



Peace Corps: How to apply, what to expect, and how the experience can lead to future success

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21 • 5:30 PM • VIRTUAL • REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/3DB1JTF>

This event will inform UNM Students and others about Peace Corps. Panelists will discuss the application process, the program offered through UNM to give them help and an advantage in the application process, and will expose the audience to UNM alumni who participated in the program. The event will give attendees a chance to understand how to do it, what it is like and what are the benefits of the program both personally and professionally.



David Abundis (moderator and Peace Corps Diversity Recruiter for New Mexico and West Texas) was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois and graduated with a BA in Secondary Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has experience working with youth as an educator in and out of the classroom and served with Peace Corps - Panama from 2018-2020 as Teaching English Leadership and Life skills volunteer. In his free time, you will catch him journaling, watching his Chicago sports teams, listening to music, reading, and jogging. David is excited to work with communities of New Mexico and West Texas, and to see the beautiful sunsets of the southwest that he's seen in pictures!



Adrian Avila has over 10 years of experience working directly with diverse populations around the world. His prior work includes addressing child trauma in the non-incorporated colonies on the US-Mexico borderland, empowering the refugee population of New Mexico to be self-sufficient, and has served as a community health specialist in Dominican Republic on behalf of the United States Peace Corps (PCDR). Furthermore, he helped found the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for PCDR and served as its Coordinator for a time. Currently, Adrian serves on the board of directors for the Dual Language Education of New Mexico non-profit organization, is the Chairman of the Sigma Chi Fraternity's Health, Safety, and Wellbeing committee, is an Analyst for the NM Legislature and has been working as an educator at Truman Middle School since 2018. Adrian obtained a B.A. in History w/ a minor in International Management and a B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Statistics from UNM. He also has a Masters of Science in Management of Bioeconomy, Innovation, and Governance.



Chen-Lun "Jason" Chang serves as a Program Analyst with the International Programs Division on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) by providing access to NRCS's technical expertise to address responsible natural resource management; scientific and technical exchange; contributing to U.S. foreign policy which promotes economic stability, reduce poverty, and solve world food problems; and provide opportunities to broaden and increase the technical knowledge and professional capability of NRCS personnel. He represents the agency in planning foreign assistance programs with other agencies; and develops and maintains cooperative relationships with federal, state, and private agencies. Jason holds a M.A. degree in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management in Waltham, Massachusetts at Brandeis University and a B.A. degree in political science and a minor in business management from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.



Mayeen Mohammedi served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in The Gambia, West Africa from 2017-2019. Deeply interested in human rights, Mayeen worked on issues such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, and girls' education in the village of Gambisara. She also served as President of the diversity & inclusion committee at Peace Corps The Gambia, sparking unprecedented conversations about immigration, colonization, race, and privilege within the Volunteer community. After her service, Mayeen worked in public information and communications at the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. She also served as an Anti-Racism fellow with the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative and as a Citizen Historian with the 1947 Partition Archive, a nonprofit organization which documents eyewitness accounts from the partition of India. She now works for the Peace Corps, serving as a Country Desk Officer for the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region. Currently, Mayeen is pursuing her international law degree from the University of London and hopes to one day prosecute war criminals at the International Court of Justice. She enjoys traveling, stargazing, collecting currency and postcards, studying geography, and meeting people from across the globe.



Michele Cruz served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Fiji from 2017-2020. A graduate of the University of New Mexico, she has 10 years of experience working in the public health sector of nonprofit organizations. She currently lives in Boston, Massachusetts, where she works for a behavioral health agency managing HIV prevention programming for at-risk youth in marginalized communities.



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