



Year2Bless – Application Form

Which Year2Bless mission are you applying for?

Country _____

Dates [3m/6m/9m] _____

Name _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Usual Address (Home/Parents if student)

Postcode _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Dates at this address _____

Mobile _____

Current employment/occupation _____

If student, please give name of college/university, course and year of study _____

Emergency Contact:

Name _____ Phone _____ Mobile _____

PASSPORT DETAILS

Full Name (as on Passport) _____

Nationality _____ Passport No. _____

Date of issue _____ Place of issue _____ Expiry date _____

DRIVING LICENCE DETAILS – Leave blank if not applicable

Do you have a Full or Provisional Driving Licence? FULL PROVISIONAL NONE

How long have you had your licence? _____

Do you have any points on your licence? If YES how many? YES Num: _____ NO

What is your driver number? _____

**** PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM CLEARLY IN BLACK INK ****

SCHOOLS/COLLEGES ATTENDED

Name of school/college

From

To

Qualifications gained

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (most recent first)

Employer

Post

From

To

Please describe any skills, training or experience you feel are relevant to this application.

Do you have any dietary needs / allergies? _____

Do you have any special health needs or any other condition/requirements we should be aware of?

Are you suffering from any condition for which you are taking any medication?

Are you on a waiting list for or are currently attending any medical appointments? If yes, please give details.

Would you be travelling against medical advice?

Have you ever suffered from a psychiatric condition, been refused travel insurance cover or had special terms imposed, or suffered from any illness during the last six months prior to applying for Year2Bless?

Do you have any current convictions or cautions for a criminal offence? Do you have any pending? The Bless Network has a child protection policy and it is vital that you declare any of the above. All answers are held in the strictest confidence.

YES NO

If YES please give details _____

Have you ever been convicted or cautioned for a criminal offence in the UK or elsewhere?

YES NO

If YES please give details _____

Drinking alcohol and smoking are not permitted whilst on team, unless otherwise authorised by your team leader. Will you agree to keep this rule?

YES NO

Please provide details of your church leader and another person who knows you well who would be willing to act as referees in support of your application:

Church Leader:

Other (state relationship): _____

Address _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Telephone No. _____

Please provide details of your church:

Name:

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Mission Statement

The Bless Network is a bridge to transform the lives of people in Europe by empowering Christians through prayer, serving others, personal creativity and strategic partnership. Bless programme participants need to be team 'players' and an example to others. You must read and retain the P. A. R. I. S. framework outlined at the end of this application form; it relates to core values and expected attitudes and behaviour of programme participants.

Relationships

Your time working for God with Bless is a fantastic opportunity for you to build on your relationship with God, focus your life more fully on him and dedicate your time to putting Him first in all that you do. For this reason we ask you not to initiate or embark upon a new relationship with anyone whilst you are on mission, including team members and within the placement church. This policy also helps ensure that team and church life will not be damaged. We believe that God will honour and bless you in this.

Visitors

Visits from family and friends are entirely at the discretion of your Bless coordinator, who will advise on appropriate times for visiting in the context of your timetable and that of the host church.

Leave

We ask Year2Bless participants not to return home during the programme other than in an emergency. It is extremely valuable to spend as much time as possible in the culture and environment where you are placed. Also, you will have responsibilities and to return home could leave the host church in difficulty. Where you have time off, we encourage you to use this within the host country. The cost of any additional travel home that is undertaken will be met by the participant.

Study & Prayer

It is important that you see the period ahead [3m, 6m or 9m] as a time to grow and go deeper in your spiritual walk with God. The Bless study programme and prayer aspects are by no means add-ons, they are a fundamental part of your mission! For this reason we ask you to honour Bless by completing all set study. Our desire is that your time on mission will be something of a 'grow bag' opportunity for you, where you will flourish in your relationship with God and fall in love with Him more than ever before. We believe that set study along with regular prayer will play a crucial part in this process.

Servanthood

Servanthood often goes hand in hand with personal sacrifice. The Bless Network is committed to serving the church in Europe. We ask that you will remain respectful of those placed in authority over you and respond to the requests of leadership with integrity. With Jesus as our model of servanthood, our desire is that we will always be a blessing and an encouragement to the host church. Remember, you will be in what is essentially a different culture to what you may be used to; participants must be sensitive to the customs and lifestyle of those around them.

Child Protection Policy & CRB Check

Because of the nature of your placement you may have to work with people under the age of 18. Bless has a Child Protection Policy and all Year2Bless participants will be trained appropriately. Following a successful application and interview, all prospective participants are required to apply through Bless for a UK Government Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure, and Bless reserves the right not to accept any applicant onto the programme depending on the results of the Disclosure. Bless will treat all associated data in strict confidence.

Conduct

Participation on the programme is dependent on your willingness to abide by these terms and conditions and to refrain from conduct likely to bring The Bless Network into disrepute. In extreme circumstances, we reserve the right to withdraw you from the mission and repatriate you.

