

Frequently Asked Questions

International Internship Program

WATER, SANITATION, & HYGIENE (WASH)

What is the Samaritan's Purse International Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH) Internship Program?

The International WASH Program was established by the Samaritan's Purse Projects Department in 2009 for three primary purposes:

- To give interns exposure to international relief & development
- To train interns to be successful WASH Program Managers
- To recruit international field staff employees

Who qualifies for the program?

The program is designed for individuals who demonstrate the following:

- Solid Christian testimony and understanding of the basis of salvation
- Biblical training
- Frequent, regular involvement in church and/or missions
- Maturity and leadership
- Previous international experience and cultural sensitivity
- Calling to Christian relief & development
- Completion of a college degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering, Environmental Studies, Hydrology, or a related field
- Employment experiences that reflect interest in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.
- Technical skills and/or knowledge relevant to water schemes appropriate in the developing world context.
- Reporting and research skills
- Ability to speak and write in English
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Foreign language fluency for certain assignments (e.g. Francophone Africa or Latin America)
- Solid Christian references
- Willingness to serve where needed and willingness to consider future international employment with Samaritan's Purse

Do you have to be a United States citizen in order to apply?

There are no citizenship restrictions. Individuals of any nationality may apply as long as they meet the criteria outlined above.

Can individuals who are married or who have children apply?

Married couples have served as interns in the past, but placement depends, in part, on the assignment locations and whether or not a hosting field office has the capacity to accommodate a couple in terms of living arrangements. In a situation where a couple would like to serve, both spouses must apply and be accepted as interns (whether as WASH interns or otherwise). It is not possible for an intern to be accompanied by a non-intern spouse. Due to the short-term and sometimes transient nature of intern assignments and the fact that some locations are either unsafe or unsuitable for children, internships generally are not appropriate avenues of service for families. Samaritan's Purse is unable to provide childcare services.

How do I apply for an internship?

You may download an internship application as either a PDF File or a Fillable Word Document on the Samaritan's Purse Web site and return it to Mr. Terry Harmon, Field Support Unit Manager via e-mail (tharmon@samaritan.org), via fax at 828-266-1049, or via regular mail (Samaritan's Purse, P. O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607).

Please attach a cover letter specifically stating that you are applying for a WASH internship.

What is the deadline for applying?

Due to the large volume of applications that we receive, in order to maximize processing and review time as well as placement consideration, we recommend that you submit an application 3 to 9 months in advance. Generally speaking, the earlier an application is received, the better the chance for placement. Later applicants may find that all available slots have been filled by the time their applications have been received. We recommend that you submit an application in either October (if you wish to begin an internship between January and June) or April (if you wish to begin an internship between July and December).

What is the selection process?

Applicants are narrowed to groups of finalists. A limited number of those finalists will then be selected for telephone interviews. Intern placements will be determined upon completion of interviews.

Where are interns assigned? Can they choose their assignment locations?

Locations may vary from year to year, and hosting field offices are selected on the following criteria:

- Field offices must have staff who are capable of leading, directing, training, and mentoring interns, both professionally and spiritually
- Field offices must have programs that encompass multiple sectors of relief & development in order to give interns broad-based exposure to the work of Samaritan's Purse

Applicants are welcome to state preferences for particular countries, world regions, or people groups, but Samaritan's Purse will determine final placements. We ask all applicants to be willing to serve where most needed.

Who do interns work with?

Interns work alongside seasoned field staff, including other expatriates and national staff. The number of co-workers will depend on the assigned location and the size of its associated projects. Interns may be assigned in pairs.

What does a Water & Sanitation intern do?

Specific duties and expectations include:

- Assisting the Field Water & Sanitation Program Managers with
 - Current water supply projects including hand-dug well construction, borehole drilling, spring catchments, gravity flow schemes, rainwater catchment systems, and household water treatment methods.
 - Current sanitation programs that include community awareness, the construction of latrines, and solid waste disposal.
 - Current health and hygiene promotion projects, including safe water handling and storage, hand washing, and personal hygiene.
 - Assessments of water, sanitation, and hygiene needs in the assigned country.
 - Monitoring and evaluating current projects.
- Assisting Country Directors with
 - Reports and records of current projects.
 - Development of project proposals and concept notes.

Expected outcomes and knowledge gained include:

- Understanding of Samaritan's Purse organizational methods, procedures and philosophy of ministry.

- Experience with Samaritan's Purse water, sanitation, and hygiene field programs
- Understanding of basic water interventions, including well construction, borehole development, spring protections, rainwater catchments, household water treatment options, and other relevant technologies
- Exposure to appropriate sanitation technologies
- Competence in hygiene education methods
- Exposure to and insight into the humanitarian aid context, field project implementation, and grant proposal development
- Cultural awareness and appreciation resulting from working closely with national staff and in a foreign context

What else is expected of interns?

In most cases, interns interact with the local church, government officials, community leaders, and other non-governmental organizations and are expected to maintain a strong Christian witness to colleagues, beneficiaries, and the general public. Interns must be able to communicate and interact well with people of different cultural, educational, socio-economic, and linguistic backgrounds; be able to work under difficult, intense, and austere conditions; be good stewards of resources; possess a strong work ethic; and demonstrate adaptability, consistency, patience, and servants' hearts. Interns are required to report monthly to the Field Support Unit Manager, describing what projects they have participated in, lessons learned, etc.

What expenses are associated with the program and who pays them?

Samaritan's Purse pays a minimal stipend, provides airfare and travel insurance coverage, and pays for immunization and travel document expenses. The host field office covers all ministry-related expenses, including housing, meals, and local transportation.

How are travel arrangements handled?

The Projects Department's Field Support Unit arranges interns' flights to orientation and to the international assignment locations. Interns are responsible for transportation between their homes and departure airports. The Field Support Unit will coordinate with the host field office regarding in-country arrangements.

What pre-departure arrangements need to be made?

All international assignments require a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the projected return date. Interns are responsible for acquiring their passports. Some countries also require an entry visa. The Field Support Unit will assist with obtaining visas.

Interns begin their assignments by attending an organizational orientation and finance training at the Samaritan's Purse international headquarters in Boone, North Carolina and depart for the field immediately afterward.

Interns will receive detailed information regarding immunizations and medications at least 30 days prior to the orientation session in North Carolina.

Although Samaritan's Purse will provide travel insurance coverage for interns while they are serving outside of their home countries, interns must provide proof of personal insurance that covers them while inside their countries of citizenship.

Can interns continue working with Samaritan's Purse after their assignments?

Although future employment is not promised or guaranteed, the internship program is one method of recruitment for international field staff (IFS), and interns who have successfully completed the program are strongly encouraged to apply for longer-term international employment with Samaritan's Purse.

If you have other questions, please contact:

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