**PCMI Program Design and Facilitation**

The PCMI program is designed to ‘fit’ within existing Master of Science degree tracks, predominately as non-thesis master students. Peace Corps service is embedded within the degree track, so integrating the two areas is vital in providing the best experience for our students. The key players in this process are the MI Program coordinator, the Peace Corps recruiter, the departmental graduate coordinators, and the major advisor and supervisory committee.

Initially students contact the MI coordinator and set up a phone interview or face-to-face office visit. The coordinator provides additional background about the program, Peace Corps, and helps the students identify departments that best fit their interests and background. The student then applies to graduate school, adhering to the same standards for regular graduate admission. Once the application has been submitted and accepted by the department, the graduate coordinator will help identify potential advisors. Ideally advisors will be persons with international experience and/or a keen interest in international development. The students then meet with his/her advisor, selects a committee, schedules courses, and begins their degree program. Eventually we hope the students will meet with potential advisors prior to application, so this process is streamlined.

Once enrolled in a graduate program and taking their first semester courses, the student will meet with the Peace Corps recruiter to begin the process of PC application, designating the Masters International Program. To enroll as a MI applicant, the student must provide a letter from the university, which the coordinator will generate, denoting their acceptance into graduate studies at UF. The students will typically take two semesters – fall and spring (~24 credits), then leave for their Peace Corps service which is 27 months. Upon completion of their PC service, the students will return for a final semester to complete coursework, and other requirements of the committee/department.