Finance

*The Year2Bless programme runs from October to June (9 months). We also offer flexible 3 month and 6 month options. The fee (e-mail info@bless.org.uk for details) must be paid in full 4 weeks before departure. The fee covers your training, study materials, one return journey to the host church location, travel insurance, accommodation and a food & living expenses allowance. After confirmation of your acceptance onto the Year2Bless programme, a 10% deposit must be paid in order to secure your place. Please note that the mission events are carefully planned financially in advance to keep costs down; because of this **the deposit and fee are non-refundable**. Please make GB £ cheques payable to The Bless Network, or contact the Bless office for our bank details if an inter-bank transfer is preferred or if resident outside the UK.*

Insurance

Bless holds group travel insurance cover for all Year2Bless participants while they are on mission, including travel to and from your home country. If you have any specific insurance requirements or medical conditions, please provide details so we can confirm whether or not you need to make any special insurance arrangements. We ask all UK resident participants to hold a European Health Insurance Card – see www.ehic.org. Year2Bless applicants must be 18 years of age or over.

I would like to apply to go on Year2Bless. I have read and understand the above terms and conditions and I agree to abide by the policies and procedures of The Bless Network.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please return the completed form to office@bless.org.uk, or by post to:

Year2Bless, The Bless Network, Unit 745 The Big Peg, 120 Vyse Street, Birmingham, B18 6NF, UK

The Bless Network – UK Registered Charity #1105173 – Limited Company #5156475

info@bless.org.uk www.bless.org.uk tel: +44 121 288 3370 skype: blessoffice

For Office Use

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>References Applied For</i>		
<i>References Received</i>		
<i>CRB Check Completed</i>		
<i>Application Accepted/Declined</i>		
<i>Fee Deposit Received</i>		
<i>Fee Balance Received</i>		

The P.A.R.I.S. framework for service in mission *(please keep)*

The PARIS framework has been developed as a simple and memorable training tool to emphasise that all effective mission needs to be based on an attitude of a servant heart. The framework forms the basis of all Year2Bless and Go2Bless programmes, and asks participants to reflect on five core values.

Philippians 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.

P

PRAYER is the all-important underpinning of all mission activity - the glue that holds everything together. We ask all participants to commit to prayer before, during and after a mission trip, and to see prayer as an act of mission in its own right. Bless mission trips come into being through prayer and will always include a daily pattern of team prayer. Part of what we bring to the locations we work in is a willingness to engage in prayer on behalf of others. We ask participants to put the same energy, commitment and focus into prayer that they would bring to any other more physical or measurable task.

A

ADAPTABILITY is indispensable to travel, team life and ministry. Our teams have slept in everything from a stunning French Chateau to the floor of a poorly-ventilated storage shed. Ministry demands change by the day, and not everything goes to plan! It is crucial to enter into the mission experience with a willingness to adapt and in the sure knowledge that you will be asked to step out of your comfort zones - probably in a number of ways. Our commitment to those we work with is that we will accept even basic accommodation, that we will eat what is set before us and that we will be as flexible as is humanly possible in our efforts to serve their needs.

R

RESPECT is equally a vital ingredient in mission. We ask that each participant respect the leadership structures put in place by our organisations: but even more importantly that they respect the opinions and sensibilities of those we work with. Whilst this sounds uncomplicated, it can become very difficult when views are taken which we ourselves would not normally adopt, in relation for instance to alcohol, smoking, gender roles or worship styles. There may be a time and place to raise questions, but midway through a mission is not it: while a mission is in progress mutual respect is the only viable option. Where our trips are designated alcohol-free, for example, this is a reflection of our willingness to respect local sensibilities. Expect to learn as much as you teach and to receive as much as you give.

I

INVOLVEMENT is a key to effectiveness in mission. We try very hard to adapt our ministry programmes to individual participants, so that each will have the opportunity to operate out of personal strengths and passion. But this will not always be the case. There will be times when participants are asked to fulfil tasks that, given the choice, they would happily avoid. We ask each person to enter as fully as possible into all aspects of ministry and team life: from washing-up to worship and smiling at children to stacking chairs.

S

SERVANTHOOD is the concept that brings all the rest together. It is an easy thing to talk about, but is hard to deliver when you are tired, homesick, stressed, nervous, hungry and well past the end of your tether. Servanthood is the belief that the success, comfort, personal fulfillment and spiritual development of others come before your own. Servanthood recognises that whilst a mission trip may do you good - in terms of experience, development, growth, enjoyment and satisfaction - its primary purpose is to do some good in the location to which you have travelled. There is mutual benefit in mission, but there is also a clear sense of priority. Servanthood captures the 'kenosis' or self-emptying of mission attributed to Jesus in Philippians Chapter 2.

"The pursuit of Christ is a pilgrimage which involves learning how to give up power for the sake of others. It produces a freedom from fear and anxiety, so that followers can relinquish the need for control."

- Mike Riddell, Threshold of the Future.