

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD)

Scholarship Program

The Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD) is a non-profit organization in the United States of America. Former Peace Corps Volunteers and staff who served in the Philippines founded the organization in 1983. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors based in Washington, DC with board members in the United States and the Philippines. The Vice President for Philippine Operations and the Ituloy Team - a group of PCAFPD scholar alumni - administer the program in Manila.

The PCAFPD offers a Scholarship Program aimed to contribute to the development of the Philippines by supporting the continuing education of Filipino professionals who are committed to community service in the Philippines, and who otherwise would not be able to afford further studies. The program is supported by former Volunteers and staff, their families and friends, and Filipino-American organizations and individuals. Since its founding, the Foundation has supported the undergraduate education of over 200 Filipinos who have gone on to successful careers in both public and private sectors in the Philippines. A few of these PCAFPD alumni went to graduate school and were further supported by the Foundation. Starting in 2019, the Foundation is pleased to open up its scholarship program to the public, not just former alumni, to support graduate students.

Application for Graduate Studies

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a scholarship you MUST:

- Be a citizen of the Republic of the Philippines.
- Have completed an undergraduate degree.
- Have at least one (1) year of professional work experience.
- Have a record of strong academic performance.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Have performed volunteer community service work.
- Be committed to serving your community and/or country, *in the Philippines*, following your graduation from college.
- Pass any qualifying tests for the school or program to which you are applying before the scholarship is granted. You may apply for the scholarship before taking the exam, but it is your responsibility to register for and pass the exam.
- Generally, you may not accept any other scholarships in conjunction with a PCAFPD scholarship *without* prior approval of the PCAFPD Board of Directors. In some cases, PCAFPD may award a scholarship to a student who has been awarded another scholarship. You must include a statement explaining your further need for financial support beyond the funding you have already secured. Failure to inform PCAFPD of a concurrent scholarship award will result in immediate termination of the PCAFPD scholarship.

Please note the following:

- This scholarship is not intended for people planning to work overseas. Scholars are expected to contribute to their communities and country by working *in the Philippines* after graduation.
- Applicants proposing fields of study with high potential to contribute to Philippine development will be given priority.
- Priority may be given to applicants who:
 - propose to study at a state (public) college or university
 - demonstrate a strong academic history
 - demonstrate the greatest financial need

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Scholarship Benefits

- Scholars are provided funding to fully cover tuition and fees associated with their chosen course of study.
- Non-working students are eligible for a contribution to cover their living expenses. Working graduate students need to demonstrate their need for assistance with living expenses in order to be considered for this benefit.
- In addition to tuition and fees, scholars can avail of up to PhP10,000 in support of their thesis. Prior to receiving their funding, they must submit a funding proposal to the Vice President of Philippines Operations.

Scholarship Obligations

- Maintain a full load of courses (unless approved for part-time attendance).
- Complete their degree within the duration prescribed by the college/university. Students who are approved for part time studies should complete their studies no more than one and a half times of the duration of the graduate degree. For example, a part-time student should complete a 2-year degree within three years.:-
- Earn passing grades.
- Submit grades at the end of *each* semester.
- Submit an essay at the end of *each* semester describing and reflecting on your experiences during the semester.
- Maintain regular communication with PCAFPD/Manila office.
- *Request prior approval* before changing course of study or transferring to another school. Such changes are not generally appropriate in graduate school and may cause you to lose credit for completed work. In this case, the Foundation may choose to terminate your scholarship.
- *Notify the Foundation immediately if you receive another scholarship.* If you have another source of funding to support your graduate education, the Foundation may choose to adjust your scholarship accordingly. This will allow us to use our scarce resources to fund other deserving students.
- *Join the PCAFPD Scholars and Alumni Association (PSAA)* and actively participate in local activities (including mentoring younger scholars) to the extent possible.

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Required Documents

Use this as a final checklist for submission of **REQUIRED** application materials:

- Completed application form
- Proposal for Graduate Studies
- College transcripts
- A letter of recommendation from college professor, senior administrative official, registrar, etc. describing your extra-curricular activities, leadership potential, and overall suitability for the scholarship
- One letter from your barangay captain, a religious leader, a teacher, a Peace Corps Volunteer, *or* a civic leader (not related to you) describing:
 - Your experience in, and commitment to, community service
 - Your leadership potential
- The most recent Income Tax Return (or Certification for Exemption/non-filing of Income Tax) of the person financially responsible for you, the applicant.
- If currently enrolled, *or* if you have taken some graduate courses, you must include the following information in addition to the requirements above:
 - Submit an essay explaining:
 - How you have financed your college education to date and
 - Why you need further financial assistance to finish your education

