



“Bard CEP made my unique Peace Corps assignment possible. The classes truly prepared me to demonstrate the importance of sound environmental policy to diverse audiences, and provided me with the skills I needed to incorporate various institutions and stakeholders into community-wide environmental programs.”

—John Stapleton MS '09; RPCV, El Salvador '06 – '08; Legacy Club Donor Relations Manager, The Nature Conservancy

The Master's International (MI) Program offers qualified candidates the opportunity to incorporate the internationally focused, hands-on experience of Peace Corps service into one of the Bard Center for Environmental Policy (CEP) master's degrees: MS in environmental policy or MS in climate science and policy.

Through Bard's MI Program, future Peace Corps volunteers gain valuable skills before starting their overseas assignment. The critical thinking, reasoning, and practical skills acquired at Bard, in addition to the themes and concepts learned, prepare MI students for meaningful service work, benefiting both the host community and the student.

MI students graduate from Bard with a master's degree in either climate science and policy or environmental policy and enter the job market with the unique combination of an advanced degree plus two years of professional experience in an international setting. Peace Corps volunteers have the added benefit of receiving a stipend upon completion of service and one year of noncompetitive status to apply for federal jobs.

Why Bard

- Interdisciplinary course work
- Critical inquiry from local to global perspectives
- Integration of natural and social sciences
- Exceptional faculty of experts and practitioners
- Focused research opportunities
- Close mentoring of student career preparations
- Hands-on international environmental work experience

Pioneering Curriculum Design

The Bard CEP curriculum integrates the core disciplines of science, policy, law, and economics into a cohesive and comprehensive first year of graduate course work. Through close collaboration with faculty and an innovative program of study, students learn to think across disciplines to understand the complexities of today's environmental problems and challenges. In addition to projects assigned in each course, students work with a professional writing instructor throughout the first year to hone their writing skills.

Focused Peace Corps Assignment

After successfully completing the first-year curriculum from one of the Bard CEP degree programs, MI students commence their Peace Corps service, a life-defining leadership experience. Before departure, students meet with their Bard CEP academic adviser to outline a communication plan for the 27-month period of service. The Peace Corps aims to assign students to areas that best match their skills with the needs of the communities in which they will serve. Upon starting their assignment, students work with their adviser to develop a master's thesis topic and plan the necessary field research.

Upon completion of their service overseas, MI students return for the second year of instruction at Bard and work on the master's thesis and are eligible for a CEP fellowship of at least \$10,500. A signed copy of the Description of Service is required to guarantee the fellowship. Assignments for Bard MI students include:

- Coastal-resource management
- Protected-areas management
- Ecotourism and economic development
- Agroforestry
- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable development
- Environmental education

Cutting-Edge Degree Programs

MS in Environmental Policy

The Bard CEP curriculum integrates the core disciplines of science, policy, law, and economics into a consistent and comprehensive first year of graduate course work. Through close collaboration with faculty and an innovative program of study, students learn to think across disciplines to understand the complexities of today's environmental problems and challenges. Courses delve simultaneously into curricular themes to provide students with a deep understanding of the issues from multiple perspectives and at the same time highlight linkages and divisions across disciplines. This holistic approach to learning illuminates integral connections between the social world and the physical sciences, and encourages students to incorporate various perspectives and ideologies into their work. The program focuses on

the following themes: Foundations and General Concepts, Air and Atmosphere, Risk and Uncertainty, Biodiversity, Water, Terrasphere, Agriculture, Energy, Industrial Ecology, and Urban Environments.

MS in Climate Science and Policy

First-year courses focus on the interplay between climate science and solutions. The program trains future policy leaders to guide critical greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation efforts, working in business, government, and NGOs. Students develop specific expertise in the development and deployment to scale of clean energy technologies and the interaction of ecosystems, agriculture, and climate. Joint class sessions, field trips, guest lectures, and conferences expose students to the critical issues and practices of climate-change science and current policy issues. Policy experts and natural and social scientists have designed the curriculum for students to gain the sophisticated graduate-level training in policy solutions demanded by employers today. The program focuses on the following themes: Climate Science, Ecosystem and Agricultural Sciences, Energy Conservation and Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Clean Technology, Global Food Security, Life Cycle Analysis, Carbon Sequestration and Offset Projects, Carbon Markets and Incentives, U.S. Legislative Process and Climate, International Negotiations and Development, and Regional Impacts and Adaptation Strategies.

Flexible Thesis Research

The master's thesis is the student's chance to specialize and to create an original body of work, usually linked to some aspect of the Peace Corps experience, with practical applications to environmental policy or climate-change issues. MI theses reflect the multifaceted nature of international environmental issues while integrating aspects of the natural and social sciences and humanities in the policy-making process.

Graduate theses, which range greatly depending on the student's interest, may fall into such categories as water resources, wildlife and biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention, environmental and social justice, preservation of natural resources, economic growth and sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, national environmental agendas, climate change and energy policy, and international environmental policy.

Learn from the Best Faculty

The Bard CEP faculty consists of a distinguished core of full-time and affiliated members who are eminent experts and researchers in diverse fields relating to environmental and climate policy and current practices. The high ratio of faculty to students allows for close rapport and individualized guidance.

Join an Exceptional Student Cohort

Our students come from a variety of academic disciplines, and they bring to Bard a passion about their future role as environmental leaders. Although each class is diverse in both background and interests, all students share a common purpose—to understand the complexity of environmental problems, and work toward finding viable and sustainable solutions to tomorrow's environmental challenges.

Admission

Early Deadline: January 15, 2013

Regular Deadline: March 15, 2013

Final Deadline: May 15, 2013

Bard CEP seeks motivated students who are dedicated to becoming leaders in the field of environmental policy. Students are accepted into the graduate program based on an assessment of various components: record of academic achievement, letters of reference, work and career experiences, volunteer activities, and professional goals. Quantitative literacy is required. It is recommended that students apply to graduate school before applying to the Peace Corps. Once accepted, students should commence the Peace Corps application process right away as a Master's International candidate. Depending on how long that takes, the nomination and placement process will happen during the first year of study at Bard.

Bard CEP Degree Options

MS in Environmental Policy

MS in Climate Science and Policy

Dual MS and JD with Pace Law School

Dual MS and MAT

Dual MS and MBA in Sustainability

The 3+2 Program for Undergraduates

Peace Corps Master's International Program

Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program

Professional Certificate

Contact us or visit us to learn more! We hold open houses every fall and spring in Annandale as well as online information sessions throughout the year.