

Are you interested in a one-year voluntary service in Germany in 2026?



Volunteers from South Africa and Indonesia at their placement in a Kindergarten. ©EMS

In an international voluntary service, young people (aged 18-27) spend one year in a foreign country to work in a voluntary capacity. In the EYVP South-North programme, this country is Germany.

The voluntary service is for one full year and starts at the beginning of March 2026 and finishes end of February 2027. Applicants should be available from January 2026 to prepare for their placement and attend a German language course in their own country.

Working as a volunteer will give you a unique opportunity to grow as an individual and get to know yourself better. Through the informal learning process at your place of service, you will gain cross-cultural experience and intercultural leadership skills by working alongside people from diverse backgrounds.

But not only you will have an amazing experience: by sharing your insights and reflections, people around you will also learn about your culture and ways of doing things.

The Ecumenical Youth Volunteer Service is part of the weltwaerts programme, which is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Volunteers will participate in the Bundesfreiwilligendienst (BFD). Both volunteer programmes are known for their high standard and quality.

Who can apply?

You are invited to apply if you are between **18 and 27 years old**, you are invited to apply.

We are looking for **open-minded, socially engaged, or politically involved** young adults, who are interested to spend one year abroad.

You will need **good English language skills** for our seminars and your start in Germany. In preparation for your service and during your time in Germany you are expected to be **willing to learn German**.



Volunteers at a seminar in Stuttgart, Germany ©EMS

Applicants must apply with:

- ✓ Completed EMS application form
- ✓ Motivational letter
- ✓ Short Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- ✓ Recommendation letter by your local pastor
- ✓ Copy of your passport
- ✓ Copy of your vaccination record (if available)

Selection of candidates will be done by a selection committee consisting of members of EMS member churches & the EYVP team.

When is the deadline for application?

The call for applications starts in May 2025, deadline for application is the 31st July. Please send your application to eyvp@ems-online.org.

What does the volunteer service cost?

For volunteers, there is no cost involved although you are expected to pay for your own small costs like food and local public transport while applying for your visa in your country.

All other costs like a preparatory German course, flight, insurances, food, accommodation, seminars, and a small pocket money are covered by the programme.

Where do I live?

Accommodation depends on the place of service. It can be a (shared) room within the campus, a flat-share together with other young people or living together with a guest family.

What kind of placements do we offer?

The Ecumenical Volunteer Service is no mission programme. weltwaerts is a government funded programme and aims to promote a commitment to civil society.

Places of service can be in schools, Christian conference centers, kindergartens, youth and adult education centers, and other social and community projects etc.

All placements are located within our German member churches in South-West Germany in the federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate.

*Further information can be found on the **EMS website**:
<https://ems-online.org/en/get-involved/eyvp#c10909>*



Volunteer on kitchen duty during a youth camp at his place of service ©EMS