

Internship Program

Growing disciples of Jesus to the glory of God

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others” - Paul, 2 Timothy 2:2

From the Training Director

Dear prospective Intern,

In the midst of these uncertain times, we know we have a solid Rock, Christ Jesus our Lord, who continues his mission to build the church and save a people from every tribe, tongue, people and nation. He has made us a “kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father” (Revelation 1:6) both in this age, as we eagerly await his return, and in the one to come.

The Great Southern Internship Program (GSIP) has been established to grow and mature disciples of Jesus who can make disciples of Jesus who can make disciples of…. You get the drift. We long to see the making and maturing of disciples of Jesus in ever increasing number. The Great Southern Training Hub is a ministry of Albany Baptist Church and a number of churches throughout the Great Southern and now across Western Australia, partnering to offer internships to Christians in their local context.

We believe the local church is the best place for you to grow, be nurtured, and given opportunities to serve. As such each intern will be based in their local church for the practical and formational ministry components of their training, while the GSIP Equip Course content is delivered both in Albany and in live online settings in churches outside the region.

We recognise King Jesus has delegated to local leaders the responsibility of the care and nurture of the flock in their care. You will therefore need to apply to your local church leadership to become an intern of your church. Applications will be reviewed by your local church leadership, and an interview process will need to be completed.

We believe in the authority and efficacy of God’s Word in conjunction with the inner work of the Holy Spirit to transform and renew our minds and lives into growing conformity to the image of Christ. As such we are committed to providing theologically orthodox and biblically robust training. To do this we have created the GSIP Equip Course delivered by local Christian leaders. We have also partnered with Eastern College Australia (RTO Code 22065) / Melbourne School of Theology to deliver the 10742NAT Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology in combination with the GSIP Equip Couse. This is a nationally recognised qualification. A separate enrolment/application process will need to be completed for those interested and eligible to apply with Eastern College Australia.

“Only one life, will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last…” (C.T. Studd) With that final thought, may God grant you wisdom and courage as you consider completing an Internship next year.

For Christ’s kingdom,

Damon Sokolowski

Training Director – Great Southern Training Hub

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Key components: Praxis, Formation, Equip

The Great Southern Internship Program (GSIP) exists to equip and train God’s people to know God, His word, and themselves better, and to be better equipped to serve and communicate the message of the gospel of Jesus to others, wherever God has called them. GSIP has been created with three emphases: Praxis, Formation, and Equip. These three emphases are interdependent and we believe position and enable holistic growth in character, conviction, competence, and mission.

**GSIP is a one-year commitment requiring 2-3 days a week across the year.**

GSIP has three key components:

1. Praxis

This is where you get to roll up your sleeves, try out and begin (or continue) developing your skills in ministry. Churches/ministry leaders will work with their intern to develop suitable ministry placement/s where they will be given opportunities to serve and grow. Depending on the need and an intern’s gifting or desire, ministry placements can be as diverse as being involved in youth and kids, assisting or leading a small group, pastoral care, administration, music, chaplaincy, etc… there are numerous possibilities depending on the church or ministry context and the intern.

We typically advise allowing 1 day a week across the year for this. This 1 day may be spread across the week. For example, Wednesday night small group, Friday night youth, Sunday service preparation and serving, Sunday afternoon team meeting (plus any planning, emails, phone calls, etc).

1. Formation

Doing an internship involves positioning yourself before God with an expectation to grow. Through regular Bible reading, prayer and praise, reflective journaling, completing assessments and meeting regularly with a mentor, you are positioning yourself to grow in your own character more and more into the image of Christ. We typically advise allowing 0.5 – 1 day a week across this year, in addition to your regular time with God.

1. Equip

A soldier receives training and weaponry to head into battle, and we want to equip you with some of the skills and training in knowing God and the Bible more and how to apply this learning into life and ministry. The GSIP Course builds upon the Praxis and Formation components of the internship through formalised learning covering key areas of theology and ministry. In a way this is like a ‘basecamp’ or ‘bootcamp’ for interns to learn, reflect on their ministry and growth, and be better equipped for what God has in store for them, all in community and under different ministry leaders.

The Equip content is covered on a Thursday during school terms (typically 8.45 am to 3.15 pm each Thursday).

For interested and eligible students this can be combined with a 10742NAT Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology in conjunction with Eastern College Australia. Some online components would also need to be completed. See the information pack from Eastern College Australia.

