

Youth Internship Programme

*An ecumenical experience
for young people*

*World Council of Churches
Geneva, Switzerland
February 2009 - January 2010*





WCC Youth Internship Programme

February 2009 - January 2010

The World Council of Churches welcomes five young people (aged 18-30 years) to serve as interns in its Geneva offices. We look for Interns who are committed to the ideals of the ecumenical movement, to bring their energy, commitment and fresh vision to a specific work assignment. For the WCC, interns represent the potential of the ecumenical movement, and its search for a renewed vocation. Interns bring valuable experiences to the WCC at the same time as they go through several modules of ecumenical learning. The WCC Internships Programme prepares young people to continue their ecumenical involvement beyond the internship.

The WCC Youth Internship period is for 12 months from February 2009 to January 2010. In Geneva, the interns are assigned a task within one of the WCC working areas. They carry out their tasks in co-operation with programme staff, one of whom will supervise each intern. Each intern is then expected to plan an ecumenical project during their stay in Geneva and then implement this project starting from February 2010 in their home context. The local ecumenical project is a critical aspect of the WCC internship program to ensure that the intern can share his/her ecumenical experience and expertise with their church and community. Intern applicants must send along with their application, an application from their sending organization, church or Christian youth network to ensure accountability that the ecumenical project will be carried out with support from the local, national or regional contacts.

General Qualifications for interns:

- Between 18 to 30 years of age at the time the Internship begins.
- Have strong links to their local Christian community and strong involvement in ecumenical movement at the national and/or regional level, and be prepared to return to that involvement after the internship.
- Be able to work in English. Knowledge of one of the other WCC's working languages (French, Spanish or German) is desirable.
- Be able to work with flexibility and an open mind in a multi-cultural environment.
- Have the capacity and willingness to handle administrative tasks.
- Have computer skills.
- Have communication skills (spoken, but also written).

1. Accompanying Churches in Situations of Conflict

This internship focuses on the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) and the interfaith work to accompany churches in situations of conflict. The intern will benefit, by learning in depth about a country or region including its social, cultural, political and religious dynamics. S/he will also learn about the workings of the WCC and its member, conduct research and analysis, and work with religious and political leaders to seek justice, reconciliation and peace. The intern will help to organize the DOV Living Letters visits to churches in situations of conflict by preparing a dossier of materials for the team members of each visit – about the country and the churches and any WCC statements or actions on the country. The intern will also collect and collate the reports of the teams and any other information from the team that will contribute to the Just Peace Declaration and International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC). The intern will have the chance to participate in up to two of the visits. **Specific Qualifications:** Strong interest in peace-building; good correspondence skills in English; computer skills; familiar with an office environment; background or interest in international relations and politics; experience in research and interest in inter-religious dialogue and cooperation. The ability to communicate in Arabic is a plus.

2. Youth and Ecumenical Relationships

This internship is geared towards the WCC's work with youth/young adults and the future visions for ecumenism in the 21st century. The intern will compile ecumenical information and opportunities for youth into a monthly newsletter that is shared with youth networks. S/he will assist the Echos Commission on Youth in the Ecumenical Movement communicate with WCC staff and maintain the youth page of WCC website. The intern will also conduct research on youth programs and contacts in the National Council of Churches and update the youth networks in the WCC database. The intern would also help with the leadership and planning of the Stewards ecumenical seminar at the Central Committee meeting August-September 2009. The intern will work closely with the committee on Ecumenism in the 21st Century and facilitate youth involvement in the process. S/he will gain an overview of the WCC member churches (and ecumenical partners) and insight into the different ways of relating to a variety of churches. **Specific Qualifications:** Familiarity with church life and ecumenical youth networks, advanced computer skills; experience in using databases; advanced Microsoft excel; web construction and editing; strong interpersonal and communication skills, English writing skills.



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3. Visitors Program/Media Relations

The intern will assist in preparing programmes for visiting groups such as church delegations and students coming to the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva and accompany them during their visit. The intern will assist the staff with visits to churches, conferences and meetings. Some time will be spent in the area of media relations researching media coverage on the WCC, assisting with the organization of media events, developing and editing written pieces for the media. The intern will also assist with web construction for the WCC website. The intern will build professional relations between non profit organisations and communications media, both secular and church-related, towards the overall objective of getting positive media coverage for the work of WCC. **Specific Qualifications:** German language skills; strong ability to exercise hospitality and establish relations easily with people from different cultures; academic formation in communications and/or journalism; ability to communicate in English, both in oral and written form; computer skills including web construction and design.

4. Faith, Science, Technology and Ethics

The intern will take part in planning and organizing WCC activities related to bioethics and will participate in one such meeting in Vollos, Greece. In 2009, the work focuses specifically on ethical reflection of stem cell research. This research can have important implications for medical care, health and healing. The intern will also be responsible for ecumenical youth involvement in bioethics. The intern will research and help keep track of new scientific developments by compiling relevant literature and contacting people involved in bioethics. The intern will gain experience in research and writing, networking skills with people and an overall introduction to the field of bioethics and related church initiatives. **Specific Qualifications:** Sufficient background in biological or medical and physical science, such as college courses in genetics, microbiology, medical and physical science. Interest in bioethics and theology; Organisational skills, competency with computers, networking and research.

