

# en route explore

## COURSE INFORMATION

**en route explore** is a 13-week course providing a foundation for cross-cultural mission and an opportunity for participants to explore God's purposes for them. It is intended to form part of an on-going journey in training and service.

The material is written and facilitated by a training team that has current experience in integral mission.

The course comprises online lessons, community learning through weekly discussion and personal reflection using downloadable workbooks.

## Participants

**en route explore** is aimed at those who are thinking about/planning to work cross-culturally but have little or no training or experience, for example:

- Those who are not able to attend a residential course.
- Those preparing to go on a first placement (of at least a few months).
- Those who have had some mission experience but want to know more and 'fill in the gaps'.
- Those seeking the basics with a view to a long-term journey in cross-cultural work.
- Agency or church personnel supporting others in cross-cultural service.

Participants will be committed Christians with a desire to learn more about how to live, work and witness cross-culturally.

The course requires commitment to full participation in the weekly activities, particularly the discussion forums.

## Ethos

Our vision is to develop participants' 'Head' (knowledge), 'Heart' (character, spirituality) and 'Hands' (skills). Each theme will be Bible-based and will focus on equipping and facilitating personal development. It's holistic, participatory, foundational, transformational... an experience!

### What it is:

- An opportunity to explore ideas and gain tools from the experience of others.
- An opportunity to prepare by learning but also a time for personal and spiritual growth.

### What it isn't:

- A substitute for in-depth training for longer-term service.
- A course that emphasises academic achievement.

## Components

- Online lessons/Individual study
- Learning through peer review (engagement with fellow participants) in the Discussion Forum
- Personal development through 'directed reflection' in Workbooks
- Community building & spiritual support through informal forums (Prayer Room & Virtual Café)
- Support, guidance & regular feedback from the Facilitator and Tutor.

## Schedule

**en route explore** runs in January, April and September.

The course follows a repeating weekly pattern of working through online lessons, submitting 'posts' to discussion forums and personal reflection through workbooks. There are 12 weeks of study and one week at the beginning for introductions, etc. The total time required is 13 weeks.

Participants must be prepared to make time available for this routine, in the same way that they would commit to attending a face-2-face class.

People who study online do so in different ways, however, the minimum time commitment is approximately 5-7 hours per week. Additional material will be made available to those who want to study in more depth.

The course material will include a devotional element and we encourage participants to use this as part of their regular time with God.

## Training Team

Lessons are written by members of the allnations training team and outside trainers. The course is facilitated and tutored by allnations trainers and other experienced mission personnel.

## Is e-learning for you?

The internet is a learning medium that is highly suited to some personalities and situations but not to all.

You will benefit most from **en route explore** if;

- You set aside several periods of quality time per week for study and discussion
- You already enjoy communicating online (e.g. email, Skype, forums)
- You are self-motivated
- You enjoy learning through reading
- You are ready and willing to learn
- You want to grow personally & spiritually
- You have a mentor/pastor/friend who will support you and to whom you are accountable
- You have good internet access
- You are familiar with using and navigating around websites

Agreement to participation in **en route explore** requires a commitment to participate fully in all aspects. A core value of the course is to promote learning in community. This is an outworking of our vision to help prepare people to live and work better with others.

A questionnaire is available to help you assess your suitability for online learning – please visit the ‘e-learning and demo page’ link on the website.

## Guidelines on local ‘mentors’

The purpose of **en route explore** is to help participants develop on a personal and spiritual level. Some pastoral support will be given by the Facilitator, as appropriate, however we recognise that there may be a need for more immediate support and care. We therefore request that participants ensure they have a friend, colleague, pastor or mission agency contact who will act as a ‘mentor’ and give pastoral/prayer support for the duration of the course.

We recommend that the mentor makes regular contact with the participant to review their progress with respect to personal and spiritual development.

Our hope is that participants will benefit from developing within the context of both online and face-2-face communities.

## **en route explore** in more detail...

### Cross-Cutting Themes:

Four themes run throughout the 12 weeks of study:

- Biblical foundation - Exploring and developing a Biblical foundation for our life and work.
- Cultural awareness - Understanding the issues that arise from working in other cultures.
- People skills – Developing our ability to work with others.
- Practical issues – Putting the theory into practice and being equipped with a range of tools for life and work.

