



Online Application

Please complete this *by yourself* in English. This is a highly competitive application process: MESA's U.S. host farms review many applications before choosing their first-choice candidate(s) based on the most detailed and personally informative trainee applications. Help MESA approve your participation and confirm your host placement by sending us an informative and interesting application! When you are finished, click the "Next" button at the bottom of the form to proceed.

* indicates required field

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: *

Name entered must exactly match the full name written in your Passport.
Please enter your full family name correctly!

(First Name)	(Middle Name [if any])
(First Family Name)	(Second Family Name [if any])

Program:

I am applying for MESA's: *

- Core Training Program (CTP)** (for most first-time applicants)
- Next Level Program (NLP):** (you are not eligible for this Program unless you have already completed MESA's Core Training Program)
- Professional Networking Program (PNP):** (choose this option only if you have received a special "PNP" invitation from MESA!)

Home Address: *

(Street/Apartment #)	
(City)	(State/Province)
(Country)	(Postal Code)

Telephone Number:

(Country Code)	(City Code)	(Phone Number)

Email Address:

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I live: *

Select

If "other", please explain:

Place of Birth: *

 (City) (Country)

Date of Birth: *
 Month Day Year

Citizen of: *

 (Country)

Personal Info: *
 Age Sex Height Weight

Passport: *

 (Status) (Expiration Date -- MONTH/DAY/YEAR)

Emergency Contact:
 Name:
 Relationship:

 (Country Code) (City Code) (Phone Number)

ENGLISH SKILLS

Please select the most accurate description of your current English skills.

- Comprehension/Skills:** My English comprehension and conversational skills are: *
- 0% No English experience
 - 10% I can read basic English words
 - 20% I can understand and say some basic words
 - 30% I can understand when you speak to me slowly, but I have difficulty responding
 - 40% I can understand when you speak to me slowly, and I can give a simple response
 - 50% I can have a basic conversation as long as you speak slowly
 - 60% I can have a conversation on 'everyday' topics with some misunderstandings
 - 70% I can have a conversation on 'everyday' topics
 - 80% I can have a basic conversation on topics like politics, religion, or the environment
 - 90% I can talk about any topic, but I can't always find the word I want
 - 100% I am fluent

***Important:** If your English skills are below 30%, MESA strongly recommends that you enroll in conversational English immersion classes or arrange private, daily tutoring for a minimum length of two months before your U.S. Embassy interview for your J-1 visa. Otherwise, your J-1 visa application may be rejected and/or you may experience more difficulty during the U.S. Program.

If you checked 30% or less, how will you improve your English between now and U.S. arrival?

English Study:

I have received formal English instruction/training (check all that apply):

- 1. In College. How long?
- 2. In Secondary School. How long?
- 3. With a private tutor. How long?

Or (check if applicable)...

- I am self-taught only. I have not received any classroom or formal English training.

Other Languages:

List other languages that you can speak (including your native language): *

PERSONAL HISTORY AND PREFERENCES

Family:

I have:

# of Brothers	# of Sisters	# of Children
<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>

I am *

Please describe your family, including your parents' or spouse's work: *

If anyone in your family works for the government, please describe their job(s):

I drink beer/wine/alcohol: *

I smoke: *

If you smoke, are you willing to live at a farm that does not allow smoking?

I know how to drive a car.*

If you answered Yes, please answer the following:

I drive:

I have driven cars with:

I am comfortable driving a car in:

If my U.S. placement requires it, I will be able to drive a car safely and without problems:

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure because I've only driven in rural areas of my country.

If you know how to drive a car, how many years have you driven cars?

Do you have a valid home country driver's license? *

If do not have a driver's license, will you be able to obtain one before joining MESA?

If you have ever been involved as the driver in a car accident, please describe the circumstances:

If you have ever been arrested, please describe the reason:

If you have any health-related problems, including allergies, depression, physical handicap, chronic ailment, disease, or drug/alcohol dependency, please describe treatment:

If you take any medication for any reason, please list type of medication(s) needed:

If you have family obligations that require sending money home during your Program, please describe:

If you are religious, what is your religion?

Do you want to be placed with a host family that is religiously observant?

Please list any religious or other customs or holidays you expect to observe while participating in MESA (e.g. weekly church or other religious observation, national holidays, no eating meat, etc.):

Please evaluate yourself based on the following statements:

I am clear on my training objectives
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

I want to be a farmer
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

I want a career in agriculture, but not necessarily as a farmer
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

I like to have clear instructions before doing a task

- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I like to take initiative on projects without supervision
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I am flexible and able to adapt to sudden changes
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I enjoy routine and consistency in my schedule
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I enjoy frequent challenges and new responsibilities
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I will ask for help if I don't understand something
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I ask questions and offer suggestions only when I am asked
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I like to offer suggestions and share my opinions
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I am a good listener
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I welcome critical feedback and use the information to improve myself
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I am willing to speak up when necessary
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I like working with others
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I like to work alone/independently
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
- I am observant of my surroundings
- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Indicate which items below you are and are not comfortable with (please answer honestly so MESA can place you with the right host farm!)

