

## Peace Corps Application Tips: The Motivation Statement

In addition to your resume, your motivation statement is an important part of your application. It helps Peace Corps staff learn more about who you are and what brings you to this opportunity. Each applicant has a unique background and story to tell, which is why this aspect of the application can be so useful.

To help you get started writing your motivation statement, please refer to the following prompt, which is taken directly from the Peace Corps application:

*“Peace Corps service presents major physical, emotional, and intellectual challenges. Please provide a few paragraphs explaining your reasons for wanting to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer and how you plan to overcome the various challenges associated with Peace Corps service.”*

*We will use this writing sample to assess your professionalism and maturity as a candidate. Please spend time editing your motivation statement. We recommend that you draft it in a separate document and cut and paste it into the box below. (4,000 characters, or approximately 500 words)”*

**Be comprehensive.** You will notice that the prompt presents two central points. First, your reasons for wanting to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Second, how you plan to overcome the various challenges associated with Peace Corps service. Make sure to thoroughly address both points in your motivation statement.

**Use your creativity.** Tell your story and share your ideas in a format that feels the most comfortable for you. Authenticity and honesty will serve you well.

**Proofread and edit.** Your motivation statement is part of your overall first impression as an applicant, so make sure it is well written and free of any spelling or grammar mistakes.

If you’re feeling unsure about where to begin, consider some of the following questions and work them into your motivation statement. These specific questions are not required or expected to be answered; they are simply offered to help you begin reflecting on your motivations for service.

- In what moment did you decide to apply to Peace Corps?
- What skills do you have that support the program or sector you’re interested in?
- How do you plan to manage the emotional, physical, and intellectual challenges you may face in Peace Corps?
- Has anyone helped you get to this point in your life and why is that important?