*****Please do *not* include additional certificates or photos.*****

Application Procedure

You must submit your application either by [online form](#), by [email](#) or by mail at the address below, together with the required documents listed above, no later than October 31

Mr. Roland de Jesus
Benguet Corporation
Universal Re Building
106 Paseo de Roxas
Makati

- All information and required documentation must be complete and provided as requested or your application will not be considered for review. Please refer to the checklist above to ensure that all materials have been included.
- All application materials, including supporting letters, should be in English.
- The deadline for *receipt* of all application materials in Manila is **October 31**.

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Application for Graduate Studies

Section I: Student

1. Name: Last AUDITOR First MARK Middle TAMPIPI
2. Gender (*check one*): Male / Female _____
3. Date of Birth: Month APRIL Day 25 Year 1999
4. Marital Status: SINGLE
5. Mailing Address: 651 PROMISELAND BULAO, IPONAN, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, 9000 PHILIPPINES
Permanent Address (if different) _____
Home Province MISAMIS ORIENTAL
Telephone: N/A Mobile: +639261456241 Email: markauditor15@gmail.com
6. Undergraduate Education
Year graduated from college: 2019
College attended: XAVIER UNIVERSITY – ATENEO DE CAGAYAN
Course of study: BS – DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION
7. Which graduate school do you plan to attend? (*Give full name of school—not acronym. Include complete address*):
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS (UPLB)
PEDRO R. SANDOVAL AVE., LOS BAÑOS, 4031 LAGUNA
8. Is this school (check one): public / private _____
9. Have you already been accepted into this school? No / Yes _____
10. What degree do you plan to pursue? MS – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
11. How many years will it take to complete the proposed course of study? (*If currently in graduate school, how many years are you requesting for the scholarship?*) 2 YRS

Student's Signature:  MARK T. AUDITOR
(Print out name if submitted electronically; printed name serves as your signature)

Date: October 23, 2023

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Application for Graduate Studies

Proposal for Graduate Studies

The Board of Directors' decision on granting a scholarship will be mainly based on your proposal. Please take time to reflect on your objectives for graduate education, and provide a clear and well-prepared proposal.

There are four sections to the proposal. Please type the answers to these questions on a separate sheet and attach them to your application. Type your name and the date on each page. If you choose to submit your application electronically as a Word document, please include the attachments in the *same* document with the application form.

#1 Background:

Please describe your activities, both professionally and as a volunteer since your graduation from college.

It has been clear to me since graduation that I've been wanting to immerse myself in the realities of life where I could be of help. I had no idea what the term for that kind of work was until circumstances and even my career path helped me get through it. I have realized it's the development work I've been wanting to pursue. The line of work where I found my sense of purpose, which I'm passionate about, and transcends beyond fulfillment. The community that I was able to help, their problems that I attended to in some way, and the various challenges that I faced only for them. These were just a few of my sacrifices, but a testament to my commitment to serving the marginalized sector of the community.

The Xavier Science Foundation, Inc. (XSF), my almost 4-year employment, has had a significant impact on me during my career. I learned a lot from them as a project staff. I was highly involved with foundation's various projects that help addressing the socio-economic and environmental condition of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the Mt. Kalatungan landscape in Bukidnon province as our beneficiaries. Along with other staff, we provided support in the following areas: land tenurial security by issuing land occupancy certificates per handhold; mitigate climate change by strengthening their organized forest guards or what we called them as *Bantay sa Yutang Kabilin*, and growing of hectares of native and coffee trees; organizational development by conducting leadership and skills training among IP organizations; sustainable livelihoods by establishing social enterprises per organization along with constant mentorship and serving as bridge for market linkaging, and; cultural preservation by documenting their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) and highly observance of youth participation in every activity.

Pursuing a career in this field has never been a walk in the park journey. I knew from the start that this was going to be a challenging path to take, but I was completely oblivious of the implications until I experienced and went through it. Nonetheless, my patience upon dealing with different walks of people had hit rock bottom. And the sad thing is, more often than not, I was

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being compromised. There were instances when I questioned my responses or actions to something, which led to me questioning my sense of purpose and being, too. There were sleepless nights and extra hours worked only to meet deadlines and to offer quality results for the community. Not to mention that even holidays, weekends, and personal occasions had to be set aside merely to finish or complete the assignment. This is because time is of the essence, especially for project-based interventions. Frankly speaking, I got exhausted and fed-up several times. It even got to the point that I broke down and cried in front of the community simply because I was tired. Not because I was tired of helping them, but because I had to deal with my personal life as well. Thankfully, they understood me and even offered me a warm hug. I truly found a family in them, and that is what has kept me grounded.

