

QUAKER UNITED NATIONS SUMMER SCHOOL

9th July to 21st July 2006, GENEVA

The Summer School aims to provide an introduction to the work of the United Nations, as seen through the programmes of QUNO - the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva. QUNO works on disarmament and peace, human rights and refugees, and trade and development. During Summer School there will be talks by staff of the UN, non-governmental organisations and diplomatic missions, as well as informal discussion sessions and visits to the UN itself.

The work of some of the UN specialised agencies will also be examined and, where possible, visits will be arranged to, for example, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The group will be introduced to the organisations by people working within them and will be encouraged to further their understanding by asking questions and contributing to discussion.

In the programme, emphasis will be given to formal and informal discussion sessions to provide opportunities for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the issues being studied. A variety of learning techniques will be employed, including lectures, small group discussions and workshops.

The twelve days in Geneva are not all work - Geneva is surrounded by magnificent walking country and has a lake to swim in. Geneva itself is a fascinating city with some particularly fine historic buildings and many cultural and recreational activities.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

The 2006 Summer School will be held from Sunday 9th July to Friday 21st July. Participants will stay in single-sex dormitories at a hostel in Geneva. Breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal will be provided by the hostel. Participants will be expected to

share in some domestic duties involved in meal preparation for meals we have at Quaker House.

The participation fee for the summer school is £380, which goes towards the costs of accommodation, programme and meals. Travel costs to Geneva and spending money are not included. Some suggestions on how to seek financial help will be provided if you are accepted; however applicants will be encouraged to seek funds from the own Meetings, where appropriate, first.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The annual Quaker United Nations Summer School in Geneva provides an opportunity for 25 young people to meet together to study the work of the United Nations at first hand.

Participants should be between 20 and 26 years of age in July 2006: on occasion one or two slightly younger than this have been selected, but on balance those who gain most from the experience are at the higher end of the age range. Participation is not limited to Quakers, although they are usually in the majority. We welcome applications from anywhere in the world. Applicants from outside the EU/Switzerland will need a visa, which QUNO will assist in applying for.

No formal qualifications are necessary. However an active interest in international affairs is needed, as well as the desire to share understanding with others.

English is the working language used throughout the programme. Therefore fluent English is essential for those taking part.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms are available from www.quaker.org.uk or from Helen Bradford on helenb@quaker.org.uk or on receipt of a large stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon, from Helen Bradford, Quaker Peace & Social Witness

(QUNSS), Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ, UK.

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS 17th MARCH 2006

Usually we receive more applications than there are places available. Selection is made by a special group and letters informing applicants if they have been accepted will be despatched by the middle of April 2006.

Participants will be required to pay a deposit of £100 on acceptance of a place on the Summer School.

QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, GENEVA

There are QUNOs - Quaker offices to the United Nations - in both Geneva and New York. Through Friends World Committee for Consultation each has Consultative Status at the UN. The QUNOs are part of world-wide Quaker work for peace and justice.

The Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva has been established for more than forty years.

Through the offices in Geneva and New York, Quakers are involved in a wide range of activities at the United Nations. Concerns are promoted, such as human rights, disarmament, and the search for global economic and social justice. United Nations issues are interpreted for groups of Quakers and others throughout the world. Opportunities are also provided for people to seek new light on international problems.

***To find out more, contact Helen Bradford,
helenb@quaker.org.uk or write to Quaker Peace & Social
Witness (QUNO), Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road,
London, NW1 2BJ, UK, or look at the QUNO website -
<http://www.quno.org>***