

**Dear Church Leader**

This letter will have been passed on to you by someone who has expressed an interest in UCCF's Relay Programme. This is a ten-month programme of discipleship, training and mission working with the Christian Unions in Universities and Colleges.

The Relay programme is an initiative which began in 1993. It is designed to further develop disciples and disciple-makers in the student world. Relay involves recent graduates in a year of practical discipleship, service, training and evangelism. We aim to provide quality training and personal development for the people on the programme, developing gifts they have begun to demonstrate as students and helping to discover new gifts and abilities for the future. Relay Workers work alongside local Christian Union Staff Workers (CUSWs) and with local Christian Unions, helping them take the gospel to the student world.

We are greatly encouraged by the impact that the Relay programme is having in the student world and beyond. Many students express profound appreciation of the input Relay Workers have on student mission as they support, encourage and work with the Christian Unions. We also see the huge impact Relay Workers go on to have in the wider world and are conscious of what an opportunity we have to develop key individuals who can go on to serve Christ's Church in significant ways. We realise that this has only been possible through partnership with churches at home and in term-time.

The reason for making contact at this stage is that we recognise the important role that the local church has in such an application process. We are more interested in churches 'sending' people into this discipleship programme than individuals deciding they want to go. Should this person apply, they may ask you to act as one of their referees, but we are also encouraging them to talk to the church leadership at this early stage. It would be very helpful if someone in the fellowship could talk and pray through this application with them.

Relay is a one-year programme and, although some of these people may go on to join our staff later, this would involve a fresh application process, where you would again be involved. There is a two-year option called Relay Homestart where Relay Workers spend one year in Britain and a second year elsewhere in the world supporting another CU Movement. Relay Workers will be responsible for raising their own financial support and may directly approach you about help with that.

Should this person apply and be accepted, we trust you would feel able to support them in prayer. We would encourage them to be sending regular prayer letters to you. We believe this is an exciting venture where we can invest in both the lives of the people on the programme and, through them, in the lives of many students.

We do appreciate your partnership in this. We would value any comments you have on any aspect of the Relay programme and would also be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Please feel free to get in touch with me by letter, phone or e-mail ([relay@uccf.org.uk](mailto:relay@uccf.org.uk)) at the UCCF office or with the Team Leader in the region in which this applicant is studying.

With thanks,



**Zac Powell**  
Head of Relay  
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