



HILLSONG AFRICA

***GAP YEAR
INTERNATIONAL
INFO PACK***

A graphic of a yellow sticky note with a white shadow, partially overlapping the bottom of the text.

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in our Hillsong Africa Gap Year program. Our students are a group of hard working, fun loving, energetic and Christ-centered individuals that are dedicated to building the local church.

We are passionate about raising up leaders and equipping individuals to maximize their potential through a unique combination of weekly bible studies, leadership development and practical ministry experience.

We are also committed to the personal development of each student and believe that our program will empower you to flourish in every sphere of life.

Please look through our information packet for a detailed description of the program as well as some Frequently Asked Questions.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at (+27) 21 801 0001 or email us at gapyear@hillsong.co.za.

We believe that one year can change your life and we hope you do too!

God bless,
Wendy Grages
Students Pastor

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Hillsong Africa Gap Year Program?

The Gap Year 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 Year 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 Year cost?

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

1. A once-off, upfront payment option. 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 make a payment 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 note that this fee is for participating in the Gap Year Program and does not include housing, food, transport or living expenses.

4. A typical week at a glance:

The program runs 3 days a week; on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday or Friday, depending on the department you will be involved in, and a full day & evening on Sunday. Although our office hours are from 9am to 5pm midweek, there are many instances where students may be required to arrive early or leave late.

Tuesday: Students start the week with a Devotional session before joining in on Hillsong Africa's weekly Team Meeting. They then attend Bible college & teaching sessions for the rest of the day. We love Tuesdays because you get valuable input that equips you to do all that you get to do throughout the week.

Wednesday to Friday: Students check in with their Department Head, have planning meetings, complete departmental work or projects, prepare for upcoming events and more in the life of church.

Sunday: Students arrive at church for a volunteers meeting and then serve in their department or volunteer area for the day. You will have a lunch break before returning to church for the evening services, where you will serve across our evening services.

We love Sundays because you get to outwork everything you have learned in the week and see the difference you are making in each person's life who gets impacted by the message of Jesus.

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 4 terms in the year. Students receive a one-week 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, but they are generally at the end of April, end of July and mid-October.

6. Accommodation and transport?

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

While Cape Town does have a public transport system for traveling to and from many of the areas, it is not of a nature that it can be relied on for punctuality and safety. While many people do use public transport during the day, it's not a great option in the evenings. We strongly advise you to save up and buy 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 or accommodation options, please contact us at **gapyear@hillsong.co.za**

7. International Applicants: Visa's

Please apply for your visa immediately upon receiving your acceptance letter, if your application is successful. We do advise that you begin researching the exact requirements for your visa application, as well as which visa to apply for by contacting your nearest South African Embassy or Consulate as soon as possible. Please let us know what additional information you would require from us in order to apply.

8. 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).

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

Previous students have gone on to study or work and do what God has called them to. 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.

10. Can I work while doing the Gap Year?

Please note that Volunteer visa's (which is what you'd need in order to do the Program) do not permit holders to work within South Africa.

11. 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, where we will be working through a course called "Journeying Through the Bible: Genesis to Revelation". This course 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.

12. 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.

13. What is the application process?

There are 6 simple but important steps to follow in order to complete your application successfully:

STEP 1: APPLY

Complete the Online Application Form on our website.

STEP 2: SUBMIT VIDEO

Using a Smartphone, please film a 30 second video of yourself briefly explaining why you want to join our Gap Year Program. Simply email your video to us, using the email address listed above.

STEP 3: PASTORAL REFERENCE FORM

Have your Pastoral Reference Form completed and signed. If you are part of any Hillsong Church globally, you are able to ask your Volunteer Team leader or Connect Group leader to complete your Pastoral Reference. If you are from another church, please have your local church pastor complete your form and have them email the completed reference form directly to gapyear@hillsong.co.za.

Please note that the Pastoral Reference Form needs to be returned to us in order for the application process to continue.

STEP 4: (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 5

You will be contacted by our team to schedule an interview appointment either via Zoom or Skype (depending on suitability).

STEP 6

You will receive notification via email as to whether your application has been successful or not roughly one week after interview is complete.

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 ReadBabyRead, 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:

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.

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.

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.

26+ year old:

Students in departments focusing on these age groups will help with building connect groups, reaching out in our local communities, organizing social events, planning worship & leadership nights, strategizing to get everyone in our age group connected into church and hosting hangouts after church on Sundays.

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, helping to craft the creative atmosphere of our Nation and continent. 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. They get to creatively express themselves through a heart of worship that is found in the Creative Technologies platform. 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

We look forward to hearing from you!