

“Ecumenism” is the movement towards visible unity among Christians and churches.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) brings together 349 churches from around the world, representing more than 560 million Christians.

As members of this fellowship, WCC member churches:

- › are called to the goal of visible unity in one faith;
- › promote their common witness in work for mission and evangelism;
- › engage in Christian service by serving human need, breaking down barriers between people, seeking justice and peace, and upholding the integrity of creation;
- › foster renewal in unity, worship, mission and service.

The WCC represents a unique space in which Christians can reflect, pray, speak, act, worship and work together.

For more information about the WCC and its programme areas please visit www.oikoumene.org.

What is the youth internship programme?

Each year, the WCC welcomes young people to its offices in Geneva, Switzerland, to work for twelve months in specific programme areas.

From working alongside theologians and church leaders to helping with major conferences and events, the work is challenging and varied. It makes a genuine contribution to the WCC and the global ecumenical movement.

“I didn’t realize what a rich variety of experiences I was going to have when I applied. I participated in the WCC Central Committee, Kirchentag, the Faith and Order programme, and most importantly, the 9th Assembly and all its preparations.”

Tom Yonker, Disciples of Christ, USA, 2005 intern

How does it work?

The internship programme combines work and learning.

Interns are assigned tasks for one year within one of the WCC’s programme areas. Each intern is expected to plan an ecumenical project to be implemented upon their return home. The project ensures the intern shares their ecumenical experience and expertise with their church and community. Support from the intern’s sending church and community is important for the implementation of this project.

Different internships are offered each year. Some of the activities past interns have been involved in include:

- › helping with the organization and evaluation of major events and programmes;
- › compiling resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;
- › organizing programmes for visitors from around the world;
- › learning about ecumenical work around the world through on site visits;
- › writing feature articles and recording interviews for the WCC website.

The interns also engage in ecumenical learning throughout the year which includes exposure trips to churches and weekly workshops on a variety of themes including gender, migration, HIV/AIDS and human rights.

The Ecumenical Centre in Geneva is home to a variety of ecumenical organizations and interns from these organizations work, learn and socialize together with the WCC interns to build a genuinely multicultural and multi-confessional community.

Youth and the Ecumenical Movement

Young people have a vital role to play in the work of the WCC and the worldwide ecumenical movement.

There are many ways to get involved in ecumenism – in your local congregation, through your country’s national council of churches and through regional ecumenical organizations and student Christian movements. Keep an eye on www.ecumenicalyouth.org to find opportunities to get involved.

“Youth have always had a role in the ecumenical movement. I would highly recommend a WCC internship.”

Ginger Porter, Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa, 2008 intern

“Ecumenism is a complex concept, but I learned how global political and human rights issues can be looked at and worked on from an ecumenical perspective.”

Naveen Qayyum, Church of Pakistan, 2005 intern



Who is eligible?

Internships are open to people aged 18 to 30 at the time the internship begins.

Qualifications vary depending on the particular internship. In general, successful candidates will:

- › have strong links to their local Christian community and strong involvement in the ecumenical movement;
- › have English language skills, though knowledge of one of the WCC's other working languages (French, Spanish or German) is desirable;
- › be open minded and have the flexibility to work in a multicultural environment;
- › have the capacity and willingness to handle administrative tasks and work with computers;
- › have communication skills (spoken and written);
- › be ready to implement a local ecumenical project upon return home.

How do I apply?

Go to www.ecumenicalyouth.org for more details.

To receive regular updates about the internship programme and other youth activities of the WCC, register for the free WCC e-news service by visiting:

<http://onlineservices.wcc-coe.org>

Applications must be written in English and include a letter of recommendation and application form from your church or organization.

Practical Information

The WCC will cover the cost of economy travel to and from Geneva, visas, work permits and shipping a reasonable quantity of personal effects. Interns are also provided with accommodation and a living allowance.

Youth Internship Programme

Community-building, team work and ecumenical learning



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