



Hillsong Leadership Academy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Hillsong Africa Gap Program?

Our Gap Program runs from February to December each year. It allows you to give a year of your life to grow in your knowledge of practical ministry as you become immersed in the day-to-day life of Hillsong Church Africa. The program consists of weekly team meetings, leadership development, Bible Studies, department specific work and much more. You will be given the opportunity to learn from great leaders, grow in your character and spiritual walk, work hard and be encouraged in who God has called you to be. The Gap Program will challenge you, inspire you and stretch you to your full potential in building God's house. While students will serve primarily in one ministry area, you will be exposed to a broad range of ministries and experiences.

2. What does the ideal candidate look like?

The ideal candidate: Represents and lives a life fully committed to Jesus.

Fully supports the vision of Hillsong Church.

Is ready and willing to do whatever it takes, exciting or mundane, to build the local church.

3. How much does the Gap Program cost?

The Gap Year cost is R6600 for the year. There are 3 different payment plans available:

1. A once-off, upfront payment option. Please note that there is a 10% discount available on the total fees should you wish to choose this option, making it a once-off payment of R6000.

2. A monthly payment option of R600 per month across 11 months, starting from 1 February and ending on 1 December.

3. A three-part payment option of R2000, payable across 3- month periods.

Please note, should your application be successful, you would be required to pay a deposit of R600 to secure your spot. This will go toward your first month's payment, or deducted from the total amount, should you wish to make use of the upfront payment option. There are different payment methods available, such as online payments, card payments etc. These details will be made clear during the interview process.

Please also note that this fee is for participating in the Gap Program and does not include housing, food, transport or living expenses.

4. A typical week at a glance:

The program runs 4 days a week; on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and a full day & evening on Sunday. Although our office hours are from 9am to 5pm mid-week, there are many instances where students may be required to arrive early or leave late. Students are involved in serving at all events hosted by Hillsong Church Africa. The annual events include: Sisterhood, Colour Conference, Youth and Young Adults Conferences, Men's Conference, Kidsfest, Christmas Spectacular and many more.

5. Do we have holidays or breaks?

Our program is broken up into 3 terms in the year. Students receive a break at the end of each term to refresh and get ready for the following term. The dates for these breaks will be communicated by the start of the program.

6. Accommodation and transport?

Accommodation is not provided by the Gap Program. Students are welcome to get in contact with one another and rent a flat or a house together.

While Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Centurion do all have public transport systems for traveling to and from many of the areas, they are not of a nature that they can be relied on for punctuality and safety. While many people do make use of them during the day, they're not a great option in the evenings. We strongly advise you to save up and purchase a car for the year, if possible, as we have many evening, mid-week and weekend events that require you to have your own transport. If you would like some more information on transport and accommodation options, please contact us at gapy-ear@hillsong.co.za

7. What do I need to budget for?

If you are going to be living by yourself, please keep in mind the following things to work into your budget: rent, transport, food, other living expenses, Gap Year fees and Church events & conference registration fees.

These include:

Church event costs: Approximately R900 for Conferences across the year.

Gap Year fees: R6000 once off (includes 10% discount) or R600 a month across 11 months or R2000 across 3 parts (which amounts to R6600 as explained earlier).

8. Once I have completed the program what's next?

Previous students have gone on to study at university, Hillsong College or work in various fields. We believe God takes you on an incredible journey throughout the year and reveals your next season when the time is right.

As a student community, we do take time out to pray and chat about this at different times throughout the year.

9. Can I work while participating in the Gap Program?

You must be able to demonstrate financial stability in order to become a Gap student, therefore having sponsors or saving up for the year beforehand is vital. We encourage students to work part-time (Monday, Saturday and some evenings), as long as it does not interfere with the Program schedule.

10. What does Bible College look like?

We are not a full-time Bible College and therefore do not offer accreditation or degree courses. Our program does however consist of lectures once a week. The Bible course we offer is designed to help students get a better understanding of the Bible and to grow in their own personal walk with God. Homework is assigned and must be completed as part of the program. Upon graduation students will receive a Certificate of Completion for the Program, which includes Bible College.

11. Do I need to be fluent in English?

Yes, our church is an English-speaking church. While you will not be required to speak professional English, you do need to be able to confidently hold conversation or write and respond to an email effectively.

12. What kind of visa do I apply for?

International students will need to apply for a volunteer visa for the duration of your time in South Africa. We will assist you with the necessary documentation when you start the visa process.

13. What is the application process?

Below are 5 simple but important steps to follow in order to complete your application successfully:

STEP 1: APPLY

Complete the Application Form online

STEP 2: (FOR OUR CREATIVE STREAM APPLICANTS ONLY)

Please submit a video clip of you either singing or playing your instrument or submit a copy of your previous work in photography, video editing, graphic design etc, as is relevant to your application also using the email address listed above.

