

Peace Corps internship

Grad credit offered

By PAUL BARTON
Texas A&M University and the Peace Corps have established an internship program that allows graduate students in A&M's College of Agriculture to earn college credit while serving as Peace Corps volunteers.

Dwight Linsley, Texas A&M's Peace Corps coordinator, says the program is "geared primarily" for students working on a master's of agriculture degree, since they are required to perform some kind of internship anyway. But he adds that master's and doctoral candidates can also take advantage of the program, using the internship to conduct necessary research.

Linsley says students have been interested in a way to earn college credit in the Peace Corps for a long time. "The Peace Corps cannot give college credit," he says. "The only way Peace Corps volunteers can earn college credit is through cooperation between the Peace Corps and the university. This program is an answer to that problem."

While serving as regular Peace Corps volunteers, interns will work on projects designed in cooperation with their faculty advisers. For example, Linsley says a food technology professor and a student intern might share an interest in studying human sorghum consumption in Africa, since sorghum is eaten mainly by animals in the United States. In particular, they would be interested in how it is prepared and the menus it is used in.

"Ideally," says Linsley, "the adviser and his graduate student would have a well-defined interest in a problem and a place where the problem could best be studied."

While the intern is abroad he will send back monthly reports to his adviser on how the project is coming. Linsley says that if it becomes necessary for the professor to make an on-site inspection of the intern's work, the Peace Corps will pay the transportation costs.

Once the idea for the internship is developed, it must be approved by the Dean of the College of Agriculture, the Dean of the Graduate College, the Peace Corps office in Washington and representatives of the host country.

Since selected students will be serving as regular Peace Corps volunteers in addition to working on their internships, Linsley says they will be expected to stay in the Peace Corps for a full two years even if their project is completed in shorter time.

Interns will receive all regular Peace Corps benefits, including a monthly living allowance and readjustment allowance when they return to the United States. In addition, they may be able to earn additional college credit by taking courses at foreign universities that are accredited in the United States. Before going abroad, however, they will be required to finish all of their regular classroom work at

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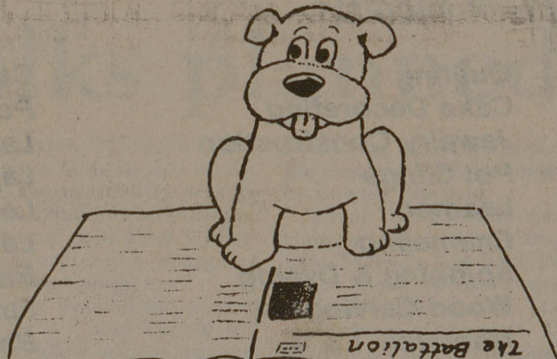
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