Service abroad, service at home. Engage with a community of RPCVs who are passionate about education.

Join the Peace Corps Fellowship Program and become a Jaffe Fellow.

Since 1985, the Peace Corps Fellows Program has supported Returned Peace Corps Volunteers as they become New York City public school teachers in high need schools while earning their master’s degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University.
Overview

The Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows participate in a rigorous and rewarding program that provides opportunities to both teach and learn with a cohort of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs.) The Jaffe Fellows return from service abroad to make a powerful impact on public school students in New York City. These dedicated individuals teach full-time in high need New York City schools while earning a master’s degree at Teachers College, Columbia University (TC).

Our mission is to recruit exceptional Returned Peace Corps Volunteers into the teaching profession, prepare them to excel in New York City's high need public schools, and support them to make long-term, professional commitments to public education.

The Peace Corps Fellows Program (PCFP) staff, mentors, alumni and RPCV classmates provide a supportive community as the Jaffe Fellows embrace the challenge of balancing both full-time teaching and graduate school classes. The PCFP was established in 1985 and has a 98% retention rate during the two years in which Fellows are teaching and studying for their master’s degrees at Teachers College (TC). Thousands of New York City students have benefitted from the nearly 800 Jaffe Fellows who bring both their global experience and Teachers College expertise to their classrooms.

As Jaffe Fellows have said, "If you think the Peace Corps was the only 'toughest job you'll ever love,' think again." The inherent challenges of conducting NYC teaching and graduate coursework at Teachers College necessitate strong executive functioning skills, enthusiasm and a lively sense of humor.

The Peace Corps Fellows Program is both grueling and exhilarating. Our program is designed to meet the challenges that new teachers face.
Commitment & Goals

Jaffe Fellows enjoy long and fruitful careers in education. They commit to teaching in high need NYC public schools for a minimum of three years. The Peace Corps Fellows staff, alumni network and TC Career Services Office provide assistance and support as the Jaffe Fellows’ procure teaching positions.

Fellows often choose to teach in schools that value their international experience and commitment to service, as well as their language and cross-cultural skills.

The goals of the Peace Corps Fellows Program:

To recruit vibrant and diverse cohorts of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers with unique international education and service experience to teach NYC students.

- To provide qualified, dedicated and innovative teachers of for high need public schools in New York City.
- To support a community of engaging RPCV urban educators who are addressing educational equity

Certification

Our mission is to support RPCVs as they teach in the following initial certification areas:

- Bilingual/Bicultural Education (Spanish/English or Mandarin/ English, Grades 1-6, 6-9 extension optional)
- English Education(Grades 7-12)
- Social Studies Education(Grades 7-12)
- Mathematics Education (Grades 7-12)
- Science Education (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science or Physics, Grades 7-12)
- Intellectual Disability/Autism (Grades 1-6)
Elementary Education (exclusively for those who are already certified in elementary education)

Recruitment

Our program is designed for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) who have demonstrated their commitment to service during their years in the Peace Corps. Fellows often have at least two years of experience in teaching, youth outreach, community development or related experience from their service as Peace Corps Volunteers.

Preparation

The Jaffe Fellows prepare for full-time teaching by participating in the Peace Corps Fellows Program three month Intensive Summer Institute (ISI) orienting them to urban education, in both theory and practice, through many dynamic and experiential activities.

Fellows observe, reflect and participate in New York City classrooms while immersing themselves in Teachers College coursework. The summer courses provide the opportunity for Fellows to analyze their own identities while envisioning what kind of educator they aspire to become.

The ISI courses are frequently taught by PCFP alumni. The topics that are covered provide opportunities to explore:

- Culturally relevant pedagogy
- Urban education
- Building and maintaining a positive classroom community
- Teaching students with different learning styles and abilities
- Engaging English language learners
- Lesson planning and assessment

For additional information and updates visit www.tc.columbia.edu/pcfellows/ - page 4
Our RPCV Community: As Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Jaffe Fellows may face unique challenges:

- Repatriation and relocation to New York City
- Teaching in high need urban schools
- Balancing full-time teaching with graduate studies
- Connecting Peace Corps experiences with new endeavors

Jaffe Fellows quickly become part of a close-knit community of PCFP alumni and staff who are experienced in the challenges of adjusting to teaching, studying at TC and living in NYC.

