

# Call for applications

## UEM South-North Volunteer Program 2025/2026



UEM S-N volunteers 2023/ 2024

The Call for applications for the South-North Volunteer program of United Evangelical Mission is now open. UEM invites all member churches to participate in the program.

The deadline for sending your proposal of candidates toward UEM Officer for South-North Volunteer Program is **July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024** by the latest. Late applications will not be considered.

## **What is UEM's South-North Volunteer Program?**

The South- North Volunteer program is a chance for young people to get to know other cultures, encounter life in a foreign cultural context, and expose and work in an environment different from one's own.

With this Call for application, United Evangelical Mission is inviting 15 young people from Africa and Asia to participate in the South-North volunteer program. Volunteers have the chance to grow personally in an informal learning process during their one-year-voluntary service in Germany, establish cross-cultural competence and intercultural leadership skills by working alongside those with a different background and viewpoints. They can learn about, contribute to existing partnerships, and build up new ones. After their voluntary service, the returnees can share what they have learned during their service with their own communities and networks at home. Host institutions in Germany get the chance to receive highly motivated volunteers that may bring in a new, different understanding of every day working culture, new perspectives and insights.

The South-North Volunteer program is going to run from mid-March 2025 to the beginning of March 2026. Applicants should be available from January 2025 to prepare for their service and attend a German language course if necessary.

## **What is weltwärts?**

Since 2016, all South-North volunteers of UEM participate in the [weltwärts](#) program, a program by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Please note: since all South-North Volunteers are taking part in *weltwärts*, our South-North Voluntary program is a development service, it is not a missionary!

## **What kind of work placements are offered?**

All volunteers will be placed in a field of social work, often in a church-related environment.

Our placements might be in youth centers, in schools, in kindergartens or in organizations with a focus on disabled people, adult education, working with refugees or elderly people, within civil society organization doing secular community based work.

## **Who can apply?**

For the South-North volunteer program, the main target group are African and Asian youth between 18-28 years who have finished their secondary or tertiary education. We also highly encourage applications from people with disability. The youth should be active in at least one area of activity of the sending organization and should have the full support of their sending member and congregation.

All UEM Members in Africa and Asia are invited to apply, their candidates should be active members of their church, ideally in youth leadership roles, suitable to take over leadership roles in the future and enjoy the full support of the church, expressed by the church's endorsement.

### **What are the requirements?**

Applicants should

- be available from January 2025. This schedule includes a German language course in the home country of the applicant
- be between 18 and 28 years old and should have finished secondary school. Applicants with work experience are invited to apply, applicants with a disability are also invited to apply.
- be ready to learn German and speak English fluently
- be an active member of their home congregation (as youth group leader, in youth projects or others), documented through certificate or recommendation letter
- have the will to serve and work hard when required
- have specific interest in development policies and prepare for a development voluntary service in Germany
- want to integrate into a society with another cultural background than their own
- have the will to go through good and difficult times

### **How to apply?**

UEM is looking for 15 applicants for a placement in a German member church or diaconic institution. Please note that applications have to be submitted through UEM member churches, NOT by individual candidates and also not by individual congregations. Young people who would like to apply are asked to contact their church office.

The closing date for submitting applications is July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. Every UEM member church is encouraged to select two to three candidates. Both female and male applicants should be considered.

### **What is part of the application?**

Every application submitted to UEM should be send in **one PDF** format (limited to 6 MB) by the church office. The full application consists of the following documents:

1. Copy of the data sheet of the passport (valid until at least November 2026)
2. Completed application form
3. Curriculum vitae
4. One-page motivation letter written by the applicant, explaining why she or he wants to participate in this program. We encourage the applicant

to take care writing this motivation letter. This is the possibility to present yourself, your interests, skills and motivation.

5. Completed church endorsement form
6. Recommendation letter by a person that knows the applicant and her or his skills (e.g. from pastor, teacher, other leader of social engagement...)

After the selection procedure, we will ask for:

1. A medical examination form completed by a doctor and
2. A police clearance certificate

**Every UEM member is asked to forward the (digital) application of their suitable candidates to Ms. Christina Bergmann until Wednesday, 31st July 2024 by the latest:**

**[bergmann-c@vemission.org](mailto:bergmann-c@vemission.org)**

### **Who finances the program?**

UEM is covering flight ticket to/from Germany. Other preparatory costs should be split between UEM and the respective member church, if possible. This includes costs for the application of visa, travel expenses during Visa Application (flight, bus, taxi) and a preparatory German Intensive Language Course (4 months maximum).

During their stay in Germany, all volunteers receive a monthly pocket money and are part of social security (health security e.g.). South-North Volunteers receive free accommodation and food allowance in their placements. Furthermore, all volunteers can visit a language course in Germany.

### **Whom can I contact if I have further questions?**

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