



# YOUTH WORK APPRENTICESHIPS

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A THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME OF  
PRACTICAL YOUTH WORK AND STUDY

ZERO FEES | LAB AND DISTANCE OPTIONS  
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING | SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING  
PERSONALISED MENTORING PROGRAMME

For more information go to [www.firezone.co.nz](http://www.firezone.co.nz) or  
contact your Divisional/Regional Youth Secretary



THE SALVATION ARMY  
**BOOTH  
COLLEGE  
of  
MISSION**  
AOTEAROA • NEW ZEALAND



Te Ope Whakaora



# WHAT IS THE LIVING AND BREATHING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME?

The LAB (Living And Breathing) Programme is a three-year apprenticeship for those studying in youth work. The programme can be carried out at an approved site, called a LAB Site, or through a Distance Apprenticeship (see details about the Distance Apprenticeship over the page). The Salvation Army endeavours to train and equip youth workers to do life with young people in New Zealand. The youth of Aotearoa need leaders who will meet them where they are and make a positive impact in their lives.

There is education readily available for anyone who desires training and professional development in youth work. A LAB apprenticeship works alongside this education to grow youth workers to be competent and confident to make a long-term impact in Salvation Army corps, centres and communities around Aotearoa.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The LAB mission is to prepare and strengthen youth workers to carry out faith-centred, evidence-informed, best practice, ethical and relevant youth work.

## WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Salvation Army LAB Apprenticeship is a full-time, three-year commitment that includes undertaking practical youth work in a supportive environment at an approved LAB site, while studying toward an approved qualification. It is for those wanting to train in youth work, who may sense a calling to this work as a long-term career.

We're looking for people interested in becoming Salvation Army youth workers that are committed and passionate disciples of Jesus: people willing to be encouraged to become counter-cultural risk takers; people empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Jesus, to meet human need and to do Kingdom work, specifically with the youth of Aotearoa.

Prior involvement in the life of your home corps (Salvation Army church), centre or divisional youth team is preferred but not mandatory. Applicants are expected to have some experience of youth work practice, along with the endorsement from their Corps Officer/Centre Manager and Divisional/Regional Youth Secretary.

## WHAT WILL TRAINING BE LIKE?

Those accepted for training are known as 'Apprentices'. Training takes place at an approved LAB site, where Apprentices train under experienced youth workers called LAB Facilitators. LAB Facilitators support Apprentices to achieve their chosen approved qualification and to gain experience in hands-on youth work.

The aim of studying with LAB is to develop balanced, reflective youth workers who can integrate easily into a diverse range of future employment possibilities.

Apprentices will be based at one site throughout their training but will have the opportunity to visit other sites during their apprenticeship.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

If you are enrolled in an approved\* full-time\*\* study option, you may be eligible for a LAB Apprenticeship. Your chosen study is your education pathway, and LAB attaches on-the-job training and mentoring from a LAB Facilitator. The apprenticeship offers a weekly scholarship which will be released in weekly supplements as well as a course fee reimbursement after maintaining a year's employment with The Salvation Army, post-graduation.

The programme offers hands-on experience at a training site (called a LAB site) with ongoing meetings with a LAB Facilitator. Apprentices and Facilitators will meet at least weekly for first year Apprentices and at least fortnightly in the second and third years. Informal catch-ups are also highly recommended.

\*Recognised youth work qualifications are approved study options. However, we encourage you to contact us with any alternative study you're interested in pursuing alongside a LAB Apprenticeship.

\*\* Full-time study is a minimum of 30 hours per week for three trimesters or four terms of a year.

## APPRENTICES ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be actively involved at their training site. This includes study, hands-on youth work and other responsibilities.
- Accept supervision, management and support from their LAB Facilitator.
- Attend retreats and events with other youth work Apprentices and youth workers.
- Attend monthly external supervision (funded by The Salvation Army).
- Maintain an agreed LAB programme while meeting requirements of and working toward completion of an approved qualification.

# YOUTH WORK DISTANCE APPRENTICESHIP

## DISTANCE APPRENTICES

The Distance Apprenticeship programme is also a full-time, 3-year commitment which includes study toward an approved full-time qualification and undertaking practical youth work in a supportive environment.

Distance Apprentices will be expected to:

- train at their local corps/centre under suitable leadership.
- receive mentoring and coaching from a selected on-site Mentor.
- receive additional coaching from an approved LAB Facilitator.
- work toward approved qualifications.

Distance Apprentices will be based at their corps/centre throughout their training but will have the opportunity to visit LAB sites during their training.

The Youth Work Distance Apprenticeship training component is delivered via two primary methods:

1. Onsite involvement in youth work at the Apprentice's local corps/centre.
2. Study toward an approved qualification.

## DISTANCE TRAINING SITES

A Distance Apprentice will be connected to a LAB site but will do their training at their local corps/centre, making that space their Distance Training Site.

A Distance Training Site will be expected to provide the following in order to host an Apprentice:

- A wide range of youth work opportunities.
- Sustainable youth work projects appropriate to the skills and experience of the Youth Work Apprentice that the Apprentice can gradually assume responsibility for.
- An on-site mentor for the Apprentice who fulfils the mentor requirements\*.

\*Refer to LAB Handbook for full description of a mentor.

A Distance Training Site is expected to invest into the development and supervision of each Youth Work Apprentice. The mentor, as well as leadership on-site, should offer support and logistical help to the Apprentice. The Corps Officer/Centre Manager will be responsible for ensuring that the Mentor is fulfilling their duties, that the site is maintaining the above listed expectations and that the Apprentice has an adequate workspace which is conducive to their study and youth work needs.