5. Faith and Order

The intern will help with the planning of the Faith and Order Plenary Commission and be the liaison and resource person for younger theologians before, during, and after the Commission meeting: This will involve maintaining the profiles of younger theologians of the Commission and advising them on matters pertaining to the meeting. The intern will work with the Ecclesiology Working Group in preparing an assessment of the response to the *Nature and Mission of the Church* document. The intern will be exposed to the unique world of multilateral ecumenical dialogue while examining the role of ecclesiology in dialogue. The intern will participate in meetings related to these topics with the WCC staff including the Faith and Order Plenary Commission meeting in Crete. **Specific Qualifications:** University-level competence in theology. Ability to communicate and write in English. Basic computer skills. Ability to work in a diverse team setting.

The WCC is responsible for the following benefits:

- Interns are paid a living allowance comparable with a student allowance, and in keeping with general practice amongst international organisations in Geneva.
- Economy travel to Geneva and return home.
- All costs associated with visas and work permit.
- Cost of bringing a reasonable amount of personal items and effects that are not included in airline allowances.

Applications

Please fill in the attached application form and send it to the WCC office along with the following documents:

- Short Curriculum Vitae (maximum of 2 pages) describing both your educational/professional experience and your ecumenical/church involvement.
- Copy of a letter of recommendation from your church/ecumenical organisation
- Copy of *sending community application* must be written by your church, ecumenical organization or Christian youth network etc.
- Motivation letter



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Please answer the following questions in your motivation letter:

1. What is your involvement in your local church or ecumenical movement?
2. Why are you interested in the ecumenical movement and becoming a WCC intern?
3. Have you ever been involved in ecumenical youth work at a local, national or international level?
4. How can you further ecumenical work in your local or national situation?
5. Describe yourself (personality, values, and life experience).
6. What is your idea for the ecumenical project that you will start at home and work on together with your church or ecumenical organization starting from February 2010?

** Please write between 1-2 paragraphs in response to each question*

Only applications, which are fully completed, accompanied with the mentioned enclosures and received on time, will be considered. Applications should be submitted in English, by e-mail if possible, alternatively by fax or air mail. Your referees can send their recommendation letters directly to us (by e-mail or fax) if they prefer to do so. Due to the large number of applications received, it is not possible for us to acknowledge receipt of your application. Thank you for your patience and understanding. You will be notified by mail whether your application has been successful or not.

Special note for US applicants: Due to postal charges, we DO NOT accept express US Airmail courier. You can send your application by fax or e-mail if you want to be sure not to miss the deadline. Thank you for your understanding.

Applications should be addressed to

WCC Youth Internships Programme
P O Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

E-mail: wccinterns@gmail.com
Phone: +41 22 791 6044
Fax: +41 22 791 6406
www.ecumenicalyouth.org

Closing date for receiving applications for WCC internships is **15th September 2008.**



World Council of Churches

Youth Internship Programme

Geneva, Switzerland, February 2009 – January 2010

APPLICATION FORM

Deadline 15th September 2008

Please, type or print clearly!

Internship you are applying to:

1. Accompanying Churches in Situations of Conflict
2. Youth & Ecumenism in 21st Century 3. Visitors Program/Media Relations
4. Faith, Science, Technology & Ethics 5. Faith & Order

Family name/Surname(s) (*as in passport*) _____

First name/Given name(s) (*as in passport*) _____

Street Address _____ Postal Code _____

Town _____ Country _____

Please provide at least one fax number or one e-mail address where you can be reached for quick communication.

Home Telephone (*country code / area code / number*) _____

Office Telephone (*country code / area code / number*) _____

Telefax (*country code / area code / number*) _____

Office Telefax (*country code / area code / number*) _____

e-mail _____

Gender (*as in passport*) Male Female

Marital Status (*for insurance purposes*) Single Married

Indigenous Person Yes If yes, please specify your people/tribe/nation: _____

Date of Birth (*day / month / year*) _____

Denomination / Church Family: _____

Name of national Church from which you are member: _____

Profession or Occupation (*if student, in which field*): _____

Nationality (*country issuing your passport*): _____

Higher Education (College/University level)

Degree title: _____

Degree obtained or expected for (month / year) _____

Study started (month / year): _____

Major subject of study: _____

University/Institute: _____

City: _____ Country: _____

Higher education (contd.)

Degree title: _____

Degree obtained or expected for (month / year) _____

Study started (month / year): _____

Major subject of study: _____

University/Institute: _____

City: _____ Country: _____

Language skills:

Mother Tongue: _____

	Reading Very Good / Good / Basic	Writing Very Good / Good / Basic	Speaking Fluent / Good / Basic
English:			
French:			
German:			
Spanish:			
Other:			

Computer Skills: _____

Please don't forget to enclose:

- Short CV (maximum 2 pages)
- Copy of a letter of recommendation from your church/ regional ecumenical organisation
- Copy of *sending community application* must be written by your church, ecumenical organization or Christian youth network etc
- Motivation letter

Please answer the following questions in your motivation letter:

1. What is your involvement in your church or student Christian movement, ecumenical organization?
2. Why are you interested in the ecumenical movement / becoming a WCC intern?
3. Have you ever been involved in youth work at a local, national or international level?
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Send your application to:



World Council of Churches

Youth Internships Programme
150, route de Ferney - PO Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 - 791 6044

Fax: +41 22 - 791 6406

e-mail: wccinterns@gmail.com