

Common questions

When does MTP begin and how long is it for?

MTP 2020-2021 begins on the 21st of September and we expect students on the ground between the 17th to the 19th of September.

The missions training program lasts for 9 months. If you feel that you cannot or do not want to commit to 9 months, there is an option for you to join the program for the first term of 3 months or for the first two terms (6 months), however places will be allocated and priority given to those who express a wish to stay for the full 9 months.

How would I spend my time?

Because of the needs of the people and communities that we are working with, it would not be helpful to have a strict, fixed timetable; therefore one week could look very different from another. However, generally speaking, you should think of your time being divided up into two different areas: (i) study, prayer and teaching time, and (ii) service or mission. You will probably spend at least 4 days a week serving in one of the areas where we work. So you could find yourself photocopying, cutting grass, painting, buying flour, helping in school programs, building greenhouses, planting vegetables, in fact in any of the wide range of things we do. Your weekends will normally be free time, however this may change depending on the area in which you are working or if we are running a camp or having a guest speaker (for example). You will also be expected to attend a church meeting on Sundays and a discussion group 'oikos' on Thursday evenings.

What does the training look like?

Well, that depends on both you and us. We are committed to a simple life based on faith and works. A servant heart is very important to us.

MTP comprises of both the time you spend serving, supporting and working alongside our experienced missionaries in the field and the study time.

Wednesdays are set aside for formal teaching time - you will be taught by one or more of our full-time missions team and from time to time external speakers may come to teach on specialist subjects.

We want to encourage a regular routine of prayer and study. Not because we are legalistic...but because there is some benefit in the rhythm of a disciplined life and so Wednesday afternoons are given as a dedicated time for devotionals and processing time.

Out of the overflow of this learning and deepening of relationship with God, comes action - as James 2:26 says 'faith without works is worthless', and so the rest of your working week will be spent walking

out the things you've learnt. There is no shortage of things to do, and areas in which you might be able to serve and we allocate an area for you to live out a "works" element to your time with us.

What will it be like when I get there?

Housing: We will provide you with accommodation in shared student housing for the duration of your stay.

Food: Student housing is self-catering, all students and volunteers staying there are responsible for purchasing and preparing their own food. We suggest a budget of around 300 Euros per month for food, accommodation and other necessities. We now have a supermarket in the village which stocks most food and toiletries.

Currency: The Romanian currency is called Leu. It's possible to change Sterling or Euros in Arad (not Siria), but you must ensure all notes are clean, intact and unmarked. Current exchange rates can be found online.

Credit cards: Credit and debit cards (Mastercard, Visa, etc.) are good if you want to take cash out, and it is possible to pay by card, in some shops in Arad and here in the village of Siria. There is a small charge each time you take money out depending on your bank. Ask in advance at your home branch. There are two cash points in Siria.

Water: Most of our team choose to drink the water in Arad, Siria and Taut, but it is recommended that people bring a bottle to fill when out and about in community. Water pressure in the mains system goes off a lot here especially in the summer months. This can affect showers, toilets, laundry and drinking water.

Electricity: Plug sockets are the 2 pin European type. Adapters are necessary for UK or American plugs.

Language: Romanian. Some Romanians speak some English. The organization is English speaking but we encourage our volunteers to learn basic Romanian.

Climate: In the summer it's very warm (30 to 40C) bring plenty of sunblock and mosquito repellent. However at night, it can become much cooler. The winter can be very cold (-20 to -30C) so bring plenty of warm clothes and thermals.

Driving in Romania

International driving licenses are accepted here, preferably with a photo. Make sure you bring the full license, (paper part too). If you bring your own car make sure you bring your insurance certificate, registration document and green card. NetWorks has several cars, but it would be very unusual for us

to ask a short-term volunteer or missions student to drive a car and vehicles are only used for work purposes.

What do I need to bring?

Passport (valid for at least 9 months)
Emergency travel insurance information and EHIC card
Medications
Water bottle
Bible
Swimsuit
Clothes for working in (things you don't mind ruining)**
And something nice to wear to church, a party, a funeral or a wedding...
Torch
Sleeping bag (optional)
Towel
Duvet cover, sheets, pillow and pillowcase
Hygiene stuff
Sun cream/insect repellent/hot water bottle
Rain gear
Cold weather gear (e.g. warm coat, snow boots)
Work boots
Work gloves

**sometimes people ask if they can leave the clothes they brought for working in - rule of thumb on items of clothing, shoes, etc... ask yourself - would you wear it at home? - if not, then please don't leave it for us.

What do I get?

Personal Development:

Most of the people who spend time with us serving and working with the poor find that they go home feeling that they have received much more than they have given. You will see and experience things that many people simply never get to see. You will have the privilege of glimpsing into the lives of the very poor and our long term missions staff and actually working alongside them. Here you will develop new skills, and expand on the skills you have - learning to work with people and grow in ability to communicate across many socio-economic backgrounds.