STEP 3:

You will be contacted by our team to schedule an interview appointment.

STEP 4:

You will receive notification via email as to whether your application has been successful or, after the interview is completed.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

MINISTRY STREAM

HILLSONG AFRICA FOUNDATION

HAF is the community outreach and social justice arm of Hillsong Church Africa. Students will have the opportunity to become a key part in the outworking of community upliftment programs including Sports 4 Development, Shine, Strength and much, much more!

PASTORAL CARE - *Caring for our church*

Our pastoral care department deals with those in crises or in need of extra care. Students in this department will be involved in our Life courses, food distribution, prayer request, hospital visits etc.-

GROUPS

Our Groups team is a key pillar in all we do as a church. Our goal is that every person who walks into our church would experience a genuine sense of belonging and find community within our church family. We outwork this through our various Mid-week and Weekend Teams who love serving by having meaningful conversations and helping to get every person integrated into church community, through various Groups and Interest Groups, Volunteer teams, and helping New Christians on their discipleship journey. Practically, this involves students helping with follow up calls and data entry to help integrate people into groups within the life of church.

AGE GROUPS:

Hillsong Kids (0-12 year old):

Those with a love for children can help build and equip our children's ministry. Hillsong Kids runs all Sunday morning. Not only will you be building into the children of our House, but also into the parents and the family as a whole. Mid-week responsibilities will include contacting new families and building relationships, building curriculum and crafts for Sunday programs, creatively implementing new decor, equipping yourself for upfront speaking and learning how to build teams.

Youth (13-17 year old):

Our youth department is for anyone who is passionate about investing into the next generation of high school students. Our mandate is "creating Christ-like, world changing young leaders". Youth leaders give heart & soul to make our youth ministry strong on Friday nights, be in high schools mid-week and make Church pumping on Sundays.

1825 Movement (18-25 year old):

The Hillsong 1825 Movement is the 18 to 25 year old expression of Hillsong Church Africa where we bring Jesus to our young adults by meeting them where they are at, in their season of life. We are passionately rewriting the narrative of students and young adults, mobilizing them, and showing that church is to be enjoyed and not endured, that there is a hope for the future and that we are all on this journey together. Students will play a pivotal role in coordinating university student ministries on and off campus, organizing worship nights, Summerfest, 1825 Encounter conference and facilitating Connect Groups across the city.

EVENTS STREAM:

EVENTS TEAM (Including Event Registrations)

We are involved in the behind-the-scenes and operational workings of church. Our involvement includes having Sunday teams across all our locations who works alongside our various teams to make Sundays excellent and to facilitate a great experience for everyone who enters the doors of church. We also build relationships with external suppliers, venues and facilitate off-site events. We love excellence and are committed to creating systems and processes that will set up all our events and Sunday services for a win and this includes creative problem solving and administration.

Our involvement also includes teams across all locations who serve at our registration desks and facilitate information about all church events and conferences.

CREATIVE STREAM:

Students within our Creative Stream are involved in all areas within the Creative expression of Hillsong Church Africa. This includes, but is not limited to our Worship, Creative Design, Creative Technologies and Media (Communications) Teams. Students within this stream will serve and be trained in various aspects of these teams, as is applicable, both midweek as well as Sunday. A brief description of these teams include:

Our Creative Design team is responsible for inspiring and designing the “Look and Feel” of church. From dreaming up stage designs for Sunday or special events, to making our foyers always look sharp. Practically this could include building sets, painting, drawing, wiring lights, setting up decor, sourcing products and thinking up ways to make every department and event feel special. Students in this area are generally skilled within Interior design, crafts etc.

Our Creative Technologies team gets to be part of the engine of making church happen across all of our locations. This involves lighting, sound, TV and Stage Management. They are a hard working team that is passionate about what they do, and are called to outwork and support the vision of church and the Word of God impacting people's lives. Students within this department are skilled in camera operations, sound engineering, lighting, patching, backline tech etc.

The Communications team is responsible for all communication and media in and around church. Students in this department must have experience in Graphic Design, Web Design & Coding, Videography, or Public Relations (PR). Please note: If you are interested in applying for this department, please send 3 examples of your work along with your application to gapyear@hillsong.co.za

Our Worship team consists of vocalists and musicians who are responsible for leading our church and team in faith- filled worship. Students within this area will be trained in how to grow and steward their skills and talents effectively, while also learning about the administrative and practical elements of building a healthy culture within our serving teams.

OTHER AREAS:

If you have any experience or skills in the following areas, please indicate on your application form:

- Human Resources {HR}
- Accounting/ Bookkeeping
- Construction/ Maintenance
- IT
- Web development
- Windows and Mac operating systems
- Computer networking
- Computer hardware