Alongside my career journey, I was doing volunteer work as well. It wasn't as many as others, but I would say, a remarkable experience. As someone from the middle class who is struggling to make ends meet and has experienced natural disasters such as flooding, I devoted myself to assisting in relief operations, at the very least by sorting and/or packing things for typhoon-affected people. Because I couldn't provide financial aid, I sought alternatives, such as volunteering my time and effort instead.

I also engaged myself doing performing arts such as cultural dancing. It was a hobby at first when I was in college, but it later became a part of my life. I have been a proud member of Kagay-an Performing Arts since 2019. The group has been invited to various events to perform Mindanao suite cultural dances. Though the group occasionally received an honorarium, I considered this to be volunteer work because, one way or another, this is our way of educating and preserving Filipino culture.

Furthermore, there was an opportunity where I got to teach basic numeracy and reading among Badjao kids in a particular barangay. This is because my friend invited me to participate in one of her organization's programs. Apart from that, I was able to attend in feeding programs for malnourished children living in the hinterlands.

With such experiences, I am confident that doing community service has been and will always be my commitment. Grounded in the values of *Magis (doing more)* and *Cura Personalis (Care for Others)*, I will continue to serve those in need or marginalized sectors, and to volunteer myself to projects that have a genuine intention to help.

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#2 Financial:

Please describe your *financial situation* and why you need assistance to attend graduate school. What amount can you or your family contribute towards your schooling? Where will you live during graduate school? Do you plan to work during graduate school? What other sources of support do you have for graduate school?

Since my father's death in 2006, it has always been my mother who has carried the family's load and kept us afloat. I was 6-year-old at that time when we felt the world was collapsing around us, mainly because we were reliant on our father's care and even to his income. The fight for survival intensified even more when my mother had to attend to her four children's demands and needs. With her adolescent experiences and having only completed second grade in primary school, she had to juggle from one job to another. She tried doing other people's laundry, borrowing money to buy necessities, and eventually landing a job as a cafeteria vendor, which she still does now. Clearly, my mother's salary has not been sufficient to meet the needs of her growing family.

Carrying that situation over time, I have realized that there's no room for me to hover around a lavish lifestyle, but instead do something to alleviate the problems. And one thing I thought about was to at least do good in my studies. This means that I needed to be on the honor roll in high school because I thought there were more chances, such as scholarships, for honor students at the time. I had to do this because I knew for a fact that my mother couldn't send me off to college. She even barely provides for us; what more the tuition and other fees.

Even though I received a scholarship at college, there were unplanned and/or unexpected fees that I had to comply with or else my grades would suffer, which I couldn't afford. Not to mention the money I required for my uniform, daily allowances, food, and transportation. It was tremendously difficult and heartbreaking to balance everything when I was barely breathing and thriving. In fact, I sought a position as a student assistant to supplement my income for food and transportation.

In retrospect, I value education now more than ever. That is why I want to pursue graduate studies. It's been a dream of mine since I graduated from college because it's a great opportunity to help my family with financial needs while also helping myself to realize more of my purpose and commitment, which is to help underserved people through community service. However, despite hustling from one job to the next, I'm scared I won't be able to complete it because I also need to provide for my family. I can't just disregard them out of the equation since they've always been an essential part of my decision-making process. Nonetheless, I've been seeking a scholarship to assist me accomplish this lifelong ambition of mine.

I've always been reliant on scholarship opportunities. Since the beginning of my educational career, my family has only been able to offer a minimal amount of money. My siblings have their own families to care for, and my mother is still caring for the entire family. And, because I intend to continue my studies at the University of the Philippines Los Baos (UPLB),

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concentrating in Community Development, I can no longer rely on them financially. Everything will come down to my perseverance and hard effort.

Given the opportunity to get the scholarship, my plan is to look for subtle jobs or part-time jobs that can cover my living expenses such as meals, transportation, bills, and accommodation. I will look for opportunities such as but not limited to being a documenter, research associate, coordinator, or anything that fits my qualifications without jeopardizing my learning. Perhaps I will also work as a student assistant at the same time. And, because it will be a face-to-face learning environment, I will just live near the university to save money on rent, transportation and time.

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#3 Proposed Course of Study:

Explain why you have chosen this graduate program and school. What are your plans for future employment and volunteer work? How will a graduate degree help you to contribute to Philippine development?