Spiritual Formation:

Because we believe that your time with us is also about your spiritual growth and development, our hope is that by joining our missions training program, you will grow in your Christian faith and become

more dependent on God. You will be mentored and disciplined during your time with us by one of our long-term missions team. We will provide you some bible study for your time with us. In addition, you may attend a regular cell group.

We want you to really enjoy your time with us and we want you to grow in your faith and relationship with the Lord. Reviews are an important part of this process. It is the point at which we sit together and talk more formally about how you are doing in this process. This may all sound a bit heavy, but it is based on our experience of working with good people who may have never before been exposed to the emotional and other stresses associated with working in a foreign culture and with people living in extreme poverty. We ask only that you trust us and our motives in this. Our aim is to look after you and protect you whilst you are with us.

What does it cost?

The Missions Training Program is free; however please note that you are responsible for your accommodation, food costs, transport (e.g. buses, trams, etc) personal hygiene, entertainment, etc, so you should budget accordingly. We suggest that you budget around 200-400 Euros per month to cover your monthly living expenses, including the costs of living in shared student accommodation. You will be sharing accommodation with other missions training students, and will be expected to contribute towards the cost of your accommodation and utilities (e.g. wood, water, and electricity).

The cost is divided by the number of students living in the house - so it will vary - but it's usually around 80-90 Euros per month. Student housing is self-catered. Meals will often be shared between students, but you will definitely need to contribute your fair share. Food costs, etc are about the same as you would be paying at home - just be aware that many items cost about what they would in England, Sweden or America. There may be internet access but there will be a nominal cost for that and, yes, you can bring your laptop :).

What will happen the first few days?

The first few days of your time here will be spent settling into your new environment, spending time team building and having introductory sessions.

A priority for us is to get to know you. Who you are and where you are at in your walk with God. Being real with one another is more important to us than anything else...if you are "flying" in your relationship with the Lord, then that's great and we want to know that. If you are struggling, then that's OK and good for us to know. Where you are at, is where we will seek to meet you on your walk.

During these early sessions you will hear about how the work here began and about the vision for the work amongst the poor in Romania. We will talk a little about where we believe the work is going in the season in which you are visiting to help give you a context and setting for the things that you will see and be involved in whilst you are with us.

We will provide you with some cultural orientation and we will expect everyone to learn some basic Romanian whilst they are with us. We strongly recommend that you access this language site - [Duolingo](#), and practice there. That will give you a headstart in learning the language.

What should I do before I come?

Prepare yourself: We recommend taking some time to prepare for what you will see and experience here, familiarise yourself with the work we do by reading more on our webpage, researching the country and the Roma and beginning to learn the language.

Immunisations: Contact your doctor before you come, if possible two months in advance. Whilst working here you may come into contact with people who have hepatitis A, B & C and Tuberculosis.

Leave-at-home-note: Leave a note with someone with our telephone number (0040.257.384.010 office).

How do I get there?

Travel: You must arrange your own flight. You can find inexpensive flights into Budapest, Hungary or Timisoara, Romania. (Time difference: Hungary 1hr ahead of UK, Romania 2hr ahead of UK).

Transport to Siria: If you let us know in good and sufficient time we will help you to arrange a transport to Siria from the airport in Budapest or Timisoara. The driver will pick you up at the airport (sign with your name) and drive you to Siria where we make sure someone will meet you. We would need the following information: full name, airline, flight number, and arrival time. Transport costs will depend on type of transport, and number of persons. You can go by train, which is cheaper, but it is not recommended if you are coming for the first time as it is fairly complicated.

Visa: For U.S. citizens this is given at the border, valid for up to 90 days. If you are travelling from other countries check the relevant website for your country for advice about travelling to Romania. After you get here, we will help you with the proper paperwork for a longer stay.

How can I stay in touch with people back home?

Mobile phones: We require all our volunteers to be contactable during their time here and usually encourage students to purchase a Romanian sim card while they are here, you may wish to bring a simple disposable phone to use during your time here - or check with your current network if you can use your phone plan here.

Internet: Most of our student houses have internet, which you can use for a nominal fee, and there are lots of access points in Arad (e.g. free wireless in the mall). We do have internet in the office, but it is available on a limited basis.

Post: Our mailing address is A.N.P NetWorks, Strada Regiment 85 Infanteriei nr 1831, Parter, Siria, Jud Arad, RO 317340.

Note: For Americans or others outside of EU - packages will not come to the office - they will get sent to the border post in Arad - the office is only open a few days a week for a few hours - so if you don't work in Arad, it can be difficult to pick up your packages.