

# Introduction to the MA LCD Internship

## Why?

Students who have completed the Certificate in Language, Community and Development are encouraged to engage in and enjoy a cross-cultural internship in service of a community before returning for the Diploma stage. This is not obligatory, but it does have advantages, enabling you to:

- apply your skills in language and cultural learning, language development, education and Scripture engagement while your new learning is fresh in your mind;
- build a repository of experience and knowledge which you can reflect on during your Diploma and Dissertation learning, enriching this with real-world data and case studies;
- accumulate and process your questions about cross-cultural ministry during your studies, rather than only after you have graduated; and
- motivate yourself and your supporting partners by working in cross-cultural ministry after just six months of study, rather than two years or more.

## How long?

Although there is no official limit to the length of an internship, most students take two to three years. One year is possible, but usually not enough to both do meaningful language and cultural learning and also put that learning into practice in cross-cultural service. Four years or more risks forgetting some of the Certificate stage learning, while more than five years will require you to demonstrate that your knowledge is still current, or supplemented by professional experience, when you apply for the Diploma stage.

## What?

An intern should be supervised by one or more experienced workers, preferably in the same location, who have acquired local linguistic and cultural knowledge and are professional practitioners. Unless you are already familiar with the language(s) and cultural background of the community you will be serving, we recommend you focus initially on language and cultural learning for up to the first year (depending on the context). After this period, such learning can switch to part-time, and interns can begin to take on responsibilities as part of a team.

Note that alongside language and cultural acquisition and general development and teamwork skills, the Certificate stage provides only ten weeks of technical training in linguistics, literacy and education or Scripture engagement. This is why interns need close supervision and mentoring by a domain expert as an important part of their internship.

Some example activities:

- Ongoing language and cultural learning.
- Recording anthropological, sociolinguistic and other observations, and collecting fieldwork data (see “Preparation for Diploma Stage” document). Note that any

participant research should comply with the spirit of the College's Research Ethics policy.

- Supporting a literacy programme.
- Facilitate Scripture engagement workshops for churches on e.g. song-writing (with help from an arts specialist), Sunday school teaching, or app/website development.
- Joining a language research team to help communities make decisions about developing their language and accessing Scripture.
- Work-shadowing an exegetical advisor in a translation project.
- Serving a refugee community in practical ways.
- Participating in academic and professional conferences and training workshops.

### **Where?**

There are no requirements about where you do your internship, and some students complete them in their home countries. We recommend a location which offers rich opportunities to serve members of a minority language community cross-culturally, and to be part of a multicultural team. It is common for graduates from the Diploma stage to continue work in the same region, and even with the same community, where they completed their internship. Students who are members of mission organisations such as Wycliffe should look first to their personnel coordinators for guidance in finding an appropriate internship. Your Moorlands academic tutor may also provide supplementary support.