I've always wanted to pursue graduate studies. More so, I've been dreaming of wearing a Sablay at UPLB's graduation ceremony, along with my diploma and a mindset of finally-able-to-reach-more-for-underserved-communities.

It was already clear to me at the beginning that my line of work should be helping people. I didn't know how because I didn't yet have the knowledge or resources, but I knew I've always carried with me the intention to uplift them from poor situations and/or even poor thinking habits, which eventually demonstrated through my engagements both in career and volunteer works.

Community Development, as my chosen area of expertise, is a great way for me to experience first-hand the recurring realities and situations, to understand truly the causes and its possible effects, and to address such based on the needs while maintaining high respect of its culture or values. I believe that this program will further my exposure to development work, which I've wanted to pursue for a long time, and this will help me gain a deeper understanding about theoretical concepts and of how it is beneficial in the practical world.

In today's competitive world, where opportunities are likely to favor those who have pursued higher education, such as a master's or doctorate, I've felt the need to likewise scale-up my educational attainment. This is because I know that completing graduate degrees will open more possibilities, which is especially true in developing countries like the Philippines. Also, there's so much more I can do than just being an 8-hour regular employee. I can then extend my hands anytime and/or wherever with confidence in my thoughts, decisions, and actions towards a certain issue.

Furthermore, as I have observed throughout my 4-year career journey and by immersing myself in grassroots works, it is disheartening that some projects implemented by either the government, non-governmental organizations, private or business sectors did not do well, or I would say were not sustainable, primarily because they were implemented for compliance or as a result of poor planning. This issue could have been addressed much sooner if it had gone through a thorough analysis, which could have included involving the target community in the co-development planning process because they are the ones who benefit from the project, or perhaps the lack of skills and knowledge caused by not pursuing further education. Which is why I really want the scholarship more than anything else for the greater good and for the community that I will be serving with.

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Despite the many reasons not to love or perhaps work in the Philippines, especially the injustices happening nowadays, my heart remains committed to serving my fellow countrymen, the Filipino people. Call me a patriot, a martyr, or an idealist, but there's a sense of fulfilment when I get the chance to listen to their stories and support them in any way I can. Hence, I am optimistic that this country will prosper soon if guided and served rightfully because, one way or another, the country has so much more to offer and potential for development. And these are the things or reasons that I've been taking with me every step of the way.

Even after finishing my graduate program, I could still see myself working in the development sector. But this time, the approach will be more strategic, efficient, pragmatic, and purposeful.

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#4 Budget:

Present a detailed budget for your graduate studies. The budget *must* include the following information:

- Number of semesters required for the program
- Tuition and fees per semester
- An estimate of other related expenses (thesis expenses, books, supplies, lab fees, field work fees, etc). Please itemize these expenses.
- Other sources of financial support for any of these expenses

Community Development Program Requirements:

1. Core courses (minimum of 12 units)
2. Research specialization courses (minimum of 10 units)
3. Cognate courses (minimum of 10 units)
4. Thesis (6 units)

Program Estimated Expenses

Semester	Unit	Amount (tuition + miscellaneous)
1	9	10,110.50
2	10	11,110.50
3	9	10,110.50
4	10	11,110.50
Total	38	42,442.00

Note: May vary if there's a laboratory fee (300-400/subject)

Breakdown:

Tuition Fee - P 1000/unit

Miscellaneous Fees – 1,110.50

- Library Fee – 800.00
- Athletic Fee – 75.00
- Medical Fee – 50.00
- Registration Fee – 40.00
- Cultural Fee – 50.00
- Student Fund - 45.50
- Medical and Dental Fee – 50.00

Other Related Expenses:

- Thesis expenses*(*data gathering, writing of thesis, reproduction/printing*) – 25,000.00.
- Books* – 250-500
- Lab fees* – 300-400/subject
- Field work fees – 15,000.00
- Supplies – 8,000.00

*Note: *may vary per semester*

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Monthly Essential Expenses: 19,000.00

- Accommodation (room for rent, electricity & water bills) – 5,500.00
- Meal allowance – 10,000.00
- Transportation allowance – 2,000.00
- Communication allowance – 1,500.00

Please include any other information that you think is relevant (particularly if the cost per semester will vary). It is important that your estimates are as accurate as possible. Please consult the college staff as necessary to obtain this information.

#5 For currently enrolled students only:

Submit an essay answering the following questions:

- How you have financed your college education to date and
- Why you need further financial assistance to finish your education