

AuthenticYouth's Gap Year Programme

Vision Statement

Through the training and development of Gap Team Members with education and practise to reach their full potential, our dream is to equip schools to be self sufficient and self-reliant in the area of Christian faith and discipleship.

Strategy

1. To give Gap Team members a practical and professional insight into youth ministry in Ireland.
2. To provide a programme that will encourage spiritual, professional, academic and personal growth.
3. To provide a flexible programme that will identify, develop and encourage gifts and abilities in the Gap team members with the aim to enhance AuthenticYouth's long-term ministry in Irish Schools.
4. To provide a programme that will serve as a training ground for developing Christian youth workers who are equipped to serve the Kingdom of God in Ireland.
5. To make, build and maintain relationships with Irish schools through school retreats/classes, to teach, train and equip with resources until they are self sustaining.

Values

1. Through Biblical truths, we aim to communicate with honesty, humility and love while seeking to give the benefit of the doubt.
2. As a team we practice Biblical methods of conflict resolution and strive to treat each other equally as we would wish to be treated ourselves.
3. We commit to support and encourage each team member in personal and spiritual development, prioritising that over the broader work of AuthenticYouth.
4. We will treat each school appropriately and sensitively; giving equal opportunity to all while doing our best with follow up, supplying resources and support through prayer and encouragement.

Goals

For Gap team members:

1. To gain practical experience in a variety of areas of Irish youth work.
2. To study youth work from a biblical and theological perspective.
3. To be able to identify their gifts, abilities and area of speciality in youth ministry.

Schools:

1. Experience a day retreat for as many schools as possible and receive appropriate follow up.
2. To receive further contact/support through other SU activities/events when asked for and when necessary.

Team Development

Spiritual:

- Weekly Bible study and prayer time incorporating teaching and group discussion.
- Each Gap team member will have a personal mentor to whom they are accountable for their spiritual walk.
- Each Gap team member will be a regular attendee of his or her local Church (where applicable).
- Each Gap team member will be encouraged to develop his or her own personal spiritual life.

Professional:

- An introductory programme of training including practical sessions, speakers and team development.
- Each Gap team member will also attend leadership training events.
- Each Gap team member will also be required to submit performance evaluation forms to encourage self-assessment and develop good practice.

Academic:

- Each Gap team member will attend YouthWorks/IBI one evening a week. This will include a variety of assignments and assessments.
- Each Gap team member will be asked to write, develop and deliver interactive talks focused on specific relevant issues for schools ministry.

Personal:

- Throughout the year, each Gap team member will grow in his or her own understanding of themselves through individual and team exercises.
- Social team interaction (fortnightly formally but more regularly if schedule allows).
- Gap team members will also be encouraged individually to do personal study that will have particular relevance to their own situation and personal development i.e. Book reviews and team analysis.
- Each Gap team member will be required to learn how to deliver his or her testimony in a school retreat and camp context, with a deep understanding of what God has done in his or her life.

Requirements for the Year

Age: 18-25

Cost: The full cost of the year will be €500 - €1000 depending on type of educational course.

Personal Requirements: Each Gap team member will be interviewed and asked for references (one church leader, no family or friends) in order to ascertain their suitability for the programme.

At the moment, no accommodation is supplied by SU; therefore this has to be arranged by the Gap team members themselves.