



HOW DO WE WANT TO SERVE LOCAL CHURCHES?

At the Gateway Training Center, we honor and respect the local sending and hosting churches as crucial in cross-cultural ministry and the spiritual growth, support and encouragement of cross-cultural workers. All of our Cross-cultural Training Program participants are required to attend and participate in a local church while they are enrolled in both phases of the training, and the Summer Internship Program participants will be asked to attend Sunday services and some other church activities at a local church during their program, therefore keeping them local-church orientated.

We therefore invite local churches to send members to either be part of our SIP program to be exposed to cross-cultural ministry in the Mediterranean Region, or to the CTP for part-time or full-time cross-cultural ministry. In doing so, the calling, need, and opportunities for cross-cultural work within their own contexts and around the world could be understood and transferred back to their own context, and they can help with raising awareness of missions locally and globally.

Many local churches experience a growing number of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in their own local contexts and have a desire to reach out and minister to them. Our CTP is ideal to train staff or church members to reach out and minister to them, giving participants the principles and tools to adapt to their own context and engage in ministry with newcomers in the community.

This training is not restricted to any group of people; for us, there is no restriction to train persons who are called by God, acknowledged, approved, and sent by their churches, and hold on to the truth of the Gospel, whether they are male or female, single, married, widowed or divorced. We have a minimum age restriction of 18 years, but they could join our programs with the full participation of a parent or a guardian.

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**“Go and make
disciples of all
nations”**



**How can we
Serve
your church?**

Glyfada, Greece



WHAT IS OUR VISION AND MISSION?

The vision of the Gateway Training Center (GTC) is to see trained believers communicating the Gospel and love of our Lord Jesus Christ effectively in any cross-cultural context, whether that is in the Mediterranean Region, Northern Europe among refugees, or in their own home context among foreigners, refugees, asylum seekers, or minority groups, whether that be full time, part time, or as a volunteer.

With over 35 years of experience of working in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the leaders of European & Middle Eastern Ministries (EME Ministries) recognized the need for more trained cross-cultural workers in this region, and thus GTC was birthed.

The center aims to train workers from around the world, from various church and denomination backgrounds, to serve churches and different mission organizations in the region, but also further abroad. By providing relevant training and supervised ministry experience, the vision for personal spiritual growth and preparation for ministry will be developed in the international field context.

WHERE ARE WE BASED?

Based in the greater Athens, Greece, GTC is ideally situated to equip cross-cultural workers while also introducing them to practical ministry. Athens, the largest and capital city of Greece, is a crossroads between the East and the West, Europe and the Middle East/North Africa, and between Christianity and Islam. It is a city where civilizations meet and cultures fuse, and where refugees from Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia find shelter before most of them move to northern Europe. This makes it ideal to reach out to many different people groups, start to learn a new language, while also learning what it means to live and serve together within a team in a safe environment.

Glyfada Christian Center hosts the training programs, and many of the leadership and members are directly or indirectly involved with the training. Participants in the programs have the opportunity to serve with one of our multiple ministry partners in and around Athens as well as attending one of the partnering local churches

HOW IS OUR TRAINING CENTER UNIQUE?

- We offer relevant quality training as well as supervised ministry in a multicultural context where participants can reach out to different language and ethnic groups focusing on a variety of ministry activities.
- Situated in Greece, participants of both programs follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul by visiting the cities that he visited during his second missionary journey, explore his missionary methods, and study Biblical passages and letters connected to these places.
- Located in Greece, the program also exposes the participants to the Greek culture that is closer to the Middle Eastern culture than the European culture. Being embedded in this culture will help them understand the cultural differences and the necessity for clear cross-cultural communication. Participants also meet believers from many countries and backgrounds, learning from them and being encouraged by their stories and testimonies.
- Within our Cross-cultural Training Programs, participants have the opportunity to do supervised ministry with one of our partner organizations, participate and serve with a local church for at least one day a week, begin to learn a new language and learn to live and minister together in teams. Thus, the participants are not only being prepared for a ministry but are also in ministry while they are trained.
- The participants in the Cross-cultural Training Program can attend the program only, or work towards college/graduate credit or a vocational qualification.
- Relationships in faith and ministry are crucial, and therefore our programs are designed to be done in community, whether that is learning, living or serving. This also prepares the participants for team-based ministry in the future.

WHAT PROGRAMS DO WE HAVE?

We currently offer three programs, the **Cross-cultural Training Program**, the **Summer Internship Program** and the **Fall in Greece Program**.

Cross-cultural Training Program (CTP)

This program is divided into two twelve-week phases. The first phase, based in Athens, is an introductory program with an optional two-week outreach at the end of the program with partners in the Mediterranean region. After the completion of phase one, students may move to phase two and be placed with partners in North Africa/Middle East, Europe or in their own sending country, for more focused supervised ministry experience and a continuation of the theoretical training. Participants can decide whether to do only the first phase, or both phases.

Phase One

The theoretical training of the first phase covers the following topics:

- How to interpret, apply and communicate the Biblical text
- How to effectively communicate the Gospel, make disciples, and train leaders cross-culturally
- Leadership and living in a different cultural context
- A 'Footsteps of Paul' tour through Greece.

(A more detailed curriculum is available on request.)

All participants attend and participate in a local church in greater Athens and serve with a cross-cultural ministry for one day a week. Language learning is important for all cross-cultural contexts, and one hour every day is spent on learning a new language. Students also meet regularly with long-term cross-cultural workers as part of the mentorship program. Emphasis is placed on community living and fellowship.

An optional two-week outreach at the end of the course gives the participants the opportunity to apply what they have learned while also getting introduced to a different cross-cultural context.

The training is done by staff of EME Ministries and Glyfada Christian Center (most of them with over three decades of ministry each) as well as experienced cross-cultural trainers and practitioners from partnering agencies within the region.

Phase Two

During the second phase, participants are placed with churches or cross-cultural workers in the context/country where they feel they are called to or would like to explore for future ministry. This phase is more practical than theoretical and will build on the skills developed during the first phase. Language learning is more focused, and the participants continue to be involved in a local church and meet with mentors in their new context.

Accreditation

Participants could attend the course only, work towards college/graduate school credit, or complete a vocational qualification (additional costs may apply to enrolled in the accredited courses). To work towards credit or a vocational qualification, additional work needs to be done, either during the course or afterwards. Participants can also change their type of enrollment anytime during the course.

The Summer Internship Program (SIP) and Fall in Greece (FIG) Program

These one-month programs introduce believers to the Biblical and historical context of Greece, the call and mandate for cross-cultural ministry, and to give them an experience of what ministry looks like in a cross-cultural context. Apart from training and orientation, the schedule for the programs include:

- One week of 'Footsteps of the apostle Paul' tour in Greece (from Philippi to Corinth) and
- Either three weeks of visiting ministries and outreach, or one week of intense New Testament study and two weeks of visiting ministries and outreach (the latter can be done for accreditation through Vision International University).