Equip units

The Equip content covers a mixture of theology and ministry application. Required/recommended readings have been included below.

* **God’s Big Story – Bible Overview**  
  Vaughn Roberts, *God’s Big Picture*
* **Introduction to Pastoral Care**  
  Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands (Study Guide)*
* **Engaging with Scripture – using the Bible**  
  *ESV Illuminated Scripture Journal: Philippians*
* **Discipleship – following Jesus in the Gospel of Mark**  
  *ESV Illuminated Scripture Journal: Mark*
* **Telling God’s Story – giving talks, leading studies, doing evangelism**Colin Marshall, *Growth Groups*
* **Knowing God – Christian beliefs (Doctrine)**  
  J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*
* **Christian Ethics**  
  Andrew Cameron, *The Joined-Up Life: A Christian Account of How Ethics Works*
* \***Working with Diversity in Healthy Teams** (Online, Certificate IV students only)

Dates

The Equip content will follow the school terms. Week 1 will be a one week intensive (Monday 30th January to Friday 3rd February 2023).

Great Southern interns - other important dates\*:

* Kids Holiday Program (July school holidays)
* TBC Regional Ministry Teams (Terms 3 and 4)
* TBC Short term mission trip (late Term 4)

\*Interns outside the Great Southern region will work with their local churches in different ministry programs. Those interested in joining the Great Southern ministry opportunities are welcome to liaise between their church and the Training Hub Director to discuss possibilities.

Costs

Stream 1

GSIP Core: full program. GSIP Completion Certificate. $2500.

Stream 2

GSIP Cert IV: full program, plus 10742NAT Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology integrated. One additional online unit required. $3010.

Stream 3

GSIP Cert IV+: full program, Cert IV, plus additional Diploma or Graduate Diploma units. $3010 plus additional per unit costs (details available upon request)..

Life as an intern…

Here are a few real life scenarios of some interns of the last few years to give you a picture of how life as an intern could look.

Dave the sparky

Dave is married and is an electrician. He has structured his intern year so that he does his electrician work Monday to Wednesday. He is a part of leading a small group on Tuesday nights. He joins in the Equip classes on a Thursday, then uses Friday to do assessments, meet with his mentor, and spend additional time in reflection and prayer. He also helps lead at his youth group on Friday night and is involved in a music team on a Sunday service. Dave is wondering whether ministry could be for him longer term.

Sam the teacher

Sam is single, loves teaching, and loves Jesus. She is disciplined with her time and has continued working 4 days a week, weaving ministry throughout her week, meeting with the other interns on Thursday for the Equip content, leading Sunday music teams and running training for others. Sam hopes to know the Bible more and teach it to others, particularly kids.

Tammy the mum

Tammy is a full-time mum with a young child and her husband is in a paid ministry role. She enjoys spending time with teenage girls, teaching them some practical life skills and also reading the Bible and praying. She helps lead youth and a discipleship group for young women. On Thursdays her mum looks after her young child so she can be a part of the Equip classes. Tammy wants to be better equipped to serve alongside her husband and grow in her own gifts and ministry.

Rick the retiree

Rick may be retired, but he is using his retirement for Jesus. He is married, is a grandfather, and wants to keep growing in his walk with Jesus. He mentors a teenager each week, spending time building relationship, fishing, and talking about the Bible with him. He catches up with other retirees to read the Bible and is a part of a men’s Bible study on a Wednesday. He joins in the Equip classes on a Thursday. He serves practically on Sundays, helping out in the kitchen and welcoming new people. He doesn’t much like up the front stuff, but he loves serving behind the scenes. Rick wants to keep growing in his walk with Jesus and not just have head knowledge, but apply what he has learned over many years as a Christian.

Where to now?

Prayer, discussion with family, friends and church leaders, and if you believe this is for you, then follow the steps to apply:

1. **Complete the Internship Program: Application Form** and submit to your church leadership. You are applying to be an intern of your own church/ministry. Your church will partner with the Great Southern Training Hub for the GSIP Equip Course.
2. If you are interested and eligible to enrol in the Certificate IV, **you will need to do a separate application for the through Eastern College Australia**. Go to [*https://apply.eastern.edu.au/*](https://apply.eastern.edu.au/) and follow the enrolment process for the 10742NAT Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology (Albany / Western Australia cohort).
3. For those interested in also completing **Diploma or Graduate Diploma** units, please contact Damon Sokolowski for further information.