

THREE FAITHS FORUM



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EDUCATION OFFICER

The Three Faiths Forum is a registered charity that widens horizons, encourages harmony, and confronts prejudice. Our aims are to:

- encourage friendship, goodwill and understanding between people of different faiths and beliefs, especially between Muslims, Christians and Jews.
- build lasting relationships between people of different faiths (and those of no religious belief),
- achieve a society where religious and cultural differences can co-exist through empathy, respect and engagement;

The Three Faiths Forum works with religious leaders, communities, schools, students, business and other NGOs to deliver programmes on the ground that deliver tangible benefits to all those engaged.

We are looking for an experienced individual to join our growing team to develop and deliver our educational programmes, which run in schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations. You will have excellent skills in communicating with young people, experience in delivering educational programmes and knowledge of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. You will be committed to achieving the organisational aims and have lots of ideas for ways of helping young people explore and learn about others.

Application Information

Please send a CV and covering letter detailing your suitability for the position and indicating when you would be available to start work. Applications should be emailed to info@threfaithsforum.org.uk, postal applications can be sent to Three Faiths Forum, Star House, 104 Grafton Road, London, Nw5 4BA. For more information please call 020 7482 9549.

Deadline for applications: 5pm, Friday 3rd October 2008

JOB DESCRIPTION: Education Officer

Salary:	£21,000 pro rata
Contract:	Initially 12 months (extension dependent on funding)
Location:	Kentish Town, North London
Reports to:	Programme Director
Hours:	4 days/week (28 hours), with some evening and weekend work (time off in lieu given)
Benefits:	Post is non-pensionable

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To develop, create and deliver our educational programmes (as described below) in schools (predominately secondary schools), colleges, universities and youth groups,
2. To recruit, train and support volunteers in delivery of the educational programmes
3. To inform the public about the work of the Three Faiths Forum
4. To promote good relations between people of different faiths (and those of no religious belief), especially young Muslims, Christians and Jews.

Specific duties include, but are not confined to, the following:

1. To publicise our work and secure opportunities to run sessions and/or speak with students in schools, colleges and universities.
2. To encourage each place visited to create a further programme of discussions and events for students from the three faiths, such as the creation of Three Faiths Forum groups.
3. To develop good relationships between places visited and local Three Faiths Forum groups or other interfaith groups.
4. To speak and write about our work in public e.g. at conferences, news articles, web forum.
5. To offer advice and help to individual students, student societies or staff facing difficulties in interacting with of other faiths.
6. To assist in the upkeep and promotion of the organisational websites (www.3ff.org.uk and www.threefaithsforum.org.uk)
7. To undertake other initiatives necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

Person specification

It is essential to have sensitivity to the issues surrounding this area of work and proven commitment to the aims of the Three Faiths Forum, especially the importance of interfaith work with young people.

Education

- Degree or equivalent in a field relevant to our work (e.g. theology, education, social studies)

Experience & Knowledge

- At least three years' experience of working in an education setting, directly working with young people on educational programmes
- Experience of working with different faith communities
- Excellent knowledge of Christianity, the New Testament, and living as a Christian in modern society.
- Good knowledge of Islam & Judaism
- Good understanding of the issues relating to faith and inter faith relations in the UK
- Good knowledge of British school curricula, especially Religious Education or Religious Studies and Citizenship Education
- Some knowledge of student organisations, including within universities
- Experience or knowledge of conflict transformation/peace building methodologies would be an advantage

Skills and abilities

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to bring an imaginative, enthusiastic and innovative approach to work and to work under pressure and manage changing priorities.
- Good capacity for self-directed working and also team work
- Diplomatic and courteous manner
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Proven ability to work with, and create excellent programmes for a wide range of people, particularly young people and students of different faiths and backgrounds
- IT literate, with good working knowledge of Word and Excel
- Good skills in social media and online communications

Information on Three Faiths Forum Youth & Education programmes

Our work with young people began in 2006 with the development of the innovative text-based dialogue programme, Tools 4 Trialogue™. The menu of activities has increased to offer a variety of programmes, including skills for dialogue & communication as well as activities exploring faith, identities and diversity. Our approach is to use active and experiential learning strategies, always with the emphasis on participant enjoyment. Our “Rules of Dialogue” ensures that all our activities are run within a safe and supportive environment.

By the end of our workshops students should have:

- Explored their own and each other’s faith/cultural identities
- Started thinking about the concept of inter-faith and what it means to them
- Acquired some basic knowledge of the Abrahamic faiths
- Acquired some basic dialogue and communication skills
- Learned to appreciate that whilst different, we face similar challenges and can respect and learn from each other’s experiences

Each activity works on one or more of the following areas:

Conflict Transformation	Dialogue Skills	Get to know you
Identities & Diversity	Text & Language	Interfaith in Action

Our programmes include:

1. Who? What? When? Where? Why? of interfaith
2. Encountering Faith - An encounter with young Christian, Muslim and Jewish presenters who can speak on a particular theme, or present “A Day in the Life” of a person of faith. An excellent way to show the people who inhabit the Three Faiths. Includes Q&A.
3. Fishbowl dialogue - engaging drama exercise simulating a discussion going wrong.
4. The art of disagreeing - exploring ways of conflicting with others but still getting on
5. Tools 4 Trialogue™ (T4T), uses religious texts as the foundation for discussion. Extracts from the Tanakh (Jewish), New Testament (Christian) and Qu’ran (Muslim) on a particular theme are presented side by side. Facilitators from each of the faiths help participants share their views and facilitate discussion. Themes include Bling! Beauty, Modesty & Clothing, The Relationship between Men & Women and Freedom of Choice.

For more information, please visit www.3ff.org.uk