

What was your undergraduate alma mater? Program-of-study?

I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with majors in Psychology and French.

Where did you serve? When?

My Peace Corps service was in Benin, West Africa (just west of Nigeria) from 2016-2018.



What was your primary job? Did you have any secondary projects? How did you go about starting those?

While I primarily worked as an English as a Foreign Language teacher at a secondary school, I had lots of other projects! At the school I helped with the girls' soccer team, held an English Club, started a school garden, painted a world map, and conducted various other programs. I also helped organize national youth camps, the National Spelling Bee, and worked with the local hospital on various health-related projects. Peace Corps emphasizes the need for community involvement and sustainability, so I had local community partners for many of my projects, helping to identify which projects were most important.

What were some of the reactions your family and friends had to your interest in the Peace Corps?

At first, my family was confused when I told them I wanted to join the Peace Corps. To them, the Peace Corps was two years abroad without any benefits. I had done my research though, and was able to explain to them all the great perks that come with Peace Corps service: extensive training, international field experience, a living stipend, paid vacation, Graduate School benefits, Federal employment advantages, and a huge network of previous volunteers! I'm definitely benefiting from my service now, as a Peace Corps Coverdell Fellow here at the University of Arizona!

Was your program-of-graduate-study choice influenced by your Peace Corps experience? What led you to choose the University of Arizona?

Even though I was an Education Volunteer, my favorite projects were all related to health. There was such a high-need in my community for malaria prevention, nutrition, and reproductive health programs that I spent a lot of time working with my local partners to address these issues. Without a doubt my secondary projects in the Peace Corps helped me discover my passion for Public Health and motivated me to pursue my MPH. After I knew I wanted to start my graduate degree, picking the University of Arizona was easy! Not only is the Public Health Program well-recognized, but the University of Arizona has one of the largest Peace Corps Coverdell Fellowship Programs in the country!



As the UA Peace Corps Campus Recruiter, do you have one key piece of advice to give undergraduates interested in joining the Peace Corps after graduation?

Be flexible and open to new opportunities! While you may have an idea of where you'd like to serve, the Peace Corps has over 50 years of experience finding the best match for each individual. I had to look up Benin when I was told I was being considered for service there, and now it's my second home.