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Linguistic Affinity Development Team

2-30 July 2022

Essential Information

This is a virtual student missions project with Linguae Christi. It is a Track Two project and offers placement for a minimum of two students. The application deadline is 1 June 2022. Please [visit our website](#) to view projects within the categories of Business, Creation, Knowledge, Leadership, and Translation.

Programme Costs

\$150 (USD) or £105 (GBP) or €120 (Euro). Assistance with programme costs is available.

Competencies and Academic Credit

Participants should have some training, gifts, skills or practical experience in (1) creative writing, (2) research, (3) graphic design, or (4) linguistics. Some knowledge of a major European language would be very helpful, but it is not required. For students or educators who would like to receive or offer academic credit for this project, please view the [academic credit information sheet](#) on our website.

Rationale

Solomon said, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Learning, information, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom are essential elements in the life of a follower of Jesus. We at Linguae Christi believe that these elements are also essential in helping us fulfil the calling that God has given to us to take the Gospel to speakers of indigenous minority languages in Europe through the medium of their heart languages. Furthermore, in order to bring other believers from around the world along with us in the fulfilment of this vision, we must be able to articulate and share this knowledge with others effectively; we must educate and motivate God's people to action for the sake of His glory and the joy of these often overlooked European people groups.

This team furthers these goals by researching the people groups, which make up the twelve Linguistic Affinity Groups and which form the basis of organisation and implementation of Linguae Christi's missionary vision and strategy. This team would synthesise information about these affinity groups and develop formats to share this information with others.

Goals

1. That the Lord Jesus would be glorified in the industry and obedience of the participants in these programmes (Col. 3:17).
2. That the participants would develop a sense of missions calling and service through utilising their existing gifts, skills, interests, and fields of study and/or training.
3. That the participants would discover, learn and grow in their:
 - Love and devotion to Christ
 - Knowledge of missions, missiology, and especially the work and mission of Linguae Christi
 - Understanding of themselves and their place in God's will and mission to the world
 - Ability to serve in a team setting
 - Ability to use their education, skills, talents, and interests for the sake of the Kingdom and to God's glory
4. That the participants in their teams and projects would produce "real world" resources with immediate and/or future applicability to the on-going ministry of Linguae Christi in the areas of mobilisation, education, and direct missionary engagement. These resources would not be possible or available were it not for these projects and participants.

Introduction

This team would develop a comprehensive profile for the [Linguistic Affinity Groups](#) (LAGs) of Linguæ Christi, to be featured online and in presentations as well as in print media. This information is vital to understand how Linguæ Christi works and why we exist.

The nature of the assignment brings together a number of disciplines, each of which is represented within each profile:

1. Research to gather and collate information about the people groups
2. Creative writing to communicate information which can seem quite technical in an accessible register
3. Design and editing to present the information in a clear manner

Background

Linguæ Christi is called to bring the Gospel to speakers of indigenous minority languages in Europe through their heart languages. This is about 160 or so distinct language groups, spoken by about 100 million people. The vast majority of these ethnolinguistic groups are “stateless nations,” and thus the geopolitical boundaries familiar to many of us are not a very good organising principle—our focus language groups do not fit neatly into these borders. For this reason, a more precise and workable organising principle would organise language groups by their linguistic affinity (i.e., related languages grouped together). With that in mind, all of these 160+ language groups fit neatly into categories, which we call “Linguistic Affinity Groups”.

Linguistic Affinity Groups

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Celtic Languages | Germanic Languages | Caucasian & Indo-Iranian Languages |
| Ibero-Romance Languages | Balto-Slavic Languages | Roma Languages |
| Italo-Romance Languages | Uralic Languages | Jewish Languages |
| Gallo-Romance Languages | Altaic & Paleo-Siberian Languages | Sign Languages |

Assignment

The main assignment would be to develop introductory profiles for [Linguæ Christi's twelve Linguistic Affinity Groups](#) to be available online and in print. This team would first look at the three existing LAG profiles that are on the Linguæ Christi website with an eye for improving the current design and format. The Team would then use the existing and improved (if necessary) LAG profiles in order to develop similar profiles for the remaining eight LAGs. This assignment includes collaboration with other teams for the design and artwork as well as integrating them with the individual people group profiles.

During orientation week, there will be specific tracks of direction, supervision, and planning time for projects. During this time together we would:

1. Identify the specific projects to prioritise
2. Delineate specific duties to individual members of the team and
3. Develop time-specific action plans, goals, and objectives in order to produce the desired materials.

How to Apply

Please visit Linguæ Christi's website to access our [interest form](#). Applicants will then receive access to an application form, including references and, where relevant, examples of their work. Face-to-face interviews via video calls may be required for specific placements. Please contact us at info@linguaechristi.org for more information.