

# COMMON FAQ'S ABOUT SIM

## TELL ME ABOUT SIM

SIM is a 129-year old catalyst for global missions that goes above in prayer and beyond in care to bring good news to hard places because there are people living and dying without the gospel. The vision of SIM is to see a witness to Christ's love where He is least known, disciples of Jesus expressing God's love in their communities, and Christ-centered churches among all peoples.

SIM Canada is part of an international mission organization with more than 4,000 ministry workers, serving in more than 70 countries, from over 60 different diverse nationalities. We are both a sending and receiving agency, sending people from Canada, receiving people to Canada, and serving in Canada alongside the church. We are looking for people who love Jesus and who are willing to use their skills on one of our ministry teams worldwide.

## WHAT DOES SIM DO? WHERE DOES SIM SEND PEOPLE?

We bring the good news to communities where Jesus Christ is least known. In all things, and by prayer, SIM responds to human need, proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ, and intentionally equips the Church.

We have a wide range of opportunities including healthcare, children/youth, relief/development, business, administration, church planting, information technology, sports, communications/ arts/ media, evangelism and discipleship, bible translation, theological education, engineering, accounting/finance, and technical support. We work all over the world, including here in Canada, where we have about 60 Canada-Field ministry workers.

SIM generally trains and sends individuals and families to work alongside pre-established teams of both SIM ministry workers as well as local believers.

## WHO DECIDES WHAT MINISTRY I WILL BE INVOLVED IN?

SIM won't tell you where you will go; we don't try to be the Holy Spirit in your life! We will provide you with options to prayerfully consider, research answers to your questions, and work with you to identify the right fit. You, the mobilization team, and your prospective field administration team will all be involved in this discernment process together.

## WHAT LENGTHS OF SERVICES DO YOU HAVE?

Short-term assignments with SIM are typically longer than three months but less than a year and are designed with two primary purposes in mind. The first is to maximize the impact of current ministry going on in a given location, and the second is to provide the short term missionary with an opportunity to experience what God is doing in and through SIM in that place. We don't do "mission trips" because it's popular; we provide opportunities for people to take steps toward a lifetime of being on mission with God, whether or not that means continuing in local or overseas ministry with SIM.

Our midterm assignments typically last one to two years and are designed to expand and strengthen ongoing ministry. The experience is invaluable, both to the one going and to the people at the ministry site. Midterm missionaries serve long enough to get a clear sense of what long term ministry is like, as well as accomplishing a lot for the Kingdom. Whether you're looking for a more in-depth mission experience, or exploring God's plan for your life, we want to connect you to God's work both here and around the world.

Our long-term assignments last two or more years and build relationships that can make significant Kingdom impact. We believe

the most effective ministries are those that build into communities over time, and that requires that we have people on the ground in a given location for the long haul. By becoming a part of individuals' lives, we earn the privilege of sharing Jesus with them. It all begins with someone like you, someone who is ready to invest a lifetime in obedience to God.

We do facilitate Pre-Formed Ministry Teams / Vision Trip Teams from churches, colleges, universities and graduate schools, but these are reviewed on a case by case basis.

You can email [Canada.GoTeam@sim.org](mailto:Canada.GoTeam@sim.org) to get more details about the above, or fill in an inquiry form in-person or online at [www.exploremissions.ca](http://www.exploremissions.ca) / [www.sim.ca/exploremissions](http://www.sim.ca/exploremissions)

## DO YOU HAVE INTERNSHIPS?

Our primary internship program is called LAUNCH, an intensive global experience for those considering long-term ministry, which happens in the Spring, Summer and Fall for 10-15 weeks. It includes pre-field orientation and book study, cross-cultural ministry experience, on-field mentorship by missionaries, language learning (many locations), post field debrief and follow up. We also have other longer term internship opportunities around the world including "Incredible India" and "Engage Nigeria." We're open to working with colleges, universities and graduate school to provide internship opportunities that meet the strategic goals for SIM ministry sites, and we're willing to check and see if there's a fit for you.

## HOW MUCH SUPPORT WILL I NEED TO RAISE?

SIM ministry workers rely on God's provision for their living and ministry needs. Support requirements are based on length and location of service, family size, and ages of children.

The support you need to raise is based on the best estimate of what it costs to get you to, and live in, your ministry location. This will vary from country to country. While it may be that your daily living costs in your country of service are quite low and maybe not any different from your normal expenses in your home country, the cost of airfares to your ministry location, visas and work permits, children's education overseas, etc. are very real costs that will make your monthly support requirement higher than what it costs you to live in your home country.

## IN MY CULTURE IT IS IMPOLITE TO ASK FOR SUPPORT. HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO RAISE IT?

Support raising is a faith exercise, whichever country you come from. We will provide some tools and resources to help you in support raising but it is important that you adapt these for your culture and context. Never forget that ultimately our almighty God is our provider and that prayer is a key to support raising in any culture. Share your story and the calling God has laid on your heart to serve cross-culturally and he will touch people's hearts to be part of your support team.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE WITH SIM?

First and foremost, SIM looks for people with a personal, vibrant, growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Christians who answer the Lord "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8) are our favourite inquirers! They need adequate training in whatever specialty they want to use, as well as some cross-cultural and biblical training, but we're looking for competence not credits! The specific requirements are unique to individual placements and will be *identified and discussed with you as you go through the process.* {Cont. Page 2}

[from Page 1] We've sent people in their 20s and in their 70s. What you do isn't nearly as important as Who you know (Jesus!). We work with Christians of any background, and we're looking for ordinary Christians who are ready to serve as entrepreneurs, creatives, athletes, professionals, learners, leaders, pioneers and more!