During the first two years of teaching, Jaffe Fellows meet monthly for seminars to extend their learning, share ideas, and visit different New York City educational and cultural institutions.

Teachers College Mentors: The Jaffe Fellows are each paired with a PCFP mentor who observes their teaching and meets with them at least ten times over the course of their first year and eight times during their second year to provide constructive feedback and professional support. Through the mentoring relationship, Jaffe Fellows are offered advice about establishing instructional priorities, implementing curriculum mandates, setting clear and realistic expectations and managing their time effectively between their work and scholarship. The mentors provide invaluable feedback about the Fellows’ current practices in the classroom as they help them become reflective practitioners with a professional vision.

The Reflective Practitioner: Throughout ISI and during their years at Teachers College, Fellows reflect on and extend their practice. Fellows create and revise their own teaching philosophy statements, discuss ideas and issues with other Fellows during monthly seminars, delve into their TC coursework, and collaborate with mentors. These experiences foster critical teaching skills, encourage progress, and build strong pedagogical foundations.
Benefits

The Jaffe Fellows receive Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Scholarships ranging from $15,000 to $32,000, covering 25%-50% of tuition. As full-time teachers of record, Fellows receive a starting teacher's salary of approximately $55,529 depending on experience and prior academic credits, full health coverage, pension benefits, and, upon completion of the master's degree, professional teaching credentials. Once the Jaffe Fellows earn a master’s degree, their salary rises to $63,733. New York State certification currently has reciprocity in 43 states.

There are also a number of professional benefits Fellows receive because of their enrollment in the PCFP: rigorous preparation, continued professional development at TC, a faculty advisor, one-on-one mentorship and support for two years, monthly seminars, and an alumni network of hundreds of Fellows who work in New York City schools.

History

We are proud to be the first Peace Corps Coverdell Fellows program in the nation. The Peace Corps Fellows Program was founded in 1985 to reduce the shortage of NYC public school teachers. Please watch this video about our Program’s early days. Teachers College has an extended history of working with governments and educational institutions around the world, including assisting in the creation of UNESCO after World War II and launching a teacher training program in East Africa that was the precursor to the Peace Corps. In the early 1960’s, many Peace Corps Volunteers trained at Teachers College before their service abroad began.

We have provided generous scholarships and support to over 730 public school teachers and educational leaders who have graduated from the program. For the past three decades, Peace Corps Fellows alumni have supported incoming Fellows by hosting them in their classrooms, providing advice and leading enriching workshops.
Program Team

The Peace Corps Fellows Program team consists of a Director and Program Assistant. With the Program Assistant’s support, the Director designs and runs the Intensive Summer Institute, operates social media accounts, oversees the admissions process, hosts the Fellows’ monthly seminars, coordinates the mentoring program, visits Fellows in their classrooms at least twice each year and is available for individual meetings with Fellows and alumni.

- **Elaine Perlman / Director**: A TC alumna, Elaine taught for 3 decades, including 6 years in Budapest. She advocates creating a warm classroom culture with ample room for the expression of the imagination. Elaine was a Dean, Admissions Director, mentor and school nutrition specialist. She is a middle school teacher at HEAF, Parents League advisor & painter of 4 school murals.

- **Alexandria Hill / Program Assistant**: Alexandria studies in the TC International Educational Development program and served as a PCV in Mongolia. She worked at the American University of Mongolia, Sesame Workshop’s International Planning and Programming and One To World. Alexandria is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education & Passports to Peace.

For additional information and updates visit www.tc.columbia.edu/pcfellows/ - page 7
Mentoring

Monthly mentoring is a key component of the Jaffe Fellows’ success in their classrooms. Strong and supportive mentoring has a direct correlation with the retention rate of new teachers.

