



GLOBAL AID NETWORK UK INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

What's working with GAIN like?

Global Aid Network is the official humanitarian aid partner for Agapé around the world. The UK GAIN office launched in 2015 and our internships provide the opportunity to be part of shaping and growing the work of GAIN in the UK. GAIN UK is part of a worldwide network committed to revealing hope and restoring life by mobilising people and resources.

We want to see lives in the UK transformed as they are involved in responding to global poverty and crisis. We do this in partnership with the Agapé UK ministries working with students, families, communities, and churches. Our heart is to demonstrate the gospel in words and action through the integration of all that we do and say.

An internship would not only offer you the opportunity to be part of the GAIN team, you will also follow a programme of training and ministry experience together with other interns across Agapé. Over the course of the year, you would be based in Birmingham or Belfast working with the GAIN team with a specific role and area of responsibility based on your own interests and skills. This programme incorporates a one to three-month overseas placement with a GAIN partner. We are currently able to offer these placements in Romania, Greece, and Haiti, subject to safety and security assessments.

Agapé are committed to helping all their staff and interns develop spiritually as well as personally. The training provided covers topics engaging with whole life discipleship designed to help you to develop in your desire for and application of the word of God. This is delivered through bible study and theology modules taught by some of our Agapé UK staff. You will be equipped and mentored in growing in your own faith and sharing with others. We are all encouraged to maintain a vibrant personal walk with God and are expected to take part in weekly prayer and Bible study meetings with our team.

Is the internship right for me?

Great question! We think the internship programme would be a good for you if...

You are a person who has a heart for God and commitment to making disciples as we put into action our love for God and loving our neighbour. You eagerly desire to serve others. As a disciple of Christ, you have a teachable spirit. You have a desire to continue growing in your relationship with Christ and see an internship with GAIN as part of that. You have a heart to share the Gospel through word and deed and have compassion for those affected by poverty and disasters.

You enjoy being a team player, respond well to authority, and have strong inter-personal skills. You easily and naturally make connections with others, and/or are energised by spending time around people.

You have the ability to motivate and organise yourself and can be flexible and adaptable when required. You have a healthy self-image, cope well with stress, and can manage being busy for several weeks in a row.



What will be covered in the training?

HEART

- Growing in our understanding of God's heart for injustice through biblical study and learning from Christian leaders who are on the forefront of figuring out how we apply God's word to our broken world, ie Pastor Tim Keller.
- Allowing God's heart to shape your own heart and engagement with people living on the margins through time spent with them.

HEAD

- Growing awareness of people in poverty and crisis around the world shaped by hearing their stories.
- Learning from practitioners in this field who are grappling with the reality of responding to short-term crisis and longer-term ingrained cycles of poverty.
- Your study will draw from well recognised resources such as 'When Helping Hurts' by S. Corbett & B. Fikkert and discussing informative current documentaries.

HAND

- Having opportunities to put your learning into practice as we seek to demonstrate the values and take steps of faith to respond in desperate circumstances.
- This section of the programme will closely tie in with your chosen overseas location and will include a relevant assignment into recognised standards of practice in the related field of humanitarian assistance.

VOICE

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The above areas will form the core of your training and discipleship with GAIN and will be underpinned this track equipping you through broader ministry training:

Servant – being led by Jesus

Becoming more like Jesus in character, depending on His Holy Spirit, enjoying his grace, loving and obeying God in everything. This will be covered in modules such as prayer as a way of life, knowing and applying God's word, practicing spiritual disciplines and walking in the Spirit.

Shepherd – leading like Jesus

Growing in love, practical care, handling the word of God and engagement with those to whom God is calling you to minister and serve. With modules section as building authentic relationships, experiencing freedom through forgiveness and contributing as a healthy member of a team.

Steward – leading people to Jesus

Understanding who God has created you to be and being a steward of the gifts, skills and abilities that the Lord has given you and how they can be used effectively in His mission. Topics include self-awareness in serving others, steward of my personal growth and time.

