

BE A LIVE IN ASSISTANT...



Together with the Core Members the 'Live In Assistants' are at the heart of our home life in the community and their contribution is invaluable.

We welcome applications from anyone over 20 years of age, from anywhere in the world; however, an applicant must seek and receive the appropriate UK Visa once a place is offered. We normally allocate one space for an assistant from Northern Ireland.

We expect that an assistant will be able to speak English with some confidence. We ask prospective Assistants to visit their nearest L'Arche Community, if possible, so that they can experience L'Arche in their own culture before applying to L'Arche Belfast.

Choosing to be an assistant in L'Arche Belfast is to choose an interdependent lifestyle that is inspired and shaped by the teaching gifts of people who have 'learning disabilities' and rooted in Gospel values. Some people join us for one or two years while for others L'Arche becomes a way of life.

During their time with L'Arche Belfast, many assistants develop a clearer sense of direction based both on their strengths and also on the transformative power of their own fallibility and need. Through the relationships formed in community, Assistants discover in themselves compassion, empathy, and leadership—gifts that welcome difference and include new possibilities and perspectives. Often assistants are surprised by the depth their experiences in

community and by the power of the 'Core Members' to touch their lives, influence their thinking and lead them into a whole new way of seeing the world. Community life encourages assistants, shapes their actions and gives them hope for our common future.

What you can expect if you choose to become a Live in Assistant...

What makes a L'Arche home distinct from other residences where adults with learning disabilities live is that L'Arche is home to both the 'Core Members' and the 'Assistants' and life is shared together in all its aspects. As a member of the household you will accompany core members in their activities of daily life, helping them as needed, discovering who they are, and developing a relationship with them and with other members of the household and the community. You will also be expected to participate in and assist the core members with all the activities associated with 'homemaking'--shopping, cooking, laundry, cleaning, and preparing celebrations.

While previous experience is desirable but not essential, you must have a willingness to learn from and be changed by the Core Members, to embrace the training that L'Arche provides to new assistants, to work in a team, and to support the members of your household to live into their full potential, to offer their gifts, to participate in the activities of the community and to contribute as members of their local community.

As a faith community, prayer in all its forms is a natural part of the daily life and you will be expected to respect this and to participate.

You will also receive induction and training in your role and formation in the vision, values and practices of the community. You will be paid a modest monthly 'living allowance' and receive your board and lodgings free. You will have a period of rest and recreation time each day and days for personal rest and recreation each week.

Assistants usually make an initial commitment of a year, with the first three months being a period of orientation and a time for the assistant and the community to discover whether your choice to come to L'Arche is beneficial for you and the community. If you and the community agree to proceed, you will be given a contract outlining your role and responsibilities and the terms and conditions of your involvement with the community.

If you require further information please contact us at humanresources@larchebelfast.org.uk