

Inspire – a year serving the church and growing in faith

We are delighted to announce that Leeds Vineyard is offering the opportunity of a year serving the church as an intern. This is a new and exciting step in the life of our community and one that we feel will be of great benefit to both the church and those who serve over the year.



Here's a summary of the year



We will equip you for service

It sounds a bit old fashioned these days to talk about service and yet that is what God calls all of us to. A life of service – Jesus said freely you have received, freely give. As God laid down his life for us, we lay down our lives for others. Our aim is to give you opportunities to explore what God is calling you to and to equip you for it.



We will enable you to grow –

in faith, life and leadership. The year will provide an opportunity for you to build firmer foundations in your faith; through time spent alone with God; by stepping beyond your comfort zone - taking risks and stretching your faith; and by regular contact time with those mature in their walk with God and in leadership.



When is it happening?

The year will begin in September 2021 and finish in July 2022. There will be three terms with opportunity for breaks in between for Christmas & Easter. We would ask that no holiday is taken in the term time as this will disrupt the flow and dynamic of the group and the year.



How much will it cost?

£50 per month for 10 months (£500 for the full year). This is to cover the costs of your VI training, a place at the Vineyard National Gathering and the Leaders' weekend away. The only additional cost will be for going on a mission trip (if you're able to make it) and we will provide fundraising ideas for this!

The Practical Stuff - How will it work?

The year will be part time - approximately 20 hours per week. These hours will be mainly on Monday & Friday in the day and Sundays serving at weekly worship. There will be also some evening commitments as required. We would expect that you will find part time work as a way of supporting yourself financially over the year.

The hours will be split across a variety of settings and formats. There will be a mixture of in-house teaching, Vineyard Training modules and HUB learning as well as serving in church and out in the community. The internships will be an opportunity for focussing on a particular area of ministry you might feel a calling to as well as some more general time doing what's needed behind the scenes.

You will be invited to sign up to HUB (this is a 2 year VCUK&I programme) and attend the monthly training evenings. You will also be expected to attend a growth group and potentially lead one.

As an intern cohort there'll be theological training via the Vineyard training platform. If you are wanting to train in other areas, we can work with you in finding appropriate external courses to sign up to.

We expect a sample week to look a bit like this:

	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon	Evenings
Monday	General admin support with the staff team / staff meetings		Ministry area time	HUB (monthly)
Friday	Self-directed group learning (Vineyard Training module)	Vineyard House help before an Intern lunch	Alternating between: Ministry areas Doing the Stuff Free time	
Sunday	Serving on a team!			Leading in the Vineyard weekly growth group (Autumn Term)

Other activities	Attending a growth group Leading a small group (optional) Meeting up with coach periodically Attending leaders' meetings (once a term) Attending other meetings as required based on the ministry area
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Support

Each intern will have a coach, with whom they can meet up regularly and receive support and encouragement. If you have any administrative issues, you will need to speak to the intern programme directors. If there is a more significant pastoral issue, you will need to liaise with your growth group leaders.

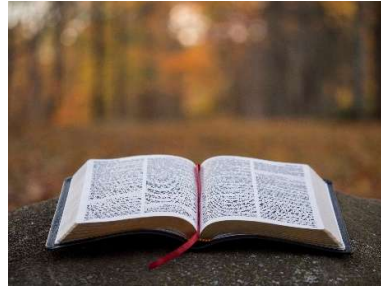
Core Requirements

The purpose of the year is to equip you for service and help you to grow in faith, life and leadership. As such, the exact details of what will be covered is going to be a little different for each intern. There will be a few core requirements and topics for every intern to aim to complete and these include:



Attendance

Attendance sounds like an easy requirement to keep but can become harder when the novelty wears off. Not being able to take part fully will mean that it is unlikely the intern year will work for you. In order to make the most of the year for both yourself and for the church, we would expect interns to attend all core training and serving sessions as outlined above – interns will be expected to notify the session leader as soon as possible beforehand if they are unable to attend.



Bible reading & regular times alone with God

We would expect all interns to start or continue a habit of regularly reading the bible as well as praying, reflecting and waiting on God. Interns will be encouraged to read the bible over the course of the year.

We don't expect all interns to have a passion to academically study the bible, but we do expect a commitment to learning. We'll pick a module to do together each term via the Vineyard Training platform.



Core leadership training

We will cover the core values of Leeds Vineyard as well as teaching on core leadership skills such as handling conflict, managing change, coaching others, leading teams.

The teaching will take place through a variety of routes.

- Hub – the vineyard training scheme nationally.
- Intern group teaching
- One on one with coach or ministry leaders



Health

Creating a way of serving that is sustainable will be an important priority for the year. We will encourage all interns to:

- Have a regular day off each week
- Look after themselves in regards sleep, exercise and healthy eating
- Seek professional help as required



Feedback

Feedback is a really important part of growing in character and faith, as well as learning to serve in the most helpful way possible. We will expect interns to be ready to receive and also to give constructive feedback over the course of the year.



Individual

Everyone will have their own individual learning needs, development areas and interests. We hope that there will be enough flexibility within the programme to accommodate each intern's needs and interests.



Encouraging each other

We would hope that the intern group will function as a support group – encouraging one another through the year – helping each other to be equipped and to grow in faith.



Doing the stuff

All interns will be given the opportunity to serve in a particular area of ministry gaining experience in that area with the ministry leader.

You will also be encouraged to take risks, learn new skills and take opportunities to stretch your faith through 'doing the stuff'; the exact details will depend on the intern, but may include a gardening or decorating project, doing healing on the streets, helping in the child contact centre. There'll also be the option of a short-term mission trip.

We will also provide opportunity to serve on Sundays – both regularly and, as is appropriate, occasionally hosting or teaching or running an all age service.



Growth groups

All interns will be expected to attend a growth group each term and encouraged to lead a growth group for 1 or more of the 3 terms. The exact group will be up to you. This will be on top of attending the core sessions on Mondays and Fridays.

Setting Expectations & Applying

Before considering applying, it is important to recognise the following important points:

- Although rewarding, you can expect the year to be challenging as you step out
- You will be representing Leeds Vineyard both when you're obviously on a team and also on your days off
- Getting stuck into the day to day operations of the church is often a behind the scenes role rather than a visible one
- Pastoral care still happens in the same ways – through growth groups, this will not give you extra access to pastoral care

Who can apply?

Anyone who'll be over 18 when we start can apply but successful applicants would need to recognise the time commitment involved as well as being able to support themselves financially over the year.

We can accept applications from those who meet the following criteria:

- Follower of Jesus
- Able to provide a positive reference from a church leader recognised by Leeds Vineyard or from your growth group leader if within our church
- Have completed Discovering Vineyard or are familiar with Vineyard Values
- Available on the days agreed
- Able to fund their own way
- You consider the Senior Pastors at Leeds Vineyard to be your leaders and pastors

When can I apply?

Applications open from May 2021. You are welcome to contact Matt & Anne Button before then, or at any point, if you would like to chat through things further. The closing date for applications will be 31st August 2021.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in this year, then first please speak to your church leader or small group leader. After considering the commitments involved, if you are interested, then we would appreciate if you could complete the application form (available to download from the website or on request from the church office) and be available for an informal chat with Matt & Anne Button.

Please don't assume you have a place on the year until we have written to you confirming your place. Only after successful completion of an interview with Matt & Anne Button, satisfactory references and DBS checks can we confirm a place has been given.

For more information on:

Hub: <http://www.hubtraining.org.uk/>

Vineyard Training: <http://www.vineyardtraining.org/>