### The en route journey:

- **Who am I?**

Understanding who we are; our identity, motivation and personality in relation to God and others. How strong is our faith and spiritual walk with God? We will look at some of the challenges we may face; how to prepare and deal with them by developing spiritual disciplines (prayer, study, meditation, etc.).

- **What is mission?**

What is God’s mission to the world? We give a brief overview of mission in the Old and New Testaments as well as looking at Biblical mission methods. We also look at what lessons can be learned from post-New Testament mission. Finally, what are current trends and contemporary issues for mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

- **Culture and living in community**

Why do they do things differently? Develop an understanding of culture and worldview and get an introduction to major & minor religion. What are the effects of our cultural differences? Culture shock, ethics, conflict, understanding contextualization & syncretism. How do we deal with our differences? How do we live and work in community? Learning to relate and integrate and developing the right 'heart' and attitudes. What about our boundaries and how do we prevent burnout?

- **Integral Mission**

Understand poverty and the principles of secular and Christian development. What's it all for? Building the Kingdom of God. Understanding God's 'calling' on our lives and being the people that God wants us to be within the context of our personality and our environment.

**en route to?**

Preparation for the next step, 'know the work the Lord has for YOU', practical tips for preparing to go – healthy mind, body & spirit, security, agency information, etc.

## Technical requirements

- A minimum of 33.6 kb per second dialup or any broadband connection (including WiFi) Internet browser (preferably Mozilla FireFox – this can be downloaded free from <http://www.getfirefox.com>)
- Email
- Word-processing Software (Microsoft Word, OpenOffice or anything capable of reading and writing files written in Word format. OpenOffice can be downloaded free from <http://download.openoffice.org>)
- Acrobat Reader. This can be downloaded from <http://www.adobe.com/uk/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>
- A sound card and speakers (although optional) will allow you to play any audio files that will enhance your learning experience.

## Summary

Information & Enquiries	<a href="http://www.allnations.ac.uk/eLearning">www.allnations.ac.uk/eLearning</a> , <a href="mailto:eLearning@allnations.ac.uk">eLearning@allnations.ac.uk</a> 01920 443524 / 443500
Application process	Forms are available on the website or from allnations.
Application fee	£10 <a href="#">Download application form</a>
Course dates & deadlines	19 <sup>th</sup> April - 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2010 (applications by 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2010) 6 <sup>th</sup> September – 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2010 (applications by 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2010) * Dates have been extended slightly to allow for the Easter break.

Cost	£630
Deposit	None
Exit award	allnations certificate of participation
Selection criteria:	
Age	From the young (ideally over 21 years) to the retired and all ages in between.
Nationality	All

Language	All parts of the course are in English. Those who confident in expressing themselves in written English will benefit most from the course. There will be some written work but no lengthy assignments
Acceptance	<p>1. Candidates already accepted by mission/aid agencies** Automatic acceptance in most cases Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full application form</li> <li>• Personal Christian testimony</li> <li>• Letter of recommendation from agency</li> <li>• Presence of local 'mentor' (see guidelines)</li> </ul>
	<p>2. Independent applicants** Acceptance subject to application information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full application form</li> <li>• Personal Christian testimony</li> <li>• Reference from church pastor/minister</li> <li>• Reference from one other Christian (not family member, preferably one who has known the applicant for a number of years.)</li> <li>• Presence of local 'mentor' (see guidelines)</li> </ul>
** Special Note	If applications come from outside the EU, North America & Australia, all references will be followed up. Those who do not speak English as a first language must have an IELTS pass of at least 6.0. Please send a copy of the transcript with the application.

Please email any enquiries about **en route explore** to [eLearning@allnations.ac.uk](mailto:eLearning@allnations.ac.uk)

For further information about other courses at allnations visit [www.allnations.ac.uk](http://www.allnations.ac.uk) or contact [admissions@allnations.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@allnations.ac.uk) or 01920 443500.

Please send the completed form (downloadable from the website), accompanying documentation and application fee to: en route Admissions, allnations, Easney, Ware, Herts SG12 8LX, UK.

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