

PEACE CORPS MASTERS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AS PART OF GRADUATE NATURAL HAZARDS RESEARCH PROGRAM. W. I. Rose, Michigan Technological University, Geological Engineering & Sciences, Houghton, MI 49931 USA (raman@mtu.edu; 906 487 2367)

Our graduate program in natural hazards has always emphasized field research and remote sensing and we have focused on Central American field sites, where natural hazards are conspicuous and logistics are uncomplicated. The Peace Corps program seeks volunteers for two years of field duty. Our program places PC students in sites where they can work on natural hazards at sites within or near hazards zones in cooperation with local natural hazards personnel. At present, the fourth year of the program, we have 19 students with PC associations and about 30 graduate students overall in natural hazards. Some of the PC students are on campus and many are at field sites in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Phillipines. The field based students act as field bases for research activities for the larger group of MS and Ph D students at MTU who are also working on hazards problems. There are also many field collaborations with scientists from all over the world who visit and do collaborative science projects. We also incorporate internships from undergraduate students. The Peace Corps students are embedded in rural communities and can do social research on hazards perception, oral history and environmental education as well as scientific work. We also have built strong collaborative relationships with hazards agencies in all host countries. The three-year MS program gives students important international and cultural experiences in addition to great access to hazards problems. They have two full years in the field, funded by PC. Overall the association of PC with our graduate program has made our program grow substantially, and we have gained major NSF PIRE funding for the program under the title "Remote Sensing for Hazards Mitigation and Resource Protection in Pacific Latin America" which provides basic funding for the PC students while on campus and for many additional graduate students and undergraduates. The program is expected to continue to grow as more faculty become involved as advisors.

Additional Information: The following websites give more information about this program:

<http://www.geohazards.mtu.edu/>

<http://www.geo.mtu.edu/rs4hazards/>