



# LEE ABBEY

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CLUB

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## **Joining the Christian Community at Lee Abbey International Students' Club:**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. What is Lee Abbey International Students' Club?**

Lee Abbey provides accommodation in London for approximately 150 students from over fifty nations. The Club, which is staffed by Christians, provides an environment in which the students from overseas can study, experience life in an international community, and grow in maturity. We aim to provide a safe and secure 'home-from-home' for the resident students and welcome people from all backgrounds.

#### **2. Lee Abbey is a Christian Community. What does this mean?**

It means that all the staff and volunteers at Lee Abbey are Christians who are dedicated to serving others. Community members live, pray and worship together regularly and by their work and witness, seek to give the students a first hand experience of life in a Christian environment.

Anyone who joins our Community will be a Christian, accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. You will join in our worship, be ready to welcome and serve the students and be prepared to witness to your faith in Jesus by your life and work. Lee Abbey is a Church of England (Anglican) based Community which welcomes people from other Christian denominations to work and worship with us. Our weekly services of Holy Communion are an important expression of our unity in Christ.

#### **3. If I join the Community at Lee Abbey as a volunteer, what work will I do?**

You will join one of four teams which help with the practical work of keeping the Club running smoothly.

**HOUSE TEAM** - responsible for the general care and cleanliness of the whole building.

**KITCHEN TEAM** - responsible for producing all meals and maintaining the cleanliness of the Kitchen, Servery, Wash-up, Dry Store and Dining Room.

**MAINTENANCE TEAM** - responsible for the day to day maintenance of the building and garden.

**OFFICE TEAM** – responsible for Reception, Bookings, Correspondence, Fees, Financial matters, Accounts, and General Administration.

#### **4. Will I have any other responsibilities?**

Yes, our mission is to serve God here as we serve the needs of those among whom we live and work. We have the privilege and opportunity to witness to the students by the way we live and work, and by our lifestyle and readiness to answer questions about our faith.

Being on Community is a way of life rather than a normal job.

#### **5. I am 17, can I apply?**

Unfortunately, Lee Abbey can only accept Community Members who are 18 years old or over.

#### **6. Do I need a visa?**

If you are a UK or European Union citizen, you will not need a visa to join our community. If you are from any other country you will need to apply for a "Volunteer Worker's Visa" at the British Embassy in your home country.

If you are not sure if you need a visa, you could visit the following website which will give you an answer:  
[www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk)

You will only need to apply for a visa once you have received an invitation from Lee Abbey to join our Community.

**7. How much money will I receive?**

You will receive pocket money of £44 each week.

**8. When will I get paid?**

You will normally be paid in cash on Fridays. If you have a UK bank account, you can choose to be paid monthly by bank transfer, which is on or before the 21st day of each month.

**9. Do I have to pay Income Tax, National insurance or Council Tax?**

No, volunteers do not pay any Tax, National Insurance or Council Tax.

**10. Do I have to pay for food or any other bills?**

All three meals are provided each day, and you also have access to basic food items should you need a snack between meals. The only other bills you are required to pay are your telephone bill, any social programme bills (theatre outings, day trips etc) and a refundable deposit of £40.

**11. Why must I pay a deposit?**

Sometimes Community Members forget to pay their bills before they leave at the end of their contract. The deposit protects the Club from any losses and reminds you to pay your telephone bill!

**12. Will I share a room?**

Yes - space in our building is limited and you will share a room with one or two other Community Members.

**13. How many hours will I work?**

In most teams the daily work is done on a shift pattern. Hours of work vary, but a typical work day starts at 8.30am and finishes at 4pm. You receive an hour for lunch and a 20 minute coffee break.

All Community Members work for 3 hours on Sundays – Lee Abbey is open every day of the year.

**14. Do I have to be Anglican (Church of England)?**

No, anyone over 18 who accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour is welcome to apply. You will need to be willing to join fully in our services, including a weekly Holy Communion service led in the Anglican tradition.

**15. Will I receive any holiday?**

Yes, you will receive 2½ days paid holiday for each full month that you work. This means that if you stay at Lee Abbey for a year, you will have 30 days holiday.

**16. What happens on Sundays?**

Lee Abbey is open every day of the year. Unfortunately some work needs to be done on Sundays and public holidays. On these days you will be asked to work a 3 hour shift.

You are encouraged to join a local Church and participate in their worship on Sundays.

**17. Can I go home for Christmas/Easter?**

We do not allow holidays to be taken over the Christmas and Easter periods. For most volunteers this is their first time away from family and it would not be fair to allow some to go home and not others. Lee Abbey remains open to guests at Christmas and Easter.