



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:

--

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

Select

Height

Weight

Passport: *

Select

(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 type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input 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? * **Select**

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

Not Applicable

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?

Doesn't Matter

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) Select

Training at a farm where my native language is not spoken Select

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

Training at a farm where there is no public transportation Select

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

Sometimes working by myself with no supervision Select

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? * Select

What are your favorite things to eat? *

I do not eat:

☐

Beef

☐

Seafood

Other:

☐

Pork

☐

Dairy

☐

Chicken

☐

Eggs

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):

I am currently: *

Date Attended: from (year) to (year)

--

Date Attended: from (year) to (year)

--

Date Attended: from (year) to (year)

--

Select

--

Month Day Year

[illegible]

9/15/11 12:53 PM

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: *

Select

If you selected "Other", please describe:

What is your current occupation?

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

0

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: *

0

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

Select



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?

Not Applicable



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? *

Select 

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: *

Select 

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: *

Next

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