I am comfortable with:

- People of different religious beliefs
- People of different nationalities
- Taking instruction from, or having a woman as my host farmer
- Having an un-married couple as my host farmers
- Sharing a family house with children
- Sharing a family house with pets
- Cooking my own daily meals
- Cooking for others once or twice each week

Sharing household chores (including cooking)

Training at a farm where my native language is not spoken

Training at a farm that is in a remote, rural location where my host family is my primary social group

Training at a farm where there is no public transportation

Training at a farm that offers very rustic living conditions (e.g. uninsulated lodging or tent sleeping, compost toilet, outdoor shower, wood-stove, other)

Sometimes working by myself with no supervision

If you selected "No" for any of the above, please state why you would not be comfortable:

In your home, who cooks the meals? *

Have you ever cooked for yourself or family? *

What are your favorite things to eat? *

I do not eat:

- Beef
 - Pork
 - Chicken
 - Seafood
 - Dairy
 - Eggs
- Other:

What, if any, house chores you regularly do at home?

Stewards who live with their host family must share household chores and meal preparation. Stewards who live independently must buy and cook their own food (an additional \$200/month food allowance will be given). MESA will try, but cannot guarantee, to match you with your preferred living arrangement. Please check first choice: *

- Prefer to share host family home
- Prefer to live by myself in independent living quarters
- Prefer to live with other stewards, interns or farm employees (shared housing/dormitory-style)
- No preference

If you have ever lived outside your family home, please describe where:

If you have ever visited the United States, please state when, how long, and purpose?

Please list any other countries you have visited in the last five years and describe the purpose of your visit(s):

If you have relatives now living in the United States, how you are related and where do they live?

If you have friends or family friends currently living in the United States, where do they live?

If you answered "yes" above, and if you would you like to visit your family members or friends during your MESA Program, when and for how much time?

EDUCATION

I am currently: *

Vocational School:

(name and location)

Date Attended: from
(year) to
(year)

Technical College:

(name and location)

Date Attended: from
(year) to
(year)

University/College:

(name and location)

Date Attended: from
(year) to
(year)

If you are currently a student, please state the name of the school/college and your major field of study:

What is the highest level of education/degree you have received, or expect to receive before joining MESA: *

If "other", please specify:

Date you graduated or degree was obtained or is expected to be obtained (if applicable):

If you have a college degree, what is the degree in?

If you have pursued any non-agricultural academic degrees, please describe:

List any academic courses that you have completed in agriculture:

Describe any classes or workshops you have had in sustainable, organic or ecological farming:

WORK EXPERIENCE

I am currently: *

If you selected "Other", please describe:

What is your current occupation?

How many years of agricultural work experience do you have: *

My hands-on farm experience includes: *

- less than 6 hours of manual labor per day...
- more than 6 hours of manual labor per day...
- I have no hands-on farm experience, but a strong desire to learn through practical training.

I have the following type(s) of agricultural experience:

- Academic courses in agriculture
- Supervising farm workers
- Administrative/office work involving agriculture
- Advising farmers about organic methods and/or certification
- Hands on farm labor (e.g. planting, weeding, harvesting, livestock care, etc.)

How many years of non-agricultural work experience do you have: *

Please list your most recent employers or paid work, if any:

Job #1:

Employer Name/Location:

Dates Employed: from
(year) to
(year)

Position/Title:

Description of Work:

Job #2:

Employer Name/Location:

Dates Employed:

from

(year)

to

(year)

Position/Title:

Description of Work:

If you grew up on a family farm, what type of farm?

If your family has a farm, does the farm sell its products, or is the food for family-use only? Please describe:

I work on my family farm. *

If you help with your family farm, please describe your responsibilities:

If you are currently employed, do you plan to return to this same job after your MESA Program?

Please state why or why not:

Please describe any volunteer activities or community groups you are affiliated with, if any:

Please list the type(s) of farm machinery and vehicles that you have worked with (you should include model numbers and brand names):

If you have any mechanical repair skills, please describe:

If you have any tractor driving skills, please describe:

If you have any farm equipment or tractor licenses or endorsements, please list:

Are you willing to work with animals? *

I am only comfortable working with these animals only (please list):

Please describe specific agricultural and/or work skills that you think your host farmer would like to know about (For example: "I can prune ***fruit trees", "I have experience seeding, harvesting, plowing, etc. *** crops", etc....):

What additional skills or specialties would like your host farmer to know about you?

TRAINING OBJECTIVES & PREFERRED FARM PLACEMENTS

Describe specific vocational skills you want to learn at your U.S. host farm: *

What do you want to do after completing MESA's Program? *

MESA will match you with your host farm based on your agricultural choices below.

Applicants with experience in their first and second placement choices are far more likely to receive host placement offers.

Choose your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-choice Farm Placements from the lists below:

First Choice: *

Please provide specific examples for your selected choice (e.g. potatoes, apples, coffee, etc.):

For my 1st Choice, I have hands-on work experience doing the following jobs *:

Where?

When and for how long?

Second Choice: *

Please provide specific examples for your selected choice:

For my 2nd Choice, I have hands-on work experience doing the following jobs *:

Where?

When and for how long?

Third Choice: *

Please provide specific examples for your selected choice:

For my 3rd Choice, I have hands-on work experience doing the following jobs:

OR

I don't have any hands-on work experience in any of my choices, but seek to learn about them.

Choose up to 5 other areas of interest that will help MESA match you with your host farm:

Not Applicable

Not Applicable

OTHER (if applicable):

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Write a one-page personal description of yourself below in English. Include personal interests, why you want to participate as a MESA agricultural steward, and your goals for the future: *

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