

Youth Internship Programme

*An ecumenical experience
for young people*

*World Council of Churches
Geneva, Switzerland
February 2008 - January 2009*





WCC Youth Internship Programme

February 2008 - January 2009

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 2008 to January 2009. 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 2009 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, background information about their church or Christian youth network that will help them implement their proposed ecumenical project to ensure accountability that it 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. Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV)

This internship will be focused on activities for the DOV 2008 annual focus in the Pacific region. The intern will take a role in creating and adapting DOV resources especially liturgical resources on peace from the Pacific for the annual focus. The intern will assist in the facilitation of youth peace networks (develop contacts with youth in the Pacific) and monitor world wide commitments for the International Day of Prayer for Peace (IDPP) towards the building of a Peace Prayer Map. The intern will help in organising an IDPP worship service in the Ecumenical Centre. From this experience, the intern will gain a greater understanding of violence issues affecting churches in several regions and gain confidence in leadership as a DOV spokesperson. **Specific Qualifications:** Strong interest in peace activities and raising awareness on violence issues in the Pacific; highly motivated; good correspondence skills in English; computer skills; familiar with an office environment; willing to represent DOV before youth gatherings.

2. Youth and Ecumenical Relationships

This internship is geared towards two areas of work in the WCC— program for youth and nurturing relationships with the churches and partners. The intern would assist with the maintenance of various networks of churches and ecumenical organizations and assist in the overall coordination of visits to churches. 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. The intern would work on the networking & communications for the Echos—Commission on youth in the ecumenical movement, and make better use of the WCC website and youth page as a platform for resource sharing among young people. The intern would help the Echos Commission compile regular international and regional updates on youth initiatives, resources and activities. **Specific Qualifications:** Advanced computer skills; experience in using databases; advanced Microsoft excel; web editing; strong interpersonal and communication skills; familiarity with church life and ecumenical youth networks.



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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 and developing and editing written pieces for the media. 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.

4. Faith, Science, Technology and Ethics

The intern will help communicate and coordinate one of the task groups coming out of the Global Consultation in Genetics and New Technologies. The intern will also help research topics to be contributed to the discussion of these task groups and help draft information on the project for the Faith, Science and Technology webpage on WCC's website. The intern will 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:** A sufficient background in the biological and physical science, such as college courses in genetics, microbiology, evolution; interest in bioethics and theology; computer skills; networking and research skills.

5. Just & Inclusive Communities

The intern will assist in the organisation of a sailing event from Caribbean to Africa in 2008 in relation to the anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. This will be a major logistical activity and regular communication will be needed with the Caribbean Council of Churches, All African Conference of Churches, youth networks, participants and host communities in the African continent. The intern will also help in the production of a manual on inclusivity concerning the Ecumenical Disabilities Advocacy Network (EDAN), Indigenous Peoples', Dalit and overcoming racism networks in the churches that make up the Just & Inclusive Communities work in the WCC. The intern will also work with a core group made up of representatives from these networks in the churches to involve more youth and link these contacts into the other ecumenical youth work. Some time will be spent compiling and creating liturgical materials on inclusivity for worship. **Specific Qualifications:** Organisational and computer skills; sensitivity and awareness of issues concerning the Just & Inclusive Communities networks/constituencies; background in social sciences/social justice work; experience in organizing activities with churches in own context; links with either Caribbean or African ecumenical movements.

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.



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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.
- Letter of recommendation from your church/ecumenical organisation
- Background information for Ecumenical Project must be written in coordination with 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 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. Describe yourself (personality, values, and life experience).

** 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 6315
Fax: +41 22 791 6406
www.ecumenicalyouth.org

Closing date for receiving applications for the three internships is **20th September 2007.**



World Council of Churches

Youth Internship Programme

Geneva, Switzerland, February 2008 – January 2009

APPLICATION FORM

Deadline 20th September 2007

Please, type or print clearly!

Internship you are applying to:

1. Decade to Overcome Violence 2. Youth & Ecumenism in 21st Century
3. Visitors Program/Media Relations 4. Faith, Science, Technology & Ethics
5. Just & Inclusive Communities

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)
- Letter of recommendation from your church/ regional ecumenical organisation
- Background information for Ecumenical Project must be written in coordination with your church, ecumenical organization or Christian youth network etc
- Motivation letter

Please answer the following questions in your motivation letter:

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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

Send your application to:



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Youth Internships Programme
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1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 - 791 6315
Fax: +41 22 - 791 6406
e-mail: wccinterns@gmail.com