The History and Scope of Our Program

Florida Tech’s Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program began in 1999, and was originally called the Graduate Environmental Fellows Program (GEFP). Florida Tech was the first university to develop a program with the Peace Corps focusing on the Environment. With the expansion of the program and the addition of graduate degree programs in education in 2004, the program became the Graduate Environmental and Teacher Education Fellows Program (GETEFP). The Peace Corps web site now includes the original Environmental degree programs (GEFP) and newly added Teacher Education degree programs (GTEFP) as two separate Fellows/USA Programs, even though Florida Tech does not separate the two programs. In 2007, we added a M.S. in Meteorology to our program offerings. As the program continues to develop, we hope to expand the number and type of degrees offered.

Program Description

Masters degree programs in the Graduate Environmental and Teacher Education Fellows/USA Program are two year programs (minimum) designed for returning Peace Corps volunteers with Bachelor’s coursework and Peace Corps experience in an environmentally and/or educationally related area. In addition, advanced graduate degree programs are at a minimum three year programs designed for returning Peace Corps volunteers with Masters coursework and Peace Corps experience in a relevant area. This Program offers degrees in four environmental areas (i.e., science, engineering, management and education), as well as four areas of education (i.e., science, mathematics, environmental education and computer/instructional technology education). This Program combines coursework in a selected M.S. or advanced graduate degree program and related internship experience with a partnering institution in the region. Regional partners include Federal, State, regional and county environmental agencies; county school districts; private scientific and educational institutions; and conservation organizations. The end-of program requirement (i.e., M.S.: Thesis, Non-Thesis Project, Capstone Internship; Ph.D.: Dissertation) may be completed with a cooperating partner.

Degrees Awarded

Master of Science (M.S.) in environmentally-related degree programs:

- Biological Science (Options in Ecology and Marine Biology)
- Chemical Engineering (Emphasis in Environmental Engineering)
- Civil Engineering (Option in Water Resources)
- Environmental Education
- Environmental Science
- Environmental Resource Management
- Meteorology
- Ocean Engineering
- Oceanography (Options in Biological, Chemical, Geological and Physical Oceanography, and Coastal Zone Management)
- Science Education (Emphasis in Life, Earth and Environmental Science)
**Master’s Degree Programs in Education (M.S./MAT):**
- Science Education (Options in Biology, Earth Science or Environmental Science)
- Mathematics Education
- Environmental Education
- Computer Education (Options in Computer Science Certification, and Instructional Technology)
- Master of Arts in Teaching, (MAT), for those seeking a teaching certificate, and a Graduate Certificate program leading to professional certification in Florida.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees:**
- Biological Science
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Ocean Engineering
- Oceanography
- Science Education
- Mathematics Education

Other advanced graduate degrees awarded: *Education Specialist (Ed.S.)*, and *Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)*.

**Program Requirements**

All of the above Masters degree programs require a Bachelors degree in a related field, with a GPA of 3.0 or above. All of the above Ph.D. programs require a Masters degree in a related field, with a GPA of 3.2 or above. Applicants are required to submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Admissions: a completed application form, official transcripts for all college/university coursework, a resume, a Description of Service (DOS), a Statement of Objectives, and three Letters of Recommendation. Most Masters and Doctoral degree programs also require GRE scores (i.e., with the exception of the education degree programs). Admission is competitive.

Once you are admitted to the graduate degree program of your choice you are automatically deemed a Fellow. There is no additional application or selection process. You can matriculate (begin) at any time within the next two years. Fellows will be given priority when outside funding opportunities for the program occur.

**Program Benefits**

Starting August 2004, Fellows enrolled in a graduate degree program in the Science and Mathematics Education Department will receive a 1/3 reduction in tuition. For Fellows enrolled in GEFTEP degree programs in other departments, tuition and stipend support will remain contingent upon fund-raising efforts. Ideally, those efforts would raise sufficient program funds to provide each Fellow with a 90 percent tuition waiver and a stipend commensurate with university Teaching (GSA) and Research (GRA) Assistants. Until such program funding is secured, Fellows must rely on other sources of financial support.
Funding opportunities include:
- Graduate Teaching and Research Assistantship positions (Please note that the availability of positions varies between departments. They are common in departments like Biology and DMES, and more limited in the Education department)
- 3/4 or full-time staff positions on campus come with tuition benefits ([http://www.fit.edu/hr](http://www.fit.edu/hr))
- Scholarship and fellowship support offered by the university (e.g. University Graduate Scholarships) and by individual departments (e.g., the Link Fellowship in DMES)
- Competitive fellowship programs outside the university
- Part- or full-time employment/internships outside the university (e.g. St. John's River Water Management District, Marine Resources Council, Brevard County Public Schools). Students can browse available positions in the area at Florida Tech’s College Central ([http://www.fit.edu/career](http://www.fit.edu/career))
- Federal loans are offered through the university's Office of Financial Aid ([http://www.fit.edu/financialaid](http://www.fit.edu/financialaid))

Application Information

All graduate degree programs require an application (which can be downloaded from the university web site), official transcripts, a resume, a statement of objectives (how this degree will build on prior study and experience, and help you with future plans), a minimum of three recommendations (e.g., college profs, Peace Corps, or employers), your DOS and, as appropriate, GRE scores. You can complete and file an application on-line and download copies of the transcript request and reference forms at [http://www.fit.edu/admission/graduate/index.html](http://www.fit.edu/admission/graduate/index.html).

Please be certain to have all application materials mailed to:

Office of Graduate Admissions
Florida Institute of Technology
150 W. University Boulevard
Melbourne, FL 32901

Contact:
Dr. Tom Marcinkowski
Science and Math Education Dept.
Florida Institute of Technology
150 W. University Boulevard
Melbourne, FL 32901-6975
Phone: (321) 674-8946
Fax: (321) 674-7598
E-Mail: marcinko@fit.edu

website -- [http://www.fit.edu](http://www.fit.edu)
Additional Links

Peace Corp’s Websites

General Information about Peace Corp’s Fellows Programs
http://www.peacecorps.gov/fellows

Florida Tech’s Graduate Environmental Fellows Program
http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=learn.whyvol.eduben.schoo ls.school_detail&coll_program_id=9249&ptc=F

Florida Tech’s Graduate Teacher Education Fellows Program
http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=learn.whyvol.eduben.schoo ls.school_detail&coll_program_id=9671&ptc=F

Florida Tech Websites

University web site
http://www.fit.edu

On-line University Catalog
http://www.fit.edu/catalog

College of Engineering and College of Science programs
http://www.fit.edu/academics/colleges.html

Department of Science and Mathematics Education Graduate programs
http://cos.fit.edu/education/grad/graduate.html