Pastoral Intern 2023-24

“… remain constant in our prayers for the communities and individuals which live and speak for Jesus on the diverse array of campuses around the world. May his work among students grow and be renewed each year as the Spirit works in and through them. And may we continue to see students built into communities of disciples, transformed by the gospel and impacting the university, the church and society for the glory of Christ.”

Luke Cawley, Campus Lights: Students Living and Speaking for Jesus Around the World

# The Hub Belfast

The Hub Belfast is a chaplaincy partnership between the Church of Ireland and Methodist Church in Ireland to share in ministry and mission across University and College Campuses in the city of Belfast.

As a chaplaincy, the Hub has a unique opportunity for ministry in Belfast – an invitation from the universities that we work along with to support and encourage staff and students on campus. While both Ulster University and Queen’s University are secular institutions (so as all students feel welcome there), the universities also recognise that there are a tremendous number of both staff members and students who will be people of faith. Chaplaincies exist to care for and encourage these people, as well as to support the wider work of the universities.

The word ‘chaplaincy’ finds its root in the story of Martin of Tours, a fourth century bishop from Hungary. The story goes that Martin, while serving in the military, once came upon a homeless person at the gate of a city. Martin, living out his faith in the good news of the Lord Jesus, sought to serve that person and so took his soldiers cloak, tore it in two, and gave half of it to the vagrant. The word ‘capella’ in Latin literally means ‘little cloak’, and it’s from that word that we get our words ‘chaplain’ and ‘chaplaincy’. This story reminds us of what it is to serve in chaplaincy. We give from what we have – our resources, our time, ourselves – in order to serve the people around us on campus for the sake of the Kingdom.

# Internship Scheme

For years, the Hub Belfast has run what we have called our internship scheme – an opportunity for graduates, gap year students and young adults to serve for a year as part of the chaplaincy team. We have had twelve young adults serve in chaplaincy as part of our internship scheme over the last five years. Of those twelve young adults, three returned to post-graduate study, five went on to full time work in church and para-church organisations, three moved into full time work in other organisations, and one is just finishing their year out with us at the minute.

This incoming academic year is no different! We’re still committed to providing an opportunity for young adults to live and work in a full-time ministry context, developing their character and giftings through servant-hearted leadership. Our interns are key members of staff who will work with the wider ministry team at the Hub to resource existing and plant new ministries across the city. It’s our hope that the year in ministry will give our interns an opportunity to grow in their faith, discern God’s call on their life, and then to be released as faithful followers of Jesus into the next phase of life and ministry.

The ethos of the chaplaincy is very much to pitch in, support and encourage one another with all activity across the city. Our interns will need to be flexible in their approach to the shape of a working week. Each Intern will also have administrative responsibilities, including key-holding and acting as a duty warden for on-site events. Each intern will be encouraged to help shape the ministry as well as serving it. The chaplaincy appreciates imagination, energy, enthusiasm and ideas to help us become more Christ-like in His mission. Rhythms of prayer and personal discipleship are an essential part of the internship year and will give our team opportunities to both cultivate their own spirits and, like the Lord Jesus, spend important time away from the crowds. That said, the majority of our work in chaplaincy is focused on connecting with college and university staff and students. Our ministry is all about serving people on the campuses of our city with gospel hearts. Each working day, our internship team will be moving from outreach events to one-to-one mentoring opportunities, from small group Bible studies to worship gatherings, and from discipleship evenings to prayer meetings. It’s important that applicants for our internship scheme recognise that the role will involve interacting with a lot of people each week.

# Job Description

We really want to see our internship team to grow in areas, ministries and giftings that they are passionate about. To that end, as well as contributing to the general work of the chaplaincy, each internship will have a focus that our interns will devote a little more of their time to. We’ll also commit to growing their knowledge of and heart for that ministry focus. Our internship team will meet with, be mentored by and work alongside the wider ministry team in these areas to ensure that their time with us brings about an increased appreciation and passion for that aspect of ministry.

