

## **The Mission House**

The Mission House is an international Christian community for young people from all over Europe. During the week the EVS volunteers work at different social and diaconal projects throughout Amsterdam. Each volunteer can work in up to 5 different projects, as a way to explore the various aspects of social work and contribute as volunteer to many different projects and people! There are many different projects: homeless shelters, kids clubs, a hospice, a deaf café and many more. The projects are described at [www.missionhouse.nl](http://www.missionhouse.nl)

The Mission House project starts at 1 September 2018 and lasts until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019.

The Mission House is located in a historical house in the vibrant city centre of Amsterdam. The volunteers each have their own room, with a bed, desk and wardrobe. The living room, dining room, kitchen, toilets and bathroom are shared spaces. The community (8 volunteers and a house leader) is jointly responsible for running the household of the Mission House, which includes cleaning, shopping and cooking. But more importantly, you spend part of your free time together with the other volunteers. In the evening the Mission House volunteers try to eat together as a house. Everyone takes it in turns to cook. In addition to having dinner together, there are three set moments in the week when you spend time with your housemates:

- house meeting: a time to share your experiences and news, while also dividing the house tasks.
- ‘zinmoment’: a time to reflect and share your faith / way of life with the house.
- Family Time: a time to relax and spend time together, e.g watching a film or going to a café.

Through the European Voluntary Service program from the European Union the volunteer will receive pocketmoney of 120,- a month. Together with the other volunteers you will receive foodmoney, and all volunteers will receive a bike and ov chipcard that they can use during these 10 months.

### **Activities/Agenda:**

The main role of the volunteer is to be an active member of the Mission House community and to support 4 or 5 social projects with the work that they do. In the first few weeks of the program, the volunteer follows a special introductory programme, which includes teambuilding activities and visits to the social projects (22 in total). Afterwards, the projectleader chooses 4 or 5 projects that the volunteer would like to work with during his/her service and compiles a weekly timetable. The volunteer's tasks & responsibilities during his/her service will be adjusted to his/her preferences, experience & skills, age and language skills. Once the volunteer is more settled and able to communicate in Dutch, he/she can take on more responsibilities. The Mission House has an extensive support structure with professional supervisors at each of the projects, a house leader, a project leader and mentors. The volunteer has regular evaluation meetings with them.

## Tasks

As a volunteer, you support the placement's professional staff with their day-to-day work. They will provide guidance to you and explain what your role in the placement will be.

Your work is often a combination of:

- 1) Giving personal attention to the clients of your placement, for example by making them feel welcome and having a chat; reminding them that there are those in the world who do still care about them.
- 2) Organizing group & individual activities for the clients, such as going out for a walk, playing board games or a sports tournament.
- 3) Practical chores, such as doing the dishes, making tea & coffee and cooking. As your experience grows, you can take on more responsibilities

You will work a regular working week (approx. 32-36 hours). Each week you are allowed 2 consecutive days off. You will have 20 free days and the national holidays off as well.

We see every year that the EVS volunteers make a huge difference in the projects, since they often have time for things the staff does not have the time for: especially by making time for clients, seeing them and helping out with all kinds of practical things.

## Criteria & Application procedure

We ask that volunteers are: aged 18-30 and enrolled in the European Voluntary Service Program. For this you need a sending organisation in your home country. If you do not have a sending organization, we can help you find one!

Are you available to live and work full-time in the Mission House for 10 months, starting 1 September 2018? Are you willing to learn and develop your talents? Looking for something more than 'just' a gap year? Motivated to make a difference in the lives of those who often have nobody? Then we hope to welcome you at the Mission House!

The Mission House is a Christian community and many of the projects we work with also have a Christian background. Although all people with any (religious) background are very welcome to participate, it is important to be aware of our identity. Exploring Christian faith, and the role of religion in general, is an important part of this year.

**You can apply by filling out the application form that you can find on our website:**  
[www.missionhouse.nl/join-us](http://www.missionhouse.nl/join-us)

**Email your application before the 5<sup>th</sup> of Februari 2018 to Hanske Mulder at**  
[h.mulder@diaconie.org](mailto:h.mulder@diaconie.org)

## More Information?

You can find more information at [www.missionhouse.nl](http://www.missionhouse.nl) and about our organization at [www.diaconie.org](http://www.diaconie.org). Any questions? You can always email Hanske Mulder (Projectleader) at [h.mulder@diaconie.org](mailto:h.mulder@diaconie.org)