Call for Applications

UEM South-North Volunteer Program 2027/2028

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 **June 15th, 2026,** by the latest. Late applications will not be considered.

Please note: We are very sorry to announce that due to visa difficulties and a cut in weltwärts fundings, some countries cannot be represented (fully) in next year's group.

- **Indonesia:** no volunteer will be accepted.
- **DR Congo:** one volunteer will be accepted, from Kinshasa-region (to test if the embassy starts working again)
- **Sri Lanka:** no applications will be accepted
- **Cameroon:** no applications will be accepted

Frequently asked questions

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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 approx. 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 April 2027 to the end of March 2028. Applicants should be available from January 2027 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 that 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, schools, kindergartens or 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 and young adults between 18–28 years who have finished their secondary or tertiary education. We also highly encourage applications from people with disabilities.
UEM Members in Africa and Asia are invited to send applications, their candidates should be active members of their communities or congregations. Please note that some embassies are very restrictive in their visa proceedings, so that not all countries are open for application at the moment (see list above).

What are the requirements?

Applicants should

- be available from January 2027. This schedule might include a German language course in the home country of the applicant or an online language course.
- 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, applicants with initial knowledge of German are favored
- be an active member of their community (in church or other forms of civil society), documented through certificate or recommendation letter
- have specific interest in development policies
- are curious to lean about other cultures
- should have the will and the ability to deal with challenging circumstances (loneliness, language difficulties, etc.).

How to apply?

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

The respective UEM member church must fill in the form (one form per candidate) via UEM homepage: Application form Volunteer Program

Closing date for submitting applications is June 15th, 2026. UEM member churches are encouraged to select two to three candidates. Both female and male applicants should be considered.

What is part of the application?

Application forms must be uploaded as requested via the UEM online form. Please upload the following documents via the online form:

1. Copy of the data sheet of the passport (valid until at least November 2028)
2. Completed application form
3. Curriculum vitae
4. One-page motivation letter written by the applicant, explaining why you want to participate in this program. We encourage you to take care writing this motivation letter. This is the possibility of presenting 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
2. Measle vaccination
3. A police clearance certificate

Every UEM member is asked to upload the (digital) application of their suitable candidates to the UEM homepage until Monday, June 15th, 2026 by the latest via https://www.vemission.org/en/education/seminars/conferences/application-form-volunteer-program

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.

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

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