



CHRISTCENTRAL

# **ChristCentral IMPACT**

## **Prospective Church Projects**

## How prospective IMPACT host churches apply for a project

Any ChristCentral Churches related church can be involved in running an IMPACT project:

1. Discuss the idea within the eldership and decide upon your project focus.
2. Appoint a Project Leader (see below) who will organise and oversee the work and the individual trainees. He/she should produce a weekly timetable of a typical week.
3. Is there anybody from within your ranks that you could recruit to do a project, either from your church or regionally?
4. You will also need one or more people able to fulfil the role of discipler for the students.
5. Submit a *Church Project Proposal Form*.

Having trainees with you will be a great asset to your church. They will work hard and serve well. In your planning, please remember that the primary focus is training and developing them, and not for them to just fill slots on rotas or increase administration capacity.

## Role of the Project Leader

1. To ensure that the trainee is disciplined both in character and gifting, you will need to **appoint a personal discipler** for each trainee. Normally this means the trainee meeting with their discipler **once every two weeks for 1.5-2 hours**. The discipler should not be the same person as the Project Leader and where possible it should be someone who is not a member of staff.
2. To have a **weekly oversight meeting** with the trainee/s.
3. To be **pastorally involved** with each trainee, consulting the pastoral leader/eldership where necessary.
4. To ensure that each trainee, with his or her project, is **well integrated into church life**.
5. To be sufficiently involved with the trainee/s to **encourage and motivate** them.
6. To help the trainee **prepare a personal study and growth plan** and to supervise and monitor progress – this should form part of the *Goals & Objectives* document the trainees are required to complete at the start of their year. A trainee's weekly timetable should include at least 3 hours of personal study time.
7. To create the **opportunity for a broader team setting** for those working on an individual project.
8. To be **accountable to local leadership and the IMPACT leadership** for the operation of the project.
9. **Set and mark one assignment** during the IMPACT year.
10. To **ensure the assignment is completed** and handed in on time.
11. Communicate with the IMPACT programme leader each term about the **progress of the project and the student**.

## Application process

Churches wanting to run a project:

1. Complete a *Church Project Proposal Form* and send to IMPACT leader via [impact@christcentralchurches.org](mailto:impact@christcentralchurches.org).
2. Talk to the trainee(s) about what sort of project you are running.

If you would like external trainees, please inform the IMPACT leader.

3. Before starting the project in September, it will be important to have discussed and agreed the following with each trainee:

A) Details of their project:

- Start and end dates for the project
- A draft weekly timetable, including days off and other time off
- What annual leave they are entitled to and how to apply for it
- Who will be their Project Leader (i.e. line manager)?
- Who will be their discipler?
- Is there a policy on boyfriends/girlfriends while they are on IMPACT?

B) Finances:

- Is the church able to help with their course fees?
- Travel expenses to and from training

Potential trainees wanting to apply to a project:

1. Trainee completes the *Online Application Form*.
2. Elder to provide written reference to IMPACT leader via [impact@christcentralchurches.org](mailto:impact@christcentralchurches.org).
3. All potential trainees will be invited to a phone/skype/Face Time interview with the IMPACT leader. Please note that this is in addition to any interview/discussion they may have with their prospective project leader.
4. The trainee pays the IMPACT fees. These include all the costs of the training blocks, and the accommodation for those in Shrewsbury, and the costs of the UK mission weeks.

*Please note, for someone to be accepted onto the IMPACT course, **all three of the following need to be completed**: Trainee Online Application Form, an Elder's Supporting Reference, and a Church Project Proposal Form*

## Some common questions

### 1. How many trainees?

Home-based trainees often form the basis of a successful church project. A project that is run with 100% trainees from other churches will inevitably involve far more time input from a project leader. The best mix may be 50% home-based and 50% 'away' trainees.

Please note that if you are having just one trainee, experience has shown that they will need closer involvement with the church staff/leadership and will also require more support. However, this can be a great opportunity!

## **2. How do I recruit IMPACT trainees to my team?**

Obviously, the best recruiting ground is your own church. Other churches in your region may also have somebody suitable, so advertise your desire to run a project at regional events. Ask other leaders if there is anyone in their church who might be suitable and available.

## **3. Are my expectation levels right?**

People apply for IMPACT because they wish to be trained. They are usually not leadership (as yet!) and should not be expected to pioneer new projects on their own. If they are to be placed in youth work, schools work or evangelism, etc. then they need to be placed alongside leaders in your church who demonstrate a gifting in the chosen project area.

Many trainees do have embryonic leadership skills and calling; however, the basis of the programme is not to train leadership but to give the average church member an opportunity to receive training and equipping, thus enabling them to become part of the labouring core of any successful local church.

## **4. How will I keep the project and trainees at the heart of church life?**

In larger churches the project can slip away from the prayer focus of the church's busy programme. It is important to think through beforehand how much profile both the trainees and their project will receive in terms of prayer and support (financial or otherwise) and general encouragement.

## **5. Where is the trainee's work base located?**

It can often be very lonely for a trainee to be expected to work from their bedroom. If possible a central location should be sought where the trainee can rub shoulders with church leadership on a regular basis.

## **6. How will I integrate my new trainee with the church?**

It is a good idea for the project church to invite any trainees from elsewhere to come for a weekend to meet people before the project actually begins. This can be a good introduction for all concerned if the hospitality is planned carefully and the trainee is welcomed publicly in the church meeting on a Sunday morning.

## **7. Do the trainees have to attend the IMPACT training programme?**

The training is a key part of the IMPACT year and all students need to attend this. It is provided in three one-week training blocks in September, January and April and is based at Barnabas Community Church Shrewsbury. Students are provided with local accommodation.

Much of the training will be devoted to using the video-based 'Into the Word' course which has been recorded by Martin Charlesworth. This course seeks to enable students to engage effectively with all parts of the Bible. Each session of 'Into the Word' will be hosted by a local facilitator with notes and with time for discussion. There will also be training days led

by members of the ChristCentral core team which will focus on the key vision and values of ChristCentral.