### WHAT IS YOUR DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION?

We are intentionally interdenominational. The beauty of being interdenominational is that our members don't have to leave their heritages behind when they join SIM, and we have greater flexibility to partner with many denominations. In the interest of working well together we have clearly identified in our statement of faith those areas where we will not budge, but we also agree to disagree in those areas where Scripture is less clear. We continually point back to the Bible as our final authority.

### WHAT IS YOUR STATEMENT OF FAITH?

SIM is committed to the essential truths of biblical Christianity. You can read our whole statement of faith at [www.sim.ca/about/our-faith](http://www.sim.ca/about/our-faith)

### DOES SIM WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES?

SIM values our partners! We have ongoing strategic partnerships with Asian Access in Japan and worldwide with Mission to the World (MTW), The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), Samaritan's Purse, World Medical Mission, Global Frontier Mission (GFM), to name a few. We also value local partnerships, as we partner closely with local churches, Bible colleges, schools and hospitals. Our SIM Canada office at #10 Huntingdale in Scarborough, ON, shares building space with OMF, Wycliffe Translators, Langham Partners, Jews for Jesus, and InterServe.

### WHAT ROLE DOES THE LOCAL CHURCH HAVE?

SIM wants to partner with your local church family and believes your sending church plays a vital role in your ministry through the support (intercessory, emotional, spiritual, financial) they provide. We believe the church is the real missionary-sender, not the mission agency. We want to build healthy working relationships with leaders of sending churches, built on good communication and trust, so that when concerns need to be addressed, both parties feel comfortable working together. The local church sending members locally and globally is the backbone of living the Great Commission. It is our joy as to serve the church in making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where he is least known.

### DOES SIM ENCOURAGE NEW MINISTRY METHODS AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR MINISTRY?

Being interdenominational, SIM is able to flex and adapt to what is culturally appropriate when church planting. Though there is no one-size-fits-all model, we are cautious when it comes to contextualization.

SIM seeks to honor God by using the gifts, abilities, and experiences of the people He brings to us. In one location that may lead to a motorcycle club ministry while in another it could be a business venture focusing on tourism, jewelry, or coffee! Our core values say we are a "Learning, Growing Community," and that challenges us to learn about and try new things. We don't believe "we've always done it this way" is a good answer when faced with the rapidly changing world in which we live.

### IS SIM A HOME- OR FIELD-DRIVEN AGENCY?

SIM's governance structure allows us to make decisions at the lowest possible level, involving the ones affected by the decision whenever possible. Our "International Leadership and Services" team provides overall leadership and direction, but does not micromanage. Each of our sending and receiving offices carry out our mandate in culturally appropriate ways, celebrating the breadth of diversity that is SIM.

### WHAT KIND OF TRAINING DO YOU REQUIRE?

SIM has certain areas of study we'd like all our cross-cultural ministry workers to have, but we don't expect everyone to have the exact same training. Those areas include, but aren't limited to: cross-cultural communication, language acquisition, biblical and doctrinal surveys, etc. We want our people to be well prepared, but we're looking for competencies related to ministry needs, not certifications. We will tailor the training track to meet needs. SIM Canada has two orientation events for those going longer than one year, SIMStart and SIMGo, that prepare for the next step in the pre-field process.

### HOW OLD IS SIM?

SIM is over 125 years old! Today's SIM is the product of several mergers. Founded in Nigeria, then known as "the Sudan," Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) was founded in 1893. In 1982, SIM merged with Andes Evangelical Mission (AEM, originally known as the Bolivian Indian Mission and founded in Bolivia in 1907). In 1989, SIM merged with International Christian Fellowship (ICF, originally known as the Poona and Indian General Mission, founded in India in 1893). In 1998, SIM merged with Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF, originally known as the South Africa General Mission, founded in 1890). In 2016, SIM merged with Middle East Christian Outreach (MECO, originally known as the Lebanon Evangelical Mission, founded in 1860).

### HOW ARE MINISTRY WORKERS HELD ACCOUNTABLE? WHO HOLDS SIM ACCOUNTABLE?

Ministry Workers are held accountable by their field admin structure, annual reviews (done on the field with copies sent to sending office personnel admin), and informal-relational interaction with teammates.

SIM is a multinational organization with members coming from more than 60 nationalities. We have an overall governing board comprised of sending and receiving area directors and non-SIM members. Each sending office and receiving office has its own council consisting of a number of non-SIM members whose occupations range from pastors and Bible college professors to corporate medical professionals, CEOs/CFOs, and lawyers. SIM was a founding member of both the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA, now known as Missio Nexis) and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). SIM Canada has Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC)'s Seal of Accountability, which distinguishes charities that demonstrate ongoing compliance with CCCC's standards and display a strong commitment to integrity.

### HOW ARE CHILDREN CARED FOR AND EDUCATED?

SIM highly values children, both third culture children (TCKs) as well as those within the communities where we serve. We seek to prevent any form of child abuse, so background checks and child safety training are required of all our staff.

When ministry workers attend pre-field orientation, the children have their own program led by trained children's workers, and when families return to the home office at the end of their terms, the children have their own debriefing in consultation with parents.

SIM strives to provide the best educational opportunities available, and to allow our people to decide what options are best for their own families. Whether it's a local community school, international school, boarding school, or home school, families are able to make the decision themselves. We have people available to give guidance.

### WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

If you've got questions or you'd simply like to have a chat with someone, then we'd love to hear what the Lord is stirring in your heart and to pray with you as you explore! Contact us at [Canada.info@sim.org](mailto:Canada.info@sim.org).