



**Job Description: Student Mission Leader and FISH Student Support Work – A joint post with St Giles Church Northampton and FISH Northampton – 33 hours total per week**

**St Giles Student Mission Leader - 21 hours per week**

**Role Summary**

* To develop St Giles’ ministry and mission with University students, particularly seeking to reach those that are not Christians.
* To oversee and seek to expand St Giles’ existing ministry with students, nurturing those within the ministry to be disciple-making disciples of Jesus Christ.
* To partner with other student mission organisations across Northampton and beyond – particularly FISH, with whom the post holder would work for 12 hours per week.
* To partner with university services and other organisations seeking to support student mental health and wellbeing

**Role Description**

This is a part-time post for an initial 2 year period, involving a combination of mission and outreach to students at the University of Northampton and discipling students within the St. Giles congregation.

Foreseeable roles and responsibilities:

* To build upon existing links with the University (Chaplaincy, Christian Union etc.) to explore ways of engaging in mission and evangelism collaboratively.
* To explore possibilities for mission to University students within the wider town – in social spaces, student housing and other areas.
* To partner with other town-centre churches and student mission organisations to explore ways of doing student mission together.
* To guide the Student leadership team to enable them to lead, resource and facilitate weekly gatherings as well as organising outreach initiatives and social activities.
* To work with the student and young adult leadership team in facilitating student welcome programmes, especially around key times of the year such as Fresher’s Week.
* To assist the leadership team in providing pastoral care for students. An important part of good mental health is a good awareness of faith and spiritual wellbeing. As a church we are seeking to work with the university to support student mental health services.
* To continue to develop the partnership with FISH and to raise the profile of mission and ministry with international students both at St Giles and beyond.

**FISH Student Support Worker - 12 hours a week**

Friendship International Students and Hosts (Northampton) has a vision to offer friendship and support to international students studying at the University of Northampton and to share the Christian faith with them in culturally appropriate ways. We have seen our ministry go beyond Northampton, as we hear stories of students sharing the gospel with their friends and family when they return home after their studies. This is an amazing opportunity.

**Role Summary**

* To develop friendships with overseas students at the University of Northampton; building bridges into their lives.
* To use innovative and culturally sensitive ways to share the gospel with those of other religions and cultures.
* To take an active role in FISH activities including the Globe café and student outings.

**Role Description**

* To build relationships with international students.
* To actively enable them to engage with the Christian message in a positive and culturally sensitive manner. For example: organising Bible studies with other FISH volunteers.
* To regularly connect with international students within the university campus including visits to the chaplaincy and via social media.
* To be responsible for communicating between international students, the University, and FISH regarding the various services offered.
* To work with Globe café co-ordinator to plan and run the Globe café on Monday evenings.
* To assist with the running of the hospitality scheme, events and outings.
* To build relationships with international students, listen and respond to their needs including for mental health and wellbeing; be aware of pastoral support services and signpost as necessary**.**
* To work alongside FISH volunteers from different Christian churches.
* To be involved in building connections with other bodies within the University, including International Student Services and the Christian Union.
* To provide feedback and suggest new developments for the work of FISH to the Board of Trustees and attend Trustee meetings when required.
* To undertake any reasonable additional task in agreement with the board of trustees.

**Working Hours**

**St. Giles**

The candidate would be expected to work on Sundays (services), Monday mornings, and to attend our regular Student and Young Adult meetings on Wednesday evenings. All other hours to be worked can be done flexibly around how the candidate wants to shape the role in discussion with a line manager.

**FISH**

The candidate would be expected to work Monday lunchtimes (Chaplaincy lunch) and evenings during term time (Globe café); and to join students on at least 6 outings a year (usually Saturdays or bank holiday Mondays). All other hours to be worked can be done flexibly around the international student calendar and how the candidate wants to shape the role in discussion with the FISH Trustees.

**Combined Personal Specification**

**Essential:**

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| A committed Christian with a demonstrable commitment to growing as a disciple of Jesus and living life in the power of the Holy Spirit |
| Ability to initiate and develop effective relationships with key stakeholders (students, partner agencies, the wider church fellowship and church ministry team) |
| A passion for mission and evangelism |
| Experience of working as part of a team |
| Willingness to work within the authority structures of the church |
| Ability to be self-motivated and pro-active |
| Able to plan, organise and prioritise own time and workload |
| Able to work flexibly whilst also developing and maintaining healthy boundaries |
| Have a heart and calling to befriend and reach students of other cultures and religions |
| Have a willingness to learn ways to contextualise the Christian message |
| Able to share the Christian faith in ways that are relevant and sensitive to the needs of the individual or group |
| Is competent and experienced in using a range of social media channels and digital formats to: a) Initiate and maintain relationships with students and volunteers, b) Plan, communicate and deliver events c) Produce on-line content in a contemporary and effective format |
| Able to think creatively and willing to be proactive in identifying, exploring and implementing new ways of working and communicating to deliver their objectives. |
| Have a working knowledge of safeguarding law and practice, including role and professional boundaries when working with students |

**Desirable:**

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| Have been a Student in a UK University |
| Experience of ministry (in a paid or voluntary capacity) with young adults and students |
| A proven track record of exercising leadership |
| Enthusiasm for and experience of partnering with other agencies and organisations and work collaboratively  |
| Experience in providing pastoral care (skills and experience associated with coaching, mentoring or counselling). |
| An awareness of the mental health issues experienced by students with some experience of supporting their wellbeing. |
| A willingness to work in partnership with other student support services, and to signpost students to other services when needed. |
| Personal quality: Evidence of working alongside Christians of other denominations |
| Experience of working with people from different cultures |
| Experience of working within the authority structures of the church |

**General**

All Church employees and trainees must conduct themselves in a manner which is consistent with and supportive of the mission and purpose of the church.

The candidate would play an active role on the Staff Team of St Giles and attend weekly meetings. They would also be supervised by a member of the leadership team at St Giles as well as by the FISH board of trustees. They may be required to provide updates and progress reports to the PCC and FISH trustees upon request.

This post is subject to an Occupational Requirement that the post holder is a committed active Christian under Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010.