

# Theological Education



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IS AT THE HEART of SIM's vision to partner with and strengthen the church. From pre-evangelism efforts to advanced theological education, every ministry works towards the common purpose of glorifying God by planting, strengthening, and partnering with churches around the world as we evangelise the unreached, minister to human need, disciple believers into churches, and equip churches to fulfil Christ's commission.

Hundreds of cultures, from remote villages to teeming cities, are being reached with the gospel. Throughout Africa, Asia and South America there is an urgent need for trained pastors and church leaders as new believers are gathered into churches.

Leaders need to be grounded in the Word

## Challenges and rewards

In most cases you will need to learn another language and you will need to adapt to another culture in order to teach your students effectively. Patience and a strong commitment to the task are essential. However, the joy of seeing Christians respond to the truth of the gospel and grow in their faith is well worth the effort. The privilege of training Christians to lead and disciple others is very rewarding.

and encouraged to maturity in Christ. There is a serious shortage of trained teachers and pastors. Without trained leaders, the church is more susceptible to wrong beliefs.

In one Asian country, the church has grown in ten years from 10 to 40,000 members. It is young in both age and biblical understanding but hungry and eager to grow.

Training local Christians and pastors will help the church to navigate issues that arise from its unique cultural context. Opportunities exist in Bible colleges, both main language schools (English, French and Spanish) and local language schools, and through theological education by extension (TEE) programs.

**SIM**  
Serving In Mission

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## Theological Education by Extension

Theological Education by Extension (TEE) programs equip local believers in evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. This model of leadership training offered at a location near the student's home eliminates the need to spend months or years in preparation at a theological college.

The flexibility of a TEE program enables it to adjust to the needs and abilities of the students and can be developed and adapted to the local situation and to meet particular needs. Local pastors are encouraged and enabled to develop their gifts and ministries without the need to leave their homes, ministries and local congregations.

TEE helps meet the need for church leaders to keep up with the demands of rapidly growing churches. Many leaders, including local pastors, want to study theology but are not able to enrol in a residential college because they don't have the financial resources or because of commitments to family, ministries or church leadership responsibilities.

Since the students are normally involved in leadership positions, the knowledge gained and concepts learned through sharing in the seminars can be applied to the needs they encounter in their local churches.

## Qualifications

Educational requirements vary, but an ability to understand and teach the bible is essential. Some assignments require a Bachelor or advanced degree in theology. You must demonstrate ministry and teaching gifts in your present local church. Length of service depends on the position.



## Opportunities

- Bible College lecturers and professors
- Theological Education by Extension facilitators
- Correspondence School coordinators
- Bible College administrators
- Bible teaching at a refugee camp
- Bible School Internship
- Librarian for theological college
- Leadership trainer
- Short-term Bible teacher

Many more opportunities at [www.sim.org.au](http://www.sim.org.au)

## Short-term mission opportunity

### The Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST)

The Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST) is owned by the two largest evangelical denominations in Ethiopia – the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus – and by the Ethiopian Evangelical Churches Fellowship (EECF), an umbrella group for all the evangelical churches of Ethiopia. EGST is the only graduate-level theological program in a country of 72 million.

The EECF consists of 29,805 congregations with an estimated membership of 13 million believers. It strengthens the church in a country whose population is 30% Muslim and whose neighbours include strongly Islamic countries such as Sudan and Somalia.

We want to encourage and assist the SIC as they run GTC by providing shorter-term help, but we do not expect to send long-term teachers. Short-term opportunities include teaching Bible or practical subjects using simple English or working with an interpreter in the Arabic stream.