Jaffe Fellows, both in their first and second year, are mentored by experienced practitioners. The PCFP mentors have demonstrated a commitment to education, the ability to communicate effectively, and knowledge of the specific content area.

The mentors are passionate about the professional development and growth of the Jaffe Fellows. Through the two year mentoring relationship, Fellows are offered individualized support and provided assistance with establishing instructional priorities, implementing curriculum mandates, and setting clear and realistic expectations for themselves as well as the students they serve. Mentors provide invaluable feedback that serves as an inspiration for the Jaffe Fellows to progress and excel.
Supporters

Since 1985, supporters of the Peace Corps Fellows Program have been instrumental in providing the resources for over 800 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to become educators. Because of their generosity, countless NYC students have benefitted from the opportunity to have a Fellow as a teacher.

Current Supporters:
Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe, Amity Buxton, and Mr. & Mrs. Albert Delacorte

Past Supporters:
Individual Supporters
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Sunshine and other individual supporters.

Corporate Supporters
JP Morgan Chase, Chemical Bank, NYNEX, Pfizer, Prudential and Xerox.

Foundation Sponsors
Neukom Family Foundation, New York City Department of Education, Dewitt Wallace (Reader's Digest), Hebrew Technical Institute, and the Rockefeller Family Foundation.

Federal Funding
Corporation for National and Community Service

Are You Interested in Supporting the Program?
To learn more about the program, volunteer your time, and/or visit our teachers at their schools, please contact the director, Elaine Perlman (Tel: 212-678-6622). For more information about any of the following giving opportunities, Nancy Vélez, Senior
Director of Major Gifts at (212) 678-3797. Please note that Teachers College's fiscal year runs September 1 through August 31.

**Most Common Ways to Make a Gift:**
Of the many ways to give to Teachers College, most donors choose cash and cash equivalents. Cash gifts can be given annually, as a one-time gift or as a gift pledged over a period of years.

**By Credit Card**

*Please feel free to visit our supporters page to make a swift and secure payment.*

A credit card gift to Teachers College is convenient and entitles you to the same income tax deduction as a gift of cash. To make your credit card gift, click here for your secure form or call us at 212-678-4067.

**By Check**

Your check should be made payable to Teachers College, Columbia University, and to be sure that it is properly credited, please note the purpose or designation of the gift in the memo section of the check or include a letter outlining the purpose of the gift. Mail checks to:

*Teachers College, Columbia University*  
*Box 306*  
*525 West 120th Street*  
*New York, NY 10027-6696*

**Tax Advantages**
A cash gift enables you to receive the most generous federal income tax charitable deduction which is up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

**Memorial or Tribute Gifts**
You can make a gift in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one. Teachers College will inform the individual or their family about your gift and how it will benefit the Peace Corps Fellows Program community.

**Matching Gifts**
If you or your spouse work for a company that makes corporate matching gifts, your contribution to TC can be doubled or even tripled. Contact your Human Resources Office to find out if they take part in a matching gift program.
Our Application Process

The Peace Corps Fellows Program at Teachers College seeks to attract candidates that feel inspired by our mission statement:

*To recruit exceptional Returned Peace Corps Volunteers into the teaching profession, prepare them to excel in New York City’s high need public schools, and support them to make long-term, professional commitments to public education.*

We are currently accepting applications for our 2019-2020 cohort. If you are dedicated to educational justice and equity and would like to join our community of educators, please consider applying and take a moment to complete our online survey below to receive information about the program. If you choose to apply, you can visit us online at [www.tc.columbia.edu/pcfellows/](http://www.tc.columbia.edu/pcfellows/) and complete the application and supplemental questions for the Peace Corp Fellows Program.

**Please note that you must have completed Peace Corps service to be eligible for this program.**

Applicants must apply online through the Teachers College application portal and complete both the Teachers College application, the Peace Corps Fellows Program supplementary application questions and GRE scores.

