

Application to the Youth Ambassador Programme

for participants in Switzerland only!



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1. Conditions of participation

Youth Ambassador Programme 2027-2028

Swiss participants

1.1. Requirements

Age: 18-30 years old at the beginning of the programme (year of birth between 1996 to 2008)

Active within a social engagement structure (as participant, employee or otherwise): youth movement, religious institution, non-formal education organisation, NGO, etc.

English skills: capacity to understand and speak English

Length of the programme: from January 2027 until May 2028.

1.2. General expectations

In short: cultural openness, willingness to step out of the comfort zone, willingness to listen, consider and understand other opinions, values and points of view.

The Youth Ambassador Programme brings together young people **all coming from different backgrounds**. It is open to people from different religions, worldviews, and cultural values. This means that the participants may be **exposed to opinions that drastically challenge** their own values. The goal, however, is not to change the values and beliefs of the participants but to **improve their intercultural competences** through exchange. Through the programme, we **encourage acceptance, empathy and openness** to other worldviews while developing the necessary skills for understanding that collaboration can transcend cultural, religious and opinion-related boundaries. Therefore, if the potential participant is open for such a process and open to discuss world issues with an open mind, they are perfect for this programme.

1.3. Goals and Activities

This is an international educational exchange programme. The main goal is to promote the intercultural and transcultural competences of young adults. They gain insights into different contexts, reflect and exchange views on social, political, economic and religious aspects from different perspectives.

They improve their skills in intercultural, transcultural, and interreligious communication and gain insights into project work. This empowers them to act as agents of change in pluralistic societies and to advocate for peaceful coexistence. They develop a sense of diversity, learn to navigate unfamiliar contexts with ease, and become aware of the pluralism within their own society and culture.

International exchange strengthens the global network of young adults who serve as youth ambassadors for peace, justice, and environmental protection.

The programme encompasses:

- About 10 educational workshops on intercultural and transcultural competences. These are completed through self-study and combined with online discussions. Approximately 20h will be needed for online calls, individual self-study, general participation, preparation visits/trips, reflection reports.
- 2 days of physical preparation (for Swiss participants)
A Saturday in mid-May and a Saturday in mid-November 2027, in Basel.
- Summer 2027: The international participants will come to Switzerland for two weeks. All participants will take part in this activity and get the opportunity to exchange face to face. The visit to Switzerland will take place over a two-week period between July 5 and July 25. The exact dates will be announced at a later time.
- Winter 2028: 2 weeks for a trip abroad to visit a partner organisation of Mission 21 and gain more intercultural skills (expected to be for Swiss participants only). The exact dates are not yet determined: to be discussed with the Swiss participants.

In general, the programme can easily be combined with work and studies. If there are any doubts, the project leader, Carole Thalmann, can be contacted.

1.4. General conditions on absences

The workshops usually consist of an online course which should be done individually (if not otherwise mentioned) and an online call, in which we meet and discuss with all the participants. In case of an absence at the online calls, it is expected that the participants notify the project leader in advance.

Process: If the absence is due to a foreseeable reason (work, medical appointment, etc), please contact the project leader as soon as you know about your impediment, so that an arrangement can be made. If the absence is due to an unforeseeable cause (illness, etc), please contact the project leader even if it is after the scheduled call or meeting.

- 2 online calls per half year may be missed.
- 1 online course may be skipped. Otherwise, even if the participant cannot attend a call, they should do the online course.

The following online courses and calls online are mandatory for everyone:

- All courses titled «Intercultural and transcultural competences»
- All preparation days for the two trips: one before and one after each trip.
- All reports must be written and handed in.
- Concluding call in the first quarter of 2028.

If more than 2 absences per half year occur, the project leader will contact the participant to discuss the situation and a potential compensation task. In the case of a fourth absence, exclusion from the programme will be considered.

