- A challenge you and/or your family has faced and how you worked through it
- A difficult choice you've had to make, your process in approaching the decision, and how the decision reflects your values
- Elements of your personality that will help you thrive in JVC; Elements of your personality that may hinder your ability to thrive in JVC
- Your passions and how you act on them

## Essay B: Short Answers (no more than 1 paragraph per prompt)

- Domestic program applicants – please select 8 prompts for reply
- International program applicants – please reply to all 12 prompts

Mission of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps:

*Aspiring to create a more just and hopeful world the Jesuit Volunteer Corps engages passionate young people in vital service within poor communities, fostering the growth of leaders committed to faith in action.*

1. Consider JVC's mission statement. How do you believe living as a Jesuit Volunteer will help to foster your growth as "a leader committed to faith in action"?
2. Please share a personal example of "vital service within poor communities." How do you think this service relates to charity? To social justice?
3. In striving toward a more just, peaceful, and hopeful world JVC recognizes that racism can inhibit the ability to build relationships of equity, trust, and justice. Reflect on your own understanding of racism and its impact on your community. What is one example of how you see racism manifested in your current context (school, work, neighborhood)?
4. What tensions do you anticipate experiencing in working alongside marginalized people as someone privileged to commit to one or two years of full-time service?
5. Living a simple lifestyle is not about the things you give up: it's about what you gain. JVs commit to a simple lifestyle, living within a modest monthly budget and focusing on people and relationships (rather than material possessions). Please share your understanding of a simple lifestyle through a concrete example of how you currently choose to live out this value and an example of when it is difficult to do so.
6. JVC's program and mission draw upon influences from our Catholic, Ignatian spiritual tradition. The value of spirituality is expressed in JVC through various experiences, including retreats, spirituality nights with JV communities, and personal prayer and reflection. What are your expectations for the role spirituality will play in your community as a whole? What are your expectations for the role spirituality will play in your personal journey during JVC?
7. All JVs live in intentional community with other Jesuit Volunteers, while also committing to engage in their local communities. Drawing on any past experiences, please share a bit about what it means to live in an intentional community. How is it different than living with family, a significant other, or roommates?
8. What do you anticipate to be the most challenging part of community living for you? Why? What are some of your needs in living with others?
9. How do you see your role as a "guest" in a different city, country or culture? How do you anticipate the time commitment of JVC affecting your relationships with local community members?
10. Living in community, working towards social justice, committing to a simple lifestyle, and growing in your personal spirituality can bring many graces and challenges. Reflect briefly on a time in your life when things did not go as you had planned or expected. How did you react in the situation? What lessons did you learn? How do you take care of yourself?
11. How do you recognize when you are well-balanced and off balance? Please draw from specific examples in your past that taught you this about yourself.
12. \*Provide a list of all international travel and experiences – including length of trip, context, and location. Please share if one of these international experiences had an impact on your desire to apply for two years of international service with JVC.

## **RESUME**

Please submit a resume of no more than one (1) page.

In your resume, in addition to education, experience, skills, etc., please also include all cross-cultural and international experiences you have had.

## **TRANSCRIPTS**

Your application can only be considered complete by the deadline if JVC has received at least one uploaded unofficial copy of your transcript.

Please send one (1) official copy of all transcripts for graduate and undergraduate work. Official transcripts for degrees already conferred should come directly from the school postmarked within one week of the JVC deadline.

## **MEDICAL FORMS – international program applications only**

Make an appointment with a healthcare provider who can complete your health & wellness and medical clearance forms. Scan and upload as a PDF.