

# The PYM Internship



## **Fantastic support for Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor of ministry qualifications**

Beginning the journey into youth ministry as a vocational calling is an exciting, rewarding, and challenging adventure. Our church desperately needs theologically trained, skilled, youth workers who are committed to professional development and who see their ministry in vocational terms. It is our hope and prayer that the PYM Internship will see a new wave and generation of such youth workers and ministers taking up positions of leadership in our church.

The PYM Internship offers fantastic support for anyone wanting to pursue a calling in ministry to young people through a Bachelor, Diploma or Certificate level training pathway. It is a collaboration between Presbyterian Youth Ministry (PYM), the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML), the local church, and a training provider. The PYM Internship combines formal academic ministry training through a recognised provider with an internship model of learning. Interns are placed in a local church, chosen in consultation with the intern, PYM and the local church where they learn.

## **Why be part of the PYM Internship?**

Being part of the PYM internship programme will add tremendous value to your study. The PYM internship provides:

- A tried and tested internship structure that creates a sustainable learning environment and will potentially cover your study costs
- The opportunity to participate in a great learning community with fellow interns that includes regular skype discussions and opportunities to meet up for face to face interaction
- The opportunity for additional learning experiences that will enhance your theological and ministry skills and your understanding of the DNA the PCANZ
- Regular learning and internship support from PYM
- Course curriculum advice to ensure you select the most helpful courses and papers for your future

At the completion of your study you will also be award a church-based PCANZ award recognised by the Knox Centre of Ministry and Leadership.

## **Cost for the hosting church**

It is expected that the hosting church will cover the costs of the internship. Fees and internship hours will vary depending on the amount of study being undertaken.

No. of papers per semester	Hours of study (approx.)	Hours of internship	Cost (approx.)
4	30	10	\$7000
3	24	7.5	\$5250
2	16	5	\$3500
1	8	2.5	\$1750

Full time study (4 papers per semester which is approximately \$7000 per year for a full-time student working 10 hours per week as an intern. This covers tuition fees, text books, PYM events, mentoring, and the costs associated with the requirements of the PYM Internship. If you are eligible for the governments first year of study free

### **Taking advantage of the governments first year of study scholarship**

If you are new to study or have not yet completed a full year of study you may be eligible for the government's Fees Free initiative. This can potentially lower the costs of the internship for the first year. Please check out the <https://www.feesfree.govt.nz/> website for more details and contact the Internship Director to discuss the details.

### **Internship placement**

You will need a local church in which to do your internship. This might be your current church. There are a number of Presbyterian churches around New Zealand very keen to take on a youth ministry student intern. Ideally a host church needs to have:

- An established youth ministry
- A key youth leader (paid or volunteer, this can be the ministry providing they are regularly leading the parishes youth ministry) with at least 5 years youth ministry experience who is able and willing to mentor the intern.

PYM can facilitate in finding you a placement church.

### **Does the PYM internship mean more work for me as a student?**

Being part of the PYM internship will add a minimal increase in your work load as a student. Over the course of a full year's study you will be encouraged to participate in:

- Monthly skype learning discussions with the PYM Internship director and fellow interns for approximately 90 minutes
- A monthly conversation with the PYM Internship director to hone your learning experience
- Connect: PYM's two-day national youth leader training conference
- A regional youth event held in your presbytery such as an Easter camp or confirmation course
- An additional learning experience such as a bi-cultural learning weekend on Te Maungarongo Marae, Ohope Beach

### **Prerequisites to be part of the PYM Internship**

- A sense of calling to ministry with an immediate focus on ministry to youth
- Minimum academic requirements, these will vary for each level of qualification
- The willingness to learn and share your learning journey with others

### **Recommended formal training providers**

Currently PYM has strong working relationships with the following training providers:

The PYM internship coordinator can assist you in choosing the right training provider and courses for you

[Laidlaw College](#) – Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor courses with a theology and ministry emphasis. On site or distance learning available

[Carey Baptist College](#) - Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor courses with a theology and ministry emphasis. On site or distance learning available

[Praxis](#) – Certificate or Diploma courses with an emphasis youth and community work with a theological component

### **Application process**

Stage 1: Talk

It is more than likely that you have already begun this first stage in the application process of talking to significant others about your decision to train for youth ministry. Getting the opinion,

advice, and support of others is a valuable part in confirming your sense of call into youth ministry.

- Talk to your minister, youth leader, and session and gain their support
- Talk with some friends who know you well
- Talk to your regional youth coordinator (if your presbytery has one), and/or to national PYM staff

## Stage 2: Apply

There are a number of forms that need to be submitted:

- Application form for the Presbyterian Youth Ministry Internship (including your biographical essay)
- Letter of support from your church and minister
- Letter of reference

You will also need to fill in the application forms for your chosen provider; Laidlaw College or Carey Baptist College, Otago University or Praxis. PYM can provide advice and support in filling out these application forms.

## Stage 3: Interview

Once your application has been completed and sent you will meet with a selection panel to discern your suitability for becoming a youth ministry intern student. The committee will be made up of the National Youth Ministry Internship Coordinator, a regional youth coordinator or experienced youth leader within your presbytery, and representative from KCML when appropriate.

## Stage 4: Acceptance

The selection committee will make a recommendation as to whether you should be accepted as a youth ministry student intern. The committee will notify you in writing of their decision.

Your acceptance is dependent on meeting the requirements and being accepted into the formal training providers programme.

To apply please contact the PYM Internship Director - Matt Chamberlin