

Gospel Advance Institute Intern Program Overview

The Need among us: Evangelical Christians are in the minority of our mission field. People tend to be close-minded to the gospel. Pastors are often stretched thin. Laborers for the harvest field are few. Finances to hire extra staff are lacking. We need a way to develop and mobilize more laborers. An intern program is one means of doing so.

Objective: Develop and mobilize interns to further the disciple-making footprint throughout the SLBA mission field by assisting SLBA affiliated local churches and church plants in gospel saturation so that more and more people have the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news. Although interns may assist in current ministries/programs within the church, it is not the intent of our process to build or maintain ministries within the local church context but to be about furthering the gospel.

The Opportunity for Growth and Adventure: Utah is considered the most lost, unreached place in the U.S. The low percentage of Christians is almost staggering and can be discouraging. It is not uncommon for Christians to refer to Utah as a foreign mission field found in the United States. However, God is at work. Churches are and are becoming more mission-minded. New churches are springing up all along the Wasatch Front. Compassion for the lost in our culture is growing. There is a challenging adventure in Utah awaiting those who long to excel to a new level of discipleship. That opportunity can come through an internship with the Salt Lake Baptist Association sponsored Gospel Advance Institute.

Our adventure-filled program will include hands on experiences, mentoring, equipping, and discipleship toward fulfilling the Great Commission. We will work to help you discover and develop the unique gifts God has given you in order that you might live more intently and fully for His glory.

The Intern Candidate: Candidates should have a calling to spend between a minimum of 6 months to 2 years of their life on our mission field in an intern capacity. Interns, normally, are those who feel a sense of call to vocational ministry or persons who have the desire and ability to set aside a period of time for the primary purpose of spreading the gospel as part of a local church in the Salt Lake region.

The challenging culture of our mission field requires individuals who are hard-working, self-starting, teachable, and prayerful. Many on our field of ministry have expressed that our field is one of the most difficult mission fields in the entire U.S. Our mission field is one where dependence upon God and perseverance is essential. The experienced in our field remind others that placing too much focus on results and visible fruit is not wise but instead one must focus on being faithful, prayerful, and led by the Holy Spirit while leaving the results up to God.

The number of interns will be limited according to our needs, resources, and capacities to adequately house, equip, and mobilize each intern. Interns will need to raise some support to offset expenses incurred by the SLBA from operation of this program. When necessary or strategic, an intern will be encouraged to find local employment on a part-time basis or to seek additional support from kingdom-oriented partners.

Candidate requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a background check (conducted by the SLBA)
- Have a strong reference from a local pastor and other devoted followers of Christ
- Need to have health insurance (the SLBA will not provide your health insurance)
- Need to be in good physical health
- Demonstrate a commitment to membership in a local Southern Baptist church or church plant
- Demonstrate a pattern and propensity to seeing the gospel advance
- Be in agreement with the beliefs found in *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*
- Demonstrate a posture of a humble and teachable servant
- Reflect character befitting of a faithful follower of Jesus
- Be a student of the Word of God

The Application Process:

- Submit application
- Candidate replies to questionnaire and gives references
- Replies are reviewed by SLBA leadership
- Interview and/or correspondence with SLBA leadership
- Interview with a local church or church plant
- If approved, the candidate secures necessary financial support and the date for internship is set. Normal starting dates for interns are late May, early September, or early January.

Housing: The intern will be housed by the SLBA or agreeable partners. The intern will be expected to help with basic household chores and upkeep of the property in which they are housed.

Transportation: Personal transportation is a benefit. However, the Salt Lake area has public transportation spread throughout its vicinity. In some cases other means of local transportation might be available.

Intern Program Fee: \$300 monthly. This fee assists the SLBA in housing, utilities, and other expenses related to the intern program.

Note: Expenses related to personal time, personal entertainment, and eating out will be incurred by the intern.

The Intern in Ministry

Understanding Your Ministry Assignment:

- The intern will be assigned, primarily, to one particular church or church plant for the duration of their internship unless a change of ministry is deemed necessary. The church or church plant is expected to steward the intern's assignment towards activities which fulfill the Great Commission. The assignment might range from serving on a worship team to working with an age group, people group, or any other multitude gospel-advance opportunities.
- The percentage of ministry time an intern devotes to the mission of the church or church plant will range between 70-80%. The majority of an intern's supervision will take place through the church or church plant to which you are assigned. The SLBA Executive Director or his assignee will provide oversight supervision for the collective group of interns.
- In addition, each intern will be on a shared ministry assignment that encompasses a broader kingdom focus than one church or church plant. The intern should anticipate giving between 20-30% of ministry time to broader mission opportunities and/or sister churches within the SLBA field of ministry.

Your Discipleship

Our objective is to assist you to become a disciple who makes disciples for your entire life with both confidence and competence. Our objective is to help you further mature in your walk in Christ. In addition, our mission field has some unique cultural characteristics that are found almost nowhere else in the world. Based on our objective and these unique cultural characteristics we will help you:

- Grow in your spiritual formation
- Become a disciple who makes disciples and how that translates into a local church or church plant process
- Develop the ability to explore and exegete the culture and opportunities that lead to disciple-making
- Become knowledgeable and competent in your aim to share the good news with Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
- Gain hands on experience in gospel sharing
- Learn from field practitioners who live and share the gospel within our context
- Grow in peer-learning settings where you are gaining better insight and encouragement from one another, where you will experience iron sharpening iron
- Develop sound theology and biblically-based values that will sustain you in your life on mission
- Learn and develop apologetic skills applicable to most any context in the world
- Learn and participate in the prayerful strategy-oriented meetings of a local church or church plant
- Gain clarity of God's purpose in your life to be on mission
- Discover the joy of serving our mighty God

Anticipated Outcomes for our SLBA partnering churches

- Increase of laborers who assist and encourage local pastors, planters, and churches in disciple-making efforts
- Greater advocacy for ministry in Utah from current interns and past intern participants
- Developing next generation leaders who will replant their lives in our field of ministry
- Expanded gospel saturation throughout our area
- Growth of churches and church plants
- New staff discovery and development
- Increase of laborers who have had much field evangelism time and know our ministry field