The Master’s International Program in Applied Linguistics
A cooperative program between Georgia State University and the Peace Corps

Benefits of Peace Corps service:

- Living and housing expenses paid
- Transportation to and from assignment
- Intensive language, technical and cross-cultural training
- Complete medical and dental care
- Vacation time and travel allowance
- Readjustment allowance upon return
- Two years of overseas experience relevant to your degree

For more information on the Peace Corps application:
Call toll-free: 1-800-424-8580, and choose option 1. Or, visit the website at www.peacecorps.gov.

If you live in the southeastern United States (AL, FL, GA, MS, SC, TN) or Puerto Rico, you also may contact:

Peace Corps Regional Office
100 Alabama Street
Bldg. 1924, Suite 2870
Atlanta, GA 30301
Phone: 404-562-1456
E-mail: atlanta@peacecorps.gov

For more information about the Master’s in Applied Linguistics at Georgia State University:
Website: www.gsu.edu/alesl
Phone: 404-651-3650
Fax: 404-651-3652
E-mail: dbelcher1@gsu.edu (Dr. Diane Belcher)
Department of Applied Linguistics and ESL
Georgia State University
P.O. Box 4099
Atlanta, GA 30302-4099

In Georgia State University’s Master’s International Program in Applied Linguistics, you can earn both the experience of living overseas and a graduate degree in the booming fields of linguistics and English as a second or foreign language. You gain course credit through your experience in the Peace Corps, a solid background in second language acquisition and pedagogical techniques, and two years of teaching experience. After graduating, you can confidently enter the workforce with the combination of education and experience that employers seek. Some graduates begin teaching careers immediately in the United States and abroad; others pursue Ph.D. degrees.
The Master’s International Program prepares secondary and adult education ESL/EFL teachers seeking public school certification. The program consists of three main components and requirements.

1. Language requirement
   Participants in the master’s degree program must meet a foreign language requirement. For the Master’s International students, this requirement will be met by their Peace Corps experience.

2. Coursework
   Students are required to complete a minimum of 36 semester hours of coursework to earn the master’s degree. Georgia State University will allow students in the Master’s International program to continue coursework during Peace Corps service. Students register for one three-credit course per year.

   **Core Courses (21 credit hours)**
   - AL 8240 General Linguistics
   - AL 8230 Second Language Acquisition
   - AL 8130 Sound System of English
   - AL 8140 Intercultural Communication
   - AL 8430 Approaches to Teaching ESL/EFL
   - AL 8460 English Grammar for ESL/EFL Teachers
   - AL 8900 Practicum

   **Electives**
   Students may select at least four of the following special topic electives when they finish their Peace Corps service:
   - AL 8470 Sociolinguistics
   - AL 8480 Classroom Practices in Second Language Instruction
   - AL 8490 Second Language Reading: Theory and Practice
   - AL 8500 Pragmatics and Language Teaching

3. Master’s portfolio
   Students will negotiate their course work with their advisors and the Director of Graduate Studies before beginning Peace Corps service. Students can fulfill the Practicum requirement (AL 8900) and one elective course requirement during their Peace Corps service.

   It is expected that students will return to campus at the end of their Peace Corps service to finish the remainder of their degree requirements. Returned volunteers receive graduate assistantships with a stipend and tuition waiver.

   Students must submit a master’s portfolio with the approval of the department’s graduate faculty. The portfolio contains documentation of three components: classroom-based experience, professional development and a master’s paper. The master’s paper is an extension of a course paper or project in which students demonstrate the bridging of theory and practice. The portfolio represents work that students have completed over the course of their graduate studies.

**Admission to the Master’s International Program**
   To qualify, applicants must meet both Georgia State’s admission requirements and the requirements established by the Peace Corps for volunteer service. Applicants are encouraged to submit simultaneous applications to Georgia State and the Peace Corps, using the university’s admission deadline as their guide. In some cases, students already enrolled in their first semester of graduate study will be able to apply to the Peace Corps to participate in Master’s International. Minority participation in the program is encouraged.

**Requirements for admission to the MA program in Applied Linguistics at Georgia State:**

- Completed application form
- Bachelor’s degree with 3.0 GPA or higher (no prior study of linguistics or teaching experience required)
- Two copies of official transcripts from all colleges attended
- Official verbal, qualitative and analytic scores on the GRE
- A typed statement of professional and academic goals
- Three letters from academic references

**Students who participate in the MI Program can receive competitive out-of-state tuition waivers.**

**Department Faculty:**

- Diane Belcher (Ph.D., Ohio State University), Associate Professor: second language writing, language for specific purposes, computer mediated communication, qualitative research methodology
- Patricia Byrd (Ph.D., University of Florida), Professor: English grammar, materials design and development, Internet teaching, publication on the Internet, project and program administration
- Jodi Eisterhold (Ph.D., University of Florida), Assistant Professor: oral discourse analysis, sociolinguistics and pragmatics, qualitative research methodology, humor/sarcasm across cultures, ITA (International Teaching Assistants) training and development
- Nan Jiang (Ph.D., University of Arizona), Assistant Professor: psycholinguistics, second language acquisition
- Stephanie Lindemann (Ph.D., University of Michigan), Assistant Professor: sociolinguistics, language ideologies, native/non-native interaction, conversation analysis, language and identity, speech perception
- John M. Murphy (Ph.D., Teachers College of Columbia University), Professor: second language teacher education, approaches to second language teaching, classroom centered research, acquisition and teaching of second language phonology, teaching speaking for academic purposes
- Gayle L. Nelson (Ph.D., University of Minnesota), Chair: role of culture in second language acquisition, cross-cultural pragmatics, second language writing
- Lucy Pickering (Ph.D., University of Florida), Assistant Professor: intonation analysis; prosodic systems in discourse, ITA (International Teaching Assistants) and teacher training
- Sara Cushing Weigle (Ph.D., UCLA), Associate Professor: language assessment, second language writing, second language teacher education

Students in Fougamou, Gabon, a town in Central Africa where former volunteer Brad Hodges taught. Students in Lambaréné, Gabon, training site for former volunteer Brad Hodges, who is pursuing a master’s degree at Georgia State.