**Deadlines**

**Deadline for a mid-January Start Date:** November 1, 2018

**Programs with a January Start Date**
- Teaching of English (Grades 7-12)
- Teaching of Social Studies (7-12)
- Intellectual Disability/Autism (Grades 1-6)

**Deadline for a mid-May Start Date:** January 15, 2019

**Programs with a May Start Date**

- Teaching of English (Grades 7-12)
- Teaching of Social Studies (7-12)
- Intellectual Disability/Autism (Grades 1-6)
- Mathematics Education (Grades 7-12)
- Science Education (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science or Physics, Grades 7-12)
- Elementary Education (If the Fellow is already certified in elementary education)
- Bilingual/Bicultural Education (Mandarin/ English, Spanish/English, Grades 1-6, 6-9 extension optional)

**Peace Corps Fellows Program Supplementary Application**

The completed PCFP supplementary application includes:

- Peace Corps Fellows Applicant Information Form
- Peace Corps Description of Service (official, signed DOS)
- Peace Corps Fellows Essays
- After the TC application and **Peace Corps Fellows** supplementary materials have been reviewed, selected applicants will be contacted regarding individual interviews.

**The Interview Process**

The staff of the Peace Corps Fellows Program will interview selected applicants. Please bring your resume and any other supplementary materials you wish to share with your interviewers. As an applicant, you may be asked to do a school visit that typically consist of an applicant observing a current Fellow teaching and then interviewing with program staff. Interviews via Skype or other online conferencing services can be arranged for applicants who are unable to visit between September and February.
Financial Aid

- File the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2018-19 academic year
- Complete the Scholarship Application Form

For further details regarding the application process and requirements, please visit TC Admissions at http://www.tc.columbia.edu/admissions/apply/.

FAQs

If I already have valid teaching certification (in New York or other states), can I apply to the Peace Corps Fellows Program and pursue a master's degree in a different teaching area?

Yes, and you may be eligible to enter a professional certification track. Your course schedule may be somewhat different from other Fellows in your program.

If you have certification in elementary education, you may enter the professional certification program for elementary education.

What type of New York State certification will I obtain?

The Alternative Teacher Certification Program for the Peace Corps Fellows Program leads to a Transitional B Certificate that is valid for 3 years during which candidates are expected to complete their degree program and then apply for an Initial and then Professional certificate. The Initial certificate is valid for 5 years, with the same effective begin date as the Transitional B. In effect, the Initial Certificate would extend the candidate's eligibility to teach for 2 years beyond the Transitional B certificate.

Peace Corps Fellows are held to New York State standards, requiring the completion of the following:
• Three workshops: Child Abuse and Maltreatment, Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) and School Violence Prevention
• New York fingerprint clearance.
• Two written tests: Educating All Students (EAS) and the Content Specialty Test (CSTs)

The Peace Corps Fellows Program requires:
• 200 hours of pre-service preparation (ISI) and fieldwork observations
• Employment as a full-time teacher of record
• Completion of coursework leading to a master's degree from Teachers College within 3 years

Completion of the program leads to Initial Certification and then Professional Certification upon graduation.

Do I need to complete my Peace Corps service before becoming a Fellow?
To qualify for the Program, applicants must have satisfactorily completed their Peace Corps service and must meet the admissions requirements of Teachers College. A Volunteer is considered to have satisfactorily completed Peace Corps service if s/he:
has completed the full two-year tour of Peace Corps service, or the full tour minus up to 90 days, if returned home on emergency leave; has been granted an “Early Close of Service” or an “Interrupted Service” due to circumstances beyond the Volunteer’s control; or has been medically separated as a Volunteer.

How can I see the work of your teachers or learn about how your program works with your teachers?
We invite all applicants to inquire about scheduling a school visit with a Peace Corps Fellow who is teaching in the applicant’s content area. During this visit, the applicant will have the opportunity to ask the Fellow questions about the program, New York City Schools, time management, courses at Teachers College, and other areas of interest. Prospective students can also request to be e-introduced to current Jaffe Fellows.
Policies

The Peace Corps Fellows Program was established in 1985 to provide outstanding teachers for high need New York City public schools. Our policies are listed below.

