



Thank you for expressing an interest in the Reach Programme
at Friends International!

The Reach programme is a unique cross-cultural discipleship and ministry training programme for Christian graduates. It combines an opportunity to participate in God's mission amongst international students with mentoring and training designed to nurture your growth and equip you for cross-cultural ministry in the whole of life. It is a well-established programme, running for over 25 years, which we renew and improve each year in response to current opportunities, issues and feedback, to make even better for those who do it the next year.

We're looking for suitable candidates to join us for the year from September 2025 who are keen to share the love of Jesus with international students. If you think this might be for you, we'd love to hear from you. The pages below give you more information about the aims of the programme, what is involved, and for whom it is designed. If you have questions, or you'd like to talk it over, please contact us at the address below.

The application form is also enclosed. We know it helps to plan ahead, both for you and us, so we encourage you to be in contact earlier rather than later, even if it is simply to explore the possibility of the Reach Programme.

We have extended our deadline and will be continuing to accept applications

***But we advise applying as soon as possible to avoid disappointment
regarding visas and preferred locations.***

We are praying for God's blessing for you as you seek Him for the way ahead,

Luke Hammond
Reach Programme Co-ordinator
Friends International

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Everything you need to know about The Reach Programme: Information and Application Pack

Reach is a cross-cultural Christian discipleship and ministry training programme

Our vision and aims

One million international students study in the UK and Ireland every year. Many come from countries where it is not possible to speak openly about Jesus or where the church is small. Most of these students are open to friendship; many are interested to explore the big questions of life.

The Reach programme is one way in which we give international students the opportunity to encounter Jesus through a Christian friend. Through befriending and sharing the love of Jesus, Reach trainees engage in God's global mission, and open themselves to be changed and equipped by Him in the process.

The vision of Friends International is

*To see international students transformed by the good news of Jesus
so that they fully engage with the mission of the church in the world*

The Reach Year

The year is not only designed to benefit the students you will encounter, but primarily to be an investment in you, the Reach trainee. Our three aims for your time on Reach are that you would be enabled to

- Grow in your **relationship with Christ**
- Discover and develop your God-given **gifts and potential** for serving him
- Enlarge your vision for, and commitment to, **God's global mission**

We recognise that Christian formation involves the development of the whole person in every part of life, so Reach is not simply about learning the skills of cross-cultural ministry, but also about developing conviction, values and character.

The Content of the Programme

Each Reach trainee is based in a University city, working alongside an experienced Friends International staff worker and with local church volunteers.

The programme has four main parts:

- **Practical ministry:** A range of ministry experiences through hands-on involvement in the local work: welcoming & befriending, discipleship & evangelistic Bible study, organising social events, being part of a World Café team.
- **Group training:** Four residential conferences (September orientation, November training, January annual staff conference, June debriefing), plus local training (How local training is delivered varies between cities).
- **Personal study:** Time each week spent reading, learning from, and responding to a well-developed core study programme, plus elective study in other areas.
- **Mentored supervision:** regular mentoring with an experienced staff worker who will work alongside and support you on the ground.

The curriculum is based around four broad areas:

**Bible & Doctrine
Gospel & Culture**

**Self & Community
Mission & Ministry**

Friends International is blessed with a staff team that are some of the most experienced in international student ministry in Europe, and includes those who have specialised in particular areas of ministry. We draw on these staff to deliver the training for Reach Trainees.

Reach trainees will typically also get involved with the Big Weekend Away (formerly the Word Alive International Student track) and a Summer International Outreach too.

Within the framework of the programme there is flexibility and customisability. Each Reach trainee, together with their staff mentor, will design their ***Personal Reach Plan***: a programme of training, service and spiritual formation that is appropriate for where they are starting from and which aims to prepare them for the future.

In short, Reach is a year of service, of growth, of friendship!

- to take in – through training, study and mentoring
- to give out – by sharing the love of Jesus with international students
- before moving on - as life-long ambassadors for Jesus in the world

Who is the Reach Programme for?

- Committed Christians who are growing in maturity and want to introduce international students to Jesus
- Graduates, usually aged 21-30yrs
- Fluent English speakers

Practicalities

Duration: The Reach programme starts on 1st September 2025 and runs for 12 months. There is a possibility of extending to do a second year. The programme is full-time.

Cost: The Reach fee is £995 (or equivalent in Euros). This pays for the cost of the four residential training conferences, plus books and other resources and can be paid in instalments across the year, or in one lump sum. In addition to this, Reach trainees are responsible for raising their own finances for the year. Living costs (accommodation, food, travel, etc) may be £8,000-£13,000 (9,000–14,000 Euros), depending on the individual, location, and local church help. Reach trainees receive support and training from an experienced team who help them as they raise support from those who want to partner in their year through prayer and financial giving, as well as help in managing finances and drawing up a personal budget.

In June 2025 there will be an initial training day for all successful applicants including training in raising support and building a partnership base. Date and details to be confirmed.