1.5. Costs

At the moment, the fundraising process for this project is ongoing. The goal is that all participation costs (including the trips and accommodation costs) can be covered for everyone. More information will be communicated at a later date. In the past round of the programme, the Swiss participants were asked to contribute to the costs (flights, accommodations, food, etc.) with 800CHF (500 for logistical costs and 300CHF as a solidarity contribution for participants with low income). It may happen that a similar amount will be asked again. If this would mean a significant hurdle to a potential participant, the cost may be discussed. Again, for now the fundraising efforts are set to try and find coverage for all costs.

1.6. Application process

Fill in the application form and send all the necessary documents listed in the application form. Without all the documents, your application cannot be considered.

Send the following documents for your application to this address:

carole.thalmann@mission-21.org

(Alternatively you may send them to jonas.toengi@mission-21.org if Carole is unavailable)

- 2_Application form_Youth Ambassador 27-28.pdf
- 3_Reflection one_Youth Ambassador 27-28.pdf
- Recent photo

After sending your application you will automatically undergo a selection process. You may be contacted for an interview. Only a small number of applicants may participate in the programme. **The deadline for Swiss applications is the 25th of November 2026.**

1.7. Further information

- [Youth Embassy Program - Mission 21](#) and the FAQ section
- A_First infos_Youth Ambassador Programme 27-28 can be downloaded on the website

1.8. Attachments

- 2_Application form_Youth Ambassador 27-28.pdf
- 3_Reflection one_Youth Ambassador 27-28.pdf

2_Application form – CH

Youth Ambassador Programme 2027-2028

PLEASE FILL THIS DOCUMENT IN ENGLISH AND DIGITALLY

2. General information

First Name (as in passport)

Last Name (as in passport)

ZIP code/City

Country

Nationality (as in passport)

Mobile Number

Whatsapp yes/no

E-mail

Alternative contact person + e-mail

Gender (as in passport)

Allergies and eating preferences

3. Language skills

Describe your English language skills (understanding, speaking and writing)

List any other language skills

4. Social engagement

In what organization/institution/structure are you socially engaged?

What is your role there?

5. The Youth Ambassador Programme

What is your motivation to participate in the Youth Ambassador Programme? (max. 400 characters)

How do you think will the Youth Ambassador Programme impact your work at your organisation/project/church and your plans for the future? (max 300 characters)

What is your understanding of intercultural and transcultural competences? (max 300 characters)

6. Past experiences

Have you ever travelled....

...outside your country?	Yes	No
... outside your continent?	Yes	No

Have you joined an international programme before: Yes No

Please describe any international experience you have had until today. This includes programmes that involved foreign people in your own context. (max 300 characters)

7. Terms of participation (all conditions marked with * are mandatory)

*I hereby confirm that all of the above-mentioned information is correct.

*I confirm that I do not have any major health restrictions which are relevant for an overseas trip.

*I am ready to commit to the full Youth Ambassador Programme until May 2028. In case of any change or major inconvenience, I commit to contacting the project leader and finding a solution with them.

*I confirm that my passport is/will be valid from September 2026 until November 2028.

*I acknowledge that rules will be set for the entirety of this programme and I commit to follow them.

*I understand and accept that changes in the programme are possible.

*I understand and accept that if any security concern at the time of travel arises, my trip may be cancelled (pandemic, armed conflict, natural disaster, etc)

I agree that pictures and recordings taken during the programme may be used for marketing and publication purposes by Mission 21 and its partner organisations (for a time period of 5 years). *If you don't want this, please do not cross the square.*

*I agree that Mission 21 has the right to cancel a trip, an event or the programme altogether if the necessity arises.

*I confirm that I have read the Conditions of participation carefully and that I agree with the terms described in them.

Please fill out this form in English. This form will help us understand your motivation to participate in this programme.

1. Do you have any expertise in a certain topic that you would like to bring in during the programme? It can be anything from your studies, your work experience or your personal life. (max 200 characters)

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With this signature I confirm that all the above-mentioned information is correct.

Place and date

Full name

Signature

You may print the document for manual signature if needed

You have completed the application for the Youth Ambassador Programme 2027-2028! After we have received it, we will get in touch with you.

young@
mission21 mission 21