## Pastoral Intern

Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

 1 Peter 5:2-3

Across the campuses of the city, and within our residential and church communities, there are a great many students and young adults who have a real desire to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord. As part of our year-out programme this academic year, we are hoping to appoint at least one intern who will focus on this important work, supporting the chaplain and the wider ministry team in leading, guiding and caring for the people that God has placed in our care. Eugene Peterson (in his seminal pastoral book *Working the Angles*) identifies three areas that every pastor ought to pay attention to when seeking to shepherd God’s flock – prayer, reading scripture, and spiritual direction (giving attention to what God is doing in the person who happens to be in front of us). At the most basic level, this is what the work of the pastoral intern will equate to.

* Prayer - Praying one-to-one, organising and leading prayer meetings, and devoting personal time to prayer.
* Scripture - Meeting with students for individual or small group Bible studies, leading Bible teaching, preaching and teaching in chaplaincy meetings, and giving time to growing in personal knowledge of the word.
* Spiritual Direction – Mentoring students, leading discipleship and accountability groups, equipping God’s people for their next stages of life and ministry, and encouraging and caring for the people around us in whatever season of life they find themselves.

The role of Pastoral Intern will be based at The Hub Belfast, Elmwood Avenue. That said, the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy is a citywide chaplaincy and there may be opportunities and the need for our interns to spend some time at other locations around the city, in particular on campus at Queen’s University, Ulster University, and Belfast Met’s Millfield campus.

The person applying for the Pastoral Internship ought to be –

* A recent graduate or someone taking a year out from their current course of studies.
* Servant-hearted.
* Focused on the pastoral and spiritual care of God’s people.
* Passionate about the study and teaching of the Bible and seeing it lived out in people’s lives.
* Adaptable to meeting the needs of people of different ages and different stages of the discipleship journey.
* Able to motivate, inspire and encourage others.
* Committed to and passionate about prayer.
* Empathetic and responsive to the needs of people.

## Pastoral Ministries

As part of their day-to-day work, our pastoral intern will contribute to established pastoral work that takes place through the Hub –

* Small group Bible studies.
* One-to-one mentoring.
* Pastoral care.
* Midweek worship & teaching at the Hub.
* Prayer meetings.
* Opportunities to gather for community and fellowship.

In addition, we hope that our intern will bring all their own creative energy to the role – identifying things that might be missing in the rhythms of a chaplaincy week, and seizing opportunities to undertake projects that they are passionate about.

## The Church of the Resurrection

The Church of the Resurrection is one of our central communities here at The Hub Belfast. It’s a multi-generational place of worship where a church family meets every Sunday morning. As part of our staff team at The Hub, our interns will make the Church of the Resurrection their worshipping home for the year and we sincerely hope that they’ll be blessed by that time as part of our church family.

The whole staff team is involved in different ways on a Sunday morning and beyond. Drawing alongside and supporting our church volunteers we welcome church members, guests and visitors in through our doors. We help provide breakfast, tea, coffee and hospitality when it’s required. We spend time with our young people. We provide leadership on youth or children’s residentials that happen through the Church of Ireland and Methodist Church. Depending each person’s talents, we also help with the praise band, and the sound or audio-visual team. We also want to nurture one another in the leading and teaching of a church family and so share the load of leading our services, teaching at our services, sharing in prayers or readings, and praying for church family members during and after the service.

# Living Allowance, Accommodation and Benefits

Each member of our internship team will be provided with –

* Free living accommodation in a community household. We have six beautiful Victorian houses situated on Elmwood Avenue, Belfast. Each house is provided with internet, power, heating, and hot water. The residents of each of our houses live in community, sharing the responsibility for cooking, cleaning and other practical tasks. Residency at the Hub typically costs up to £125 per week, but is given freely to our internship team.
* A monthly living allowance of £400 per month.
* Time off at Christmas and Easter, as well as nine floating leave days to be used throughout the year.
* All costs of agreed training and development, provided both internally and externally will be covered.
* Practical direction and support from our Ministry Team Leaders.
* Personal discipleship and support.

# How to Apply

In order to apply for a Ministry Internship, complete the following application form and return it as soon as possible. Interviews for our internship roles are expected to begin on Mon 26th June.

The Online form is available either through The Hub Belfast website, or directly at:

<https://form.jotform.com/231444109408350>

For further details on how to apply; to discuss any aspect of the Internship year, the roles involved and areas of ministry; or to ask any broader questions about the vision and mission of The Hub, please contact our Associate Chaplain, James Diffin at jim@thehubbelfast.org.