Non-UK citizens: One of the strengths of the Reach programme is the diversity of the Reach team each year. We love to receive internationals!

Those who are currently in UK on a study visa and complete their studies in Summer 2025 can apply for a visa via the graduate entry route (post-study visa).

For those applying from outside UK, we are able to sponsor a limited number (max 5) applying for a Temporary Worker - Charity Worker visa. (Although we cannot guarantee that any specific application will be successful).

The Charity Worker visa brings certain conditions, including not undertaking any paid employment, or claiming any state benefits, and keeping very clear reporting requirements. For more information about the current requirements for a Charity Worker visa please see: <https://www.gov.uk/temporary-worker-charity-worker-visa>

Before submitting a Charity Worker visa application, you need to have £1,270 in your bank account consistently for 28 days. Those on a Charity Worker visa should budget an additional £1,000 to cover extra costs (including visa fee and immigration health surcharge). If applying to be placed in Ireland, please contact us for the latest information.

Time off and holidays: Reach Trainees receive one day off each week, in addition to Sundays (which are often busy). For Holiday allowance, there are 25 holiday days to use, plus UK bank holidays.

Reach trainees occasionally come into contact with children in the course of their work, so they may be required to complete a safeguarding self-declaration form.

Application

We encourage those considering applying for the Reach programme to discuss it with a leader in their church first, including them early in the process. It is important to have their support and we will ask for a reference from a church leader.

If you would like to chat informally or visit a current placement before submitting your application, please contact us at the address below and we will be happy to arrange this.

Please read our doctrinal basis, ethos statement and divergent views statement papers included in this application pack. Then complete the application form, including supplying referees who are willing and available to write a reference for you.

To apply, you need to submit:

- Completed application form
- Personal CV, covering education, qualifications, work & voluntary experience

We have extended our deadline and will be continuing to accept applications

Note: We advise applying as soon as possible to avoid disappointment regarding visas and preferred locations.

Our procedure on receipt of applications is to take up references before deciding whether to proceed to interview.

If you would like to find out more before applying, please contact Luke Hammond (Reach Programme Coordinator). You can contact him at luke.hammond@friendsinternational.uk

Once your application is complete, please send it to Luke Hammond, Reach Coordinator.
luke.hammond@friendsinternational.uk.

Friends International Statement of Faith

Friends International has adopted the basis of faith of the Evangelical Alliance, of which it is a member organization. All staff, Reach Volunteers and Trustees of Friends International are required to agree with and sign this basis of faith on appointment, and thereafter at three-yearly intervals.

We believe in:

1. The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
3. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God-fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
4. The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
5. The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
6. The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
7. The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
8. The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
9. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
10. The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers - given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
11. The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

The Friends International Statement On Divergent Views

1. Friends International is an evangelical Mission that works with a cross-section of denominational and independent churches. Furthermore, its trustees, branch officials, staff and volunteers also represent a considerable diversity in their church backgrounds.
2. The Statement of Faith contained in the Trust Deeds represents the essential truths of the Gospel that are basic for the ministry of Friends International. As such, it is the doctrinal base to which all trustees, branch officials, staff and volunteers must assent, and the grounds on which Friends International is in fellowship with churches and other mission societies.
3. Friends International does, however, recognize and respect the divergences of biblical interpretation and practices amongst evangelical Christians, including those of churches overseas to which international student Christians may belong. As long as these differences do not conflict with the Statement of Faith or cause undue divisiveness, they are not a barrier to becoming a staff member, a trustee or a branch official.
4. Being non-denominational in doctrine, Friends International expects its trustees, branch officials, staff and volunteers to be mutually respectful regarding teachings not covered by the Statement of Faith. Such teachings should not prejudice their advice when counselling a new believer regarding church affiliation, nor affect the churches and mission societies with which they have contact.
5. When working in a single church context, whether one's own or another, Friends International expects its trustees, branch officials, staff and volunteers to operate with respect towards that particular church's viewpoints on matters not covered by the Statement of Faith. However when working within an inter-church context, trustees, branch officials, staff and volunteers are able to make decisions, where needed, on matters not covered by the Statement of Faith and where discretion is permitted by Scripture. Whether applying their own viewpoints or deferring to the viewpoints of others, their practice should be motivated by a desire for the optimal cooperation of the group and not by a sense of loyalty to their own theological convictions.
6. Friends International believes that God has called the trustees and staff to concentrate unswervingly on evangelism, discipleship and preparing students to help in the development of churches in their own countries upon their return, according to Christ's mandate (Matthew 28 v18-20). Therefore, all are urged to concentrate on these goals and to exercise care in all conversation and correspondence so that no offence is unnecessarily caused to anyone, be they colleagues, local churches or students on any matters, whether doctrinal, political or racial. Whilst the cross may be an offence to some (Galatians 5.11), we are called to be the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing (2 Corinthians 2.15).