



Requirements

To qualify, candidates should:

- be available from April to April of the following year
- do a German language course in the candidates home country
- be between 18 and 28 years old and have finished secondary school
- be an active member of their home congregation (as Sunday school teacher, youth group leader or similar), documented through certificate or recommendation letter
- be fluent in English or French and ready to learn German
- be independent and self-sufficient enough to spend a year immersed in another culture
- be willing to serve and work hard when required
- want to live in a different culture than their own

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

Regulations

The UEM provides a pocket money of 150 Euro per month; the hosting institution / congregation is providing food and basic accommodation. All related expenses, e.g. flight, transfers, insurance etc. will be covered by the UEM. If you want to apply for this programme, **please contact your church office.**

How to apply?

The UEM will select 15 applicants for placement in a German institution. Please note that applications must be submitted through the UEM members and not by individual candidates. Candidates seeking to apply should contact their church office. The closing date for applications is the 30th September each year. Every UEM member is encouraged to put forward between one and three candidates. Both female and male applicants should be considered.

Parts of the application

Each application submitted to the UEM should be sent on Word or PDF format by the church office. Please download the full application here:

www.vemission.org/volunteer

UEM members are kindly requested to forward the (digital) application for each suitable candidate to the officer for the South-North volunteer programme, Ms. Lisa Bergmann by 30th September at the latest (bergmann-l@vemission.org).



»Think global – act local«

The Interregional Volunteer Programme

The United Evangelical Mission

Common faith, common life, common action! Think mission is old-fashioned? A relic from colonial times? Not anymore! The United Evangelical Mission, a Wuppertal institution for over 180 years, has transformed into a modern communion over the last 20 years, becoming a place where the faithful from 35 churches in Africa, Asia, and Germany, as well as the v. Bodelschwingh Foundation Bethel, work together in equality towards a vision of a better world. They spread the Good News, campaign for human rights, social standards, the right to education, and combat poverty and exploitation.

Questions? Contact us

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The UEM is a recognised sponsor of the development policy service of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through its "weltwärts" development volunteer service.

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“Being part of the South-North volunteer programme is an absolutely wonderful experience. I feel truly blessed and highly privileged. Therefore, I am grateful to be able to represent my church in Germany for a year. It has been wonderful so far, I have met friends that have become family to me. And I thank God each day for this opportunity.”

*Mandy Sass, South Africa
interregional volunteer 2017/2018*

“This is an excellent year for me. Before, I could not imagine myself leaving my comfort zone. It is a golden chance to explore Germany, and myself too. And it is a privilege to learn so much here, for instance about cultural differences, and to make new friends from all over the world. For me, it is also important to think about the future: how to find my place in life, also in church life. The South-North volunteer programme makes me tougher and more mature.”

*Kwang Ching Yu (Windvy), Hong Kong
interregional volunteer 2017/2018*

“The South-North volunteer programme has become a huge milestone in my life and I praise the Lord for giving me this wonderful opportunity to learn, explore and experience so much about new cultures and traditions! This programme has been a growth path for me throughout these six months and has made me realize that I am an independent woman.”

*Chalomie Shanmugam, Sri Lanka
interregional volunteer 2017/2018*



Spend a year abroad

The UEM volunteer programme is one of the best ways to get to know the UEM's activities. Participants in this programme develop a relationship to our organisation that often lasts for many years beyond their original volunteer service. Interregional volunteers will stay in Germany for twelve months (April to April). They are expected to fully participate in the life and activities of their hosting institution in Germany.

In 2002 the first South-North volunteers were sent to Germany through the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) in order to live and work for one year in Germany. After a few years of interruption the UEM has revitalised this programme in 2011 to create learning opportunities for young members of its member churches. The aims of the programme are intercultural exchange and sharing experiences with other Christians. Also, the volunteers are expected to support the work of their hosting institution actively.

Express solidarity

The South-North volunteer programme from the UEM offers young people from Africa and Asia the chance to go abroad for one year to work on social projects in the UEM members. Those selected will gain experiences and new friendships to last a lifetime. Volunteers provide a helping hand with the social institutions of the hosting member, where support is desired and needed. Participants in the programme have the opportunity

to express their solidarity with their fellow co-workers and contribute to mutual learning experiences. They are expected to fully participate in the life and activities of their hosting institution in Germany.

Available placements

Activities are manifold, depending on the activities of the hosting institution. Applicants can indicate their preferences according to their skills, but should remain flexible with regard to their placement profile. The hosting organisations are geographically located in Western Germany.

Volunteers will be placed

- in youth centres
- in schools
- in kindergartens
- in organisations with a focus on disabled people
- in organisations with adult education
- in organisations working with refugees or elderly people or
- in organisations within civil society organisation doing secular community based work



Aims and objectives

The aim of the South-North volunteer programme is to expose participants to a different culture, giving them opportunities for new intercultural exchange and insight, as well as shared experiences with other people.

UEM volunteers will have the opportunity to

- establish cross-cultural competence and intercultural leadership skills by working alongside those with very different backgrounds and viewpoints
- develop and strengthen interpersonal skills
- earn about and contribute to exciting partnerships
- share what they have learned with their own communities and networks at home