Eligibility

Eligibility is dependent on acceptance to Teachers College, successful completion of Peace Corps Volunteer Service, a demonstrated commitment to public education, and other factors determined through the Peace Corps Fellows Program application. In addition, some academic programs have their own special admissions requirements such as minimum undergraduate credits in particular subject areas.

Non-discrimination Policy

Continuing its long-standing policy to support active equality for all persons, Teachers College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, disability or any other criterion specified by federal, state or local laws, in the administration of its admissions, employment and educational policies or scholarship, loan, athletic and other school-administered programs. Rather, Teachers College affirms that it admits students and selects employees regardless of their race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, disability, pregnancy and gender expression, or any other criterion specified by federal, state or local laws and thereafter accords them all the rights and privileges generally made available to students or employees at the school.
Students with concerns about the application of civil rights laws (including Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Age Discrimination Act) may wish to speak with the Office of the Vice Provost, 113 Zankel, (212) 678-3052, the Vice President for Diversity and Community Affairs, Janice Robinson, 128 Zankel, (212) 678-3391, or the Ombudsman, Erwin Flaxman, 280 Grace Dodge, (212) 678-4169.

Faculty and staff with concerns about the application of civil rights laws (including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Age Discrimination Act) may wish to speak with the Office of the Vice Provost, 113 Zankel, (212) 678-3052, the Office of Human Resources, 112 Zankel, (212) 678-3175, the Vice President for Diversity and Community Affairs, Janice Robinson, 128 Zankel, (212) 678-3391, or the Ombudsman, Erwin Flaxman, 280 Grace Dodge, (212) 678-4169.

Individuals with disabilities who seek reasonable accommodations or information concerning accommodations should contact the Office of Access and Services for Individuals with Disabilities (OASID), 166 Thorndike, (212) 678-3689 (voice/TTY).

Reasonable Accommodation and Member Safety

(a) The Program provides reasonable accommodations through the Teachers College Office of Access and Services for Individuals with Disabilities, which ensures that programs and services at TC are physically, programmatically, and attitudinally accessible to individuals with disabilities. Equal access is achieved through individualized responses addressing the needs of individuals with conditions including but not limited to vision, hearing or mobility impairments, medical conditions or learning disabilities that affects one or more academic activities. A full-time Director of Access and Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Program Director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Assistant Director are available to meet with students, arrange accommodations, and advocate on behalf of students with disabilities. For more information call 212-678-3689, 212-678-3853 (TTY).

(b) The Program ensures member safety safeguards while Members are participating on campus through Teachers College’s full service proprietary Office of Public Safety, whose mission is to provide a safe and secure environment. Public Safety staff members operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week providing security at both the
academic and the residential buildings on campus. The Public Safety Central Information Center (CIC) is located in the Whittier Hall lobby. The phone number for the CIC is 212.678.3220. The Program also verifies the existence of safety safeguards at Members' service site.

Reapplying

Applicants who wish to reapply may do so for the following year. The applicant may choose to reapply with the original application or may opt to send in updated materials. All applicants who wish to reapply must contact the Peace Corps Fellows Program and speak to the Director, Elaine Perlman.
Enrichment Grants

Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Enrichment Grants 2018-2019

The Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows Program Enrichment Grants are available to all current Peace Corps Fellows and program alumni currently teaching in New York City public schools. This year, the Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Service-Learning Grants will provide funding for the following endeavors:

- Service-Learning
- Enrichment Experiences

(Please visit us online for a link to the grant application.)

Grant Applications have a rolling deadline and can be sent to:

Elaine Perlman, Director
Peace Corps Fellows Program
Teachers College, Columbia University
525 West 120th Street, Zankel 411
New York, NY 10027

Should you further questions, please contact us at esp2012@tc.edu.
Contact Information

The Peace Corps Fellows Program
Teachers College, Columbia University
525 W. 120th St.
Box 90
New York, NY 10027

Location : Zankel Building 411

Phone: (212) 678-6622

Elaine Perlman, Director
esp2012@tc.columbia.edu