



JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FAQ

Where could I possibly serve in the International Program?

| Country | Cities |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Tanzania</i> | Dodoma; Dar Es Salaam |
| <i>Belize</i> | Punta Gorda; Belize City |
| <i>Nicaragua</i> | Managua |
| <i>Micronesia</i> | Chuuk; Pohnpei |
| <i>Chile</i> | Santiago |
| <i>Peru</i> | Tacna; Andahuaylillas |

What does the application process look like?

- Our Application deadline is **Wednesday, January 27, 2016**
 - A completed application includes:
 - Transcript from college or university
 - Medical clearance form (completed by doctor)
 - Health and wellness form (completed by applicant)
 - References
 - Essays and resume
- Once the online application is received, you can expect:
 - Interviews (February)
 - Invitation to and participation in Discernment Weekend (March)
 - Placement conversation (March)
 - Make a commitment (April)
 - Attend orientation (mid-July)
 - Serve as a JV!

What does the International Program look like this year?

- We have 50 volunteers total (first and second-year) in the 2015-2016 volunteer year
 - 37 females and 13 males
- We are currently serving in 34 placements
 - 75-80% education-based placements
 - 20-25% social work and pastoral ministry placements

How is the International Program structured?

- The International Program runs on a 2 year program calendar
 - *Early Departure Countries (July)*: Belize, Micronesia
 - *Late Departure Countries (November)*: Tanzania, Peru, Nicaragua, Chile
- The life of a Jesuit Volunteer offers many different opportunities for growth and support:

- Weekly spirituality nights
- Weekly community nights
- Weekly mass with local community
- Dinner 4 times per week as a community
- 3-4 retreats per year

What am I financially responsible for during my time as a volunteer?

- Applicants will be responsible for covering travel costs to and from the Discernment Weekend in March and the costs of transportation to and—if not departing immediately for their host countries—from orientation.
 - Note: JVC offers financial aid opportunities both in the form of assistance with student loan forbearance/deferment & scholarships for travel to/from Discernment Weekend and Orientation
- We also ask volunteers to participate in the ‘Send Me to Serve’ campaign, which helps offset the cost of each volunteer’s time abroad. International Program JVs are expected to undertake fundraising prior to departing for their host countries with a minimum goal of \$3,000. JVC provides ample resources to support this initiative.
- JVC covers travel to a volunteer’s host country along with travel home at the end of a volunteer’s term of service. Additionally, JVC covers all living necessities and basic health insurance through GeoBlue during a volunteer’s term.

What is it like to live internationally?

- Volunteers live in community with other JVs
- Community sizes range from 2-7 volunteers (a mix of first and second-year JVs)
- There is great diversity in living situations, e.g.:
 - Poor, urban neighborhoods
 - Boarding schools
 - Middle-class neighborhoods
- Adjusting to a foreign place calls for changes in lifestyle and expectations of living
- Acculturation is a 2-year commitment we ask of all JVs

Is there a language requirement to serve in the International Program?

- There are Spanish-speaking requirements for three of our countries, each of which includes a Spanish language interview: Chile, Nicaragua, Peru
- In Belize, Micronesia, and Tanzania, while there is no language requirement necessary for serving in these countries, it is expected that volunteers will be willing to learn and study the language while in-country
 - In Tanzania, formal Swahili lessons are offered when volunteers first arrive

Will I be connected to Jesuits in the area?

- Local Jesuit missions invite JVC into their communities
- There is a strong focus on education (often in elite high schools and universities of that country)
- Volunteers are guided by Ignatian spirituality, social justice, and community

Is it possible to serve a two-year commitment in a highly immersive and cross-cultural community in the United States?

- Yes – JVC offers a two-year placement in the U.S. at St. Francis Mission, South Dakota, on the Rosebud Reservation of the Lakota peoples. JVs live in community on the reservation and support several of the mission's programs (primarily in education and parish ministry). The JVs are completely immersed in Rez culture as the nearest town is three hours away.
- If you have interest in serving at St. Francis, you are welcome to apply to the international program though ultimately your interviews/screening would shift to the domestic program process.

What if I have further questions?

- Visit our [FAQ page](#) at jesuitvolunteers.org
- Contact a recruiter if you'd like to learn more about the program. Contact information can be found [here](#)
- Give us a call at 410.244.1733