



Church Mission Society **Short** **term placements**

If you do have further questions
please contact the recruitment team
at **vro@churchmissionsociety.org**
or on **01865 787428**.



Recruitment:

Short Term placements

Church Mission Society short term placements last from four months to two years. You will be immersed in another culture, build relationships, share skills, learn about the global church and be challenged in your faith and in your understanding of mission.



Where will I go and what will I do?

Church Mission Society has good relationships with church networks, community-based organisations and NGOs in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America. This means we have access to a wide range of mission opportunities.

Wherever possible, you will be placed alongside current CMS mission partners or local partners to join in with the work they are already doing. This way you will be able to get involved effectively, while ensuring that the work is sustainable beyond your time in the field.

As we get to know your gifts, skills and previous experience, we look at options based on these and your sense of calling. We look for strategic opportunities where skills can be shared, capacity developed and learning exchanged, in both directions. Part of your role may be to share skills with others so that work continues once you have returned home. If you express a preference for a specific location or role, we will take this into account.

Our website has an extensive list of current opportunities as well as examples of people we have placed for short-term mission in the past. Roles include: School support in India, Working with people with learning disabilities in Ecuador, children's worker in Argentina and digital storytelling in North Africa.



Who signs up for short-term service?

A wide variety of people apply to Church Mission Society for a short term placement: people exploring longer-term service who want to try a couple of years first; those nearing the end of their careers or having retired who want to use their skills and experience to serve the wider church; people looking for a career break and wanting to do something completely different. We have people who are single or married and with or without children who serve through CMS, so there are places for everyone.

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**

Recruitment: Process



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What is the selection process and how long does it take?

The whole process from application to confirmed placement can take between three and six months. We cannot guarantee the timescale as it may take time to work out details of your placement with local organisations.

To join our short term programme you need to fill in an enquiry form and we'll invite you for an initial interview (either in person at CMS House in Oxford or via zoom). If after the first interview we are both happy to proceed we will take up references and arrange for you to meet with an independent counsellor to discuss your well-being needs. If there is agreement you will then be invited to attend a placement interview. During this interview you will be able to find out more about the placement and ask any questions that you may have.



How much will it cost?

We require a support charge of £500 per person to contribute towards the costs of the training, as well as health and safeguarding checks.

You will be responsible for all your financial costs, including travel/transport, living costs, health cover and travel insurance. We may be able to offer advice as you prepare your budget. As a general guide we advise having £5,000 per person per year, however this depends on length of service, location, number of people in your family, any costs covered by the local partner, etc.



What support does CMS offer?

CMS has been supporting people overseas for more than 200 years and we endeavour to set up placements with good local supervision. You will also be assigned a regional personnel lead, part of the CMS UK staff team, who will be your first port of call. They will keep in touch with you before, during and after your placement to help you deal with any issues, including emergency support. In addition, CMS regional managers travel regularly to their regions and may be able to visit you during your time. Your regional manager and personnel officer provide support from a distance and put you in touch with other CMS people in mission nearby. Sometimes CMS organises a gathering of people in mission in a particular region and you will be invited to this. We have various means of raising prayer support through online and printed publications and will send out a regular newsletter keeping you in touch with news from other people in mission.

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Recruitment: Details

In location, you are a guest of the local community. Your work, your pastoral care and practical arrangements, such as accommodation, will be the responsibility of the partner church/organisation where you are placed. You are encouraged to make local friends and build a local support network.

As well as all this we are signed up to the Global Connections Code of Best Practice, which ensures we are meeting a high standard in the running of our programmes.



What happens after the placement?

When you return home, we will invite you to the CMS office for debriefing to unpack your experiences and feelings, and to consider your future. You will also be invited to a debrief conference with other recently returned people in mission. CMS encourages all short termers to share their experience with their home church or missional community.

Church Mission Society is a community of people in mission and we invite you to continue to network with like-minded people near you in the UK. We offer opportunities to contribute to the life of the CMS community in various ways.

We hope that your experience will inspire and challenge others – whether based in the UK or elsewhere.



What have people gone on to do after their Church Mission Society short term placements?

Our short term people in mission have gone down a wide range of paths after serving with CMS, including:

- After two short term placements in North Africa, Helen committed herself to long term mission partner service through CMS in Egypt, where she works in development and public relations for a local church-run academic centre.
- Kath returned to teaching in the UK following a year in Uganda, but with a fresh sense that this was where God wanted her.
- Wendy spent four months in Paraguay, then went with VSO to Cambodia, becoming a CMS mission associate.

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Recruitment: Details and Contact



What have people gone on to do after their Church Mission Society short term placements?

- After a year in Tanzania, Ruth moved from being a children's nurse to children's work in a church. She is now a CMS mission partner.
- Paul served for six months in India and then got involved with a three-week mission trip as a leader. He then went on to do a further placement in Nepal.
- Six months in Jerusalem made Louise passionate about Palestinian rights; she then moved into education work for a charity.

What will you do? Where will God take you? We are here to help you explore your journey to the edges.



For further information about Church Mission Society, go to our website where you can find the following information:

<https://churchmissionsociety.org/>

For more information or to ask any questions, please get in touch with the recruitment team on 01865 787428 or email

vro@churchmissionsociety.org

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