

Secondary Education English Teacher



Project Description

Peace Corps Education Volunteers are placed in schools in all of Namibia's 13 regions. Volunteers teach in upper primary, junior secondary (middle school) or senior secondary (high school) schools. Volunteers are placed in a variety of school settings, such as schools with few physical resources, in remote settings, or with a shortage of qualified teachers. Invitees should come prepared to accept any assignment, in schools that differ greatly in terms of their resource availability. To ensure sustainability, Peace Corps/Namibia would ideally want each Volunteer to have a counterpart who is teaching the same subject as them. However, due to the shortage of teachers, they might find themselves teaching without a counterpart, but with the support of their school supervisor.

Work Hours

Peace Corps is a 24/7 job. Thus, the work of a Peace Corps Volunteer does not end when they leave school for the day. As cultural ambassadors, Volunteers still carry the responsibility of their commitment to service during their off-hours and free time. The Namibian school calendar runs from January – December with three terms a year delineated by official breaks in May, August, and December. Please note that Volunteers are not allowed to take vacation during the school term.

Although schools have set hours, a Volunteer's daily schedule may vary significantly due to evening and weekend activities. A typical work day would be from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, but would often include afterschool activities.

Some sites will be in regional capitals, though the majority will be in communities and villages within an hour of a regional capital. Public transportation to/from regional capitals may be on a limited schedule. Volunteers also have the opportunity to work with schools, youth groups, community groups, and non-governmental organizations (NGO) on secondary projects.

Volunteers will be serving in one of the Peace Corps countries participating in Let Girls Learn, an important agency initiative promoting gender awareness and girls' education and empowerment. Volunteers will receive in-depth training on incorporating gender analysis into community assessment and development efforts.

Volunteers will be encouraged to find culturally appropriate ways to incorporate gender awareness and the promotion of youth, especially girls, into their work and report on these efforts and their impact.

Required Skills

Competitive candidates will meet or exceed the following criteria:

- BA/BS degree in any discipline and a strong desire to teach English

Desired Skills

Experience in the following areas preferred:

- Ability to research, design, and deliver instructional materials
- Experience working with youth and adult learners in any leadership capacity
- Experience working in classrooms, particularly at the secondary or adult level
- At least 3 months, 10 hours/month, or 30 hours of English, foreign language, or tutoring experience with primary, middle, or high school students or adults

The most competitive candidates will have, and continue to gain, hands-on experience related to teaching English, TEFL, or ESL.

Required Language Skills

There are no pre-requisite language requirements for this position. Please take a moment to explore the Language Comments section below to find out more on how local language(s) will be utilized during service.

Additional Language Information

English is the official national language and the medium of instruction, but Namibia also has 28 local languages, which vary greatly in degree of difficulty. Connection to the people of Namibia is found through language, and language learning takes deep commitment in Namibia. Successful Volunteers will be dedicated to ongoing language learning for the duration of their service.

Living Conditions

While Namibia's highest elevation is only around 8,500 feet, the higher altitude areas of the country are noticeable. Those who struggle in higher altitude environments should be aware.

Namibia is on the confluence of two deserts—the Namib and the Kalahari—and temperatures can exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit during certain times of the year. Staying hydrated and finding ways to stay cool without the advantage of air conditioning and—for most Volunteers—electricity is important to maintaining good health.

In the first six weeks of their service, every Volunteer will live with a Namibian host family. This experience will firstly present them an opportunity to connect on a personal level with at least one family in their community and will secondly help introduce them to the larger community. In very rare cases the host family may not have all the facilities required to host them for the entire duration of their training. Should this be the case, alternate

accommodation will be arranged with another host family.

Housing conditions vary according to the resources of the area. Volunteers may be living in traditional or more modern, western style housing. Most have no running water or electricity.

Peace Corps will provide Volunteers with a modest monthly living allowance. The Ministry or the hosting agencies to which Volunteers are assigned are usually responsible for paying monthly utilities and providing basic furniture (such as a bed, table, chairs, etc...). In addition, the Ministry of Education often provides block housing, i.e., one of five flats in a common building. Education Volunteers may share a site with another Volunteer and may even share housing.

Basic foodstuffs can be bought in most communities, with a wide variety of items available in the larger towns. Most of Namibia is sparsely populated with vast expanses punctuated by urban areas.

Through inclusive recruitment and retention of staff and Volunteers, the Peace Corps seeks to reflect the rich diversity of the United States and bring diverse perspectives and solutions to development issues. Additionally, ensuring diversity among staff and Volunteers enriches interpersonal relations and communications for the staff work environment, the Volunteer experience, and the communities in which Volunteers serve. Our definition of diversity can include, but is not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender identity, age, religion, education, ability, and more.

Volunteers who are of an American racial, ethnic, or national minority or whose religious or spiritual beliefs differ from the majority of their country of service may find they experience a high degree of curiosity or unwanted attention from host country nationals. Please be aware that American concepts of politeness and appropriate behavior are not universal. Ethnically, nationally, or racially diverse Americans may be asked where they are “actually from” or if they are “really” American. Many Volunteers have been able to turn these encounters into learning experiences, share American values, and deepen local community members’ understanding of Americans.

Medical Considerations in Namibia

- Namibia may not be able to support Volunteers with the following medical conditions: ongoing behavioral health support.
- The following medication(s) are not permitted for legal or cultural reasons: Adderall and Vyvanse.
- Volunteers who should avoid the following food(s) may not be able to serve: none identified.
- After arrival in Namibia, Peace Corps provides and applicants are required to have an annual flu shot, to take daily or weekly medication to prevent malaria, and to receive mandatory immunizations.

Before you apply, please also review [Important Medical Information for Applicants](#) (PDF) to learn about other health conditions typically not supported in Peace Corps service.

Does this sound like the position for you? Applying to the Peace Corps is easy. [Read more about the process](#) or click the button below to get started on your journey.

