



**Name:** Sajay Menon

**Josef Korbel School Degree Program:** MA [International Studies](#), [Peace Corps Fellow](#)

**Undergraduate Institution/Major:** University of Rochester, Psychology and Religion

**Languages:** French, Malayalam

**Tell us about yourself:**

I'm Indian-American so I'm in India a lot. Growing up with the different cultures was nice and really did back my desire to go abroad. In the [Peace Corps](#) I served in Guinea and Zambia. I started in Guinea, but there was political violence and so I was switched to Zambia. I was doing public health education.

I wound up going to Peace Corps, trying to see what I wanted to do later on in life and I just realized how much I loved working abroad. There are a lot of things that are pretty jading that you see, but I love international work, I love development work. But I what I really want to do is work for the State Department, affecting policy abroad.

**What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?**

Korbel had a really cohesive program, and I liked that a lot: a specific school for International Studies, fantastic faculty. It had a lot of really good recommendations from Peace Corps actually. Corps staff knew a lot about Korbel and the history of it. I was so psyched about getting in to Korbel. It's not on the east coast, there are benefits to being on the east coast of course, but really you have the best program outside of D.C. and it's in Denver, which is beautiful. You have all these amazing [faculty](#) that are that a huge draw. The program is so cohesive, yet so flexible.

**Favorite Classes/Professors:**

[Lynn Holland](#) is fantastic, and her Comparative Politics class is really great. I really like how she opens class up for discussion. She does do lectures, but she never says "this is how you need to think." It's about giving us different tools you can use, and I like that. I also really like the Global Health class with [Dr. Kuhn](#). I like all my classes. Right now I have four big papers with four amazing topics that I'm really excited about.

**Career Goals:**

I would like to do a [certificate in public health](#). Especially because I would like to work in areas that are doing real development work and health is a very fundamental part of development.

We also need to do a practicum as part of the Peace Corps Fellows program and so I am going to work with the [African Community Center](#). I went to the [Corps Colorado group](#) meeting and the African Community center came and had a presentation. They work with a lot of refugees from a bunch of different countries. I would like to an internship with the State Department, and then I really want to do the semester in [Washington program](#).

**How do you think the Josef Korbel School is preparing you?**

I think there's a diversity of classes, and I like that a lot. Especially with the International Studies major what I want is a wide breadth of knowledge, a wide scope, and I think that's what you get. For things like the State Department, that's what you need. It's not about anything specific, even the communications stuff it's about knowing a lot about a lot of things. I think the classes that we have do that. Especially the classes I'm taking now have a world-wide perspective, and they seem like they fit into what the State Department is looking for. Speaking with [Dean Hill](#), he's the man, a fantastic resource. He's worked in multiple countries, and he knows what they look for. He's been helping a lot with classes and advising.