Discovering Jesus Together

Alongside these foundational subjects you will be given opportunity to grow in your commitment to helping others discover Jesus., developing competence in the practical skills of sharing your faith, investing yourself in the lives of other believers and mobilising others to do the same, so that you will be increasingly leading people to Jesus.

What roles could I be doing as part of the GAIN team alongside my training?

Communications:

Involving people is the heartbeat of GAIN and expressing our key messages to volunteers, donors, businesses and churches is essential to inviting people to be part of the network. You will have responsibility for writing content and maintaining our online presence through the website and social media channels.

Volunteer Engagement:

Building strong relationships with those who are giving their time and efforts is essential for there to be a meaningful connection to those whose lives are being impacted. You will be part of running our packing sessions and ensuring that we are engaging with volunteers at every level of involvement.

Mobilisation in the UK and Overseas:

Our opportunities to go overseas with GAIN project teams is a significant way for someone to give their time and skills as well as be impacted themselves as they go to serve. This role requires great people skills and is for someone who is organisationally sharp to ensure a smooth running of our teams right from the planning stages through to returning home and evaluations. It will also involve planning and hosting events to promote opportunities to be involved with GAIN in the UK and overseas.

Logistics:

The collection of Gifts in Kind (GIK) is a key strategy for GAIN in seeking to bring a very practical demonstration of help to people facing crisis and poverty. This area will suit someone who loves to be hands on, is highly organised and able to relate well to people whether it's a business who wants to make a donation or with volunteers who are giving their time to help sort and pack the items ready to send.

Water for Life Initiative:

One of our three core strategies at GAIN is to be providing clean water to communities suffering from water poverty. The WFLI builds wells, provides hygiene training, and helps to strengthen the local church as they seek to restore human flourishing and eradicate water poverty. You will be working with a global team as you contribute to the water programme and help to mobilise people and funds from the UK. This is a chance to make a very tangible difference in lives across the world.



Where are the overseas placement opportunities?

Haiti – Children and Education

The children’s centre in Haiti, offers a home and education to children who have been impacted by the ingrained cycle of poverty in their country. The centre was rebuilt after the devastating earthquake in 2010. Whilst serving with the team in Haiti, you will be part of helping in the day to day running of the centre as well as assisting with the school and community programmes.



Romania – Youth and Community Building

Set on the edge of the city next to the rubbish dump, the slum village of Dallas is home to the socially excluded communities of Roma and Gypsies. Our local partners are working to improve these conditions and to provide a meaningful children’s and youth programme to invest in the next generation as role models to others. You will be supporting the delivery of these programmes on a weekly basis and helping to support the teaching of English students.



Greece – Refugees and Asylum Seekers

With the number of people crossing from Turkey to seek refuge in Europe continuing unabated, the hotspot camps on the island of Lesbos battles weekly with new arrivals. You will be working within the camp to support the allocation of housing, protection of the more vulnerable areas and in the distribution of essential items to people as they are processed into the camp. This will be a hands-on insight into the reality of what it people for those who have fled and are stuck in this place of limbo.



Location:

Birmingham or Belfast and an overseas placement of 1-3 months

Duration of Internship:

Twelve Months. There is an option to start in September or January.

Both options will require attending a three-day Support Discovery Training in June, the first part of the Introduction to Bible Study Methods, a four-day course in August and a three-day induction in early September. This will enable you to be ready to start the programme with a full team of ministry partners and to have completed the initial training part of the courses.

Application Deadline:

3rd March for entry either in September or January the following year.

Hours of work:

40 (Flexible throughout the year, typically between 9am–5pm, five days a week; with some of your working time over evenings & weekends.)

Holiday entitlement:

25 days plus Bank Holidays.

Funding:

Funded via Personal Support (Full training will be given.)

This is paid as a Training Fee, Placement Fee and the funding necessary for to cover your living costs.

Qualifications required:

Degree level or equivalent.



GAIN UK, c/o Agapé,
167 Newhall St, Birmingham,
B3 1SW | 0121 765 4404
www.globalaidnetwork.org.uk
info@globalaidnetwork.org.uk

   @GlobalAidNetUK