
Connect
navigators

Connect

The UK Navigators want to create a future where everyday people are free to make their own confident and creative contribution, full of hope that their lives, their relationships and their communities are significant. We want to see those who have been invested in, investing in others and thus multiplying the influence of Jesus across the UK and around the world.

Anyone who is willing to follow Christ can become a mighty influence on the world providing, of course, this person has the proper training... Jesus devoted himself primarily to the task of developing some leaders who in turn could give this kind of personal attention to others.

Robert E Coleman



Jesus

Jesus has a loving heart for all people. His solution to reconcile a world that is broken and separate from him is to give his life for them. His strategy to reach the world with this good news was to raise up a generation of men and women surrendered to him as their king. His prayer for them was to:

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV)

- first and foremost, know and love Him
- have compassion on people who don't follow Jesus
- introduce these people to Jesus
- help them grow in their faith
- teach them also to pass on this good news to others.

One by one the crowds are won.

Connect

Connect is a year-long personal development programme that continues Jesus's strategy by training people to get alongside others, and seeing what God does. It consists of two elements, an Internship with the Navigators and a Training Programme. Most people do both but it is possible to do one or the other. Our prayer is that these individuals would grow in their intimacy with Jesus and ministry skills that will set them up for following Jesus in all of life. For over twenty years Connect has proven itself to be highly significant in the lives of both the interns who take part and the lives of those they go on to influence in the rest of life.

Investing in you

Our vision is that there will be alongsiders spreading and deepening Jesus' influence next door to everywhere. We want you to be part of this vision so we will invest in you through:

Internship

The Navigators provide a range of internships working alongside experienced representatives in a local setting in the UK, with on-the-job skills training. These provide opportunities and experiences to share with others the impact Jesus has had on your own life, help others to follow him for themselves and to point people to a deeper relationship with Jesus. It may also be possible to arrange alternative internships, for example in a local church or youth work charity that shares the Navigators' values.

Training programme

You will set out on a journey of personal study through engaging deeply with the Bible, helpful resources, interactive residential training days, and assignments designed to stretch your knowledge, faith and skills.

Personal development

Through both the Internship and the Training Programme you will be developed in your own spiritual growth, helping you to build character and convictions that enable you to make a significant contribution to God's vision beyond Connect.

All this while also providing a great set of transferable skills that would be highly valuable on any CV.

We'd love you to join us on this adventure and we are excited about what God is going to do in and through you.

Internship

Eilidh from Stirling

"My year on Connect was so beneficial for me in many different ways. I had space to grow in my personal faith, deepen my theological knowledge and grow in my identity in Jesus.

I also really valued the amount of opportunities given to me in my internship, working with students, which enabled me to learn practical ministry skills whilst getting alongside students in their walk with Jesus."



For over seventy years the UK Navigators has been inspired by its vision where 'workers for the kingdom are next door to everywhere'. We dream of alongsiders spreading and deepening Jesus' influence in every corner of life. As a result, we work in a variety of different cities in a wide range of contexts.

We believe this vision is adaptable to all environments, so we aim to tailor the Connect experience in the light of this.

Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The majority of Connect is spent working within an internship in a local setting in the UK, apprenticed to a Navigator representative. You may focus on working within a variety of community groups, including young families, secondary school youth, university students, international students, the arts, and particular geographical areas and cross-cultural settings.

Who could you work with?

Real transformation

The Navigator's aim is not to achieve mere knowledge or surface-level spirituality, but to be transformed deeply by God's Spirit. We belief God chooses to do this through one life influencing another as they engage with His word and seek Him in prayer. Transformation occurs as alongsiders develop alongsiders.

This is why the Internship is a key element of the Connect year. It provides you with an opportunity to be mentored by and learn alongside others, while equipping you to fully engage with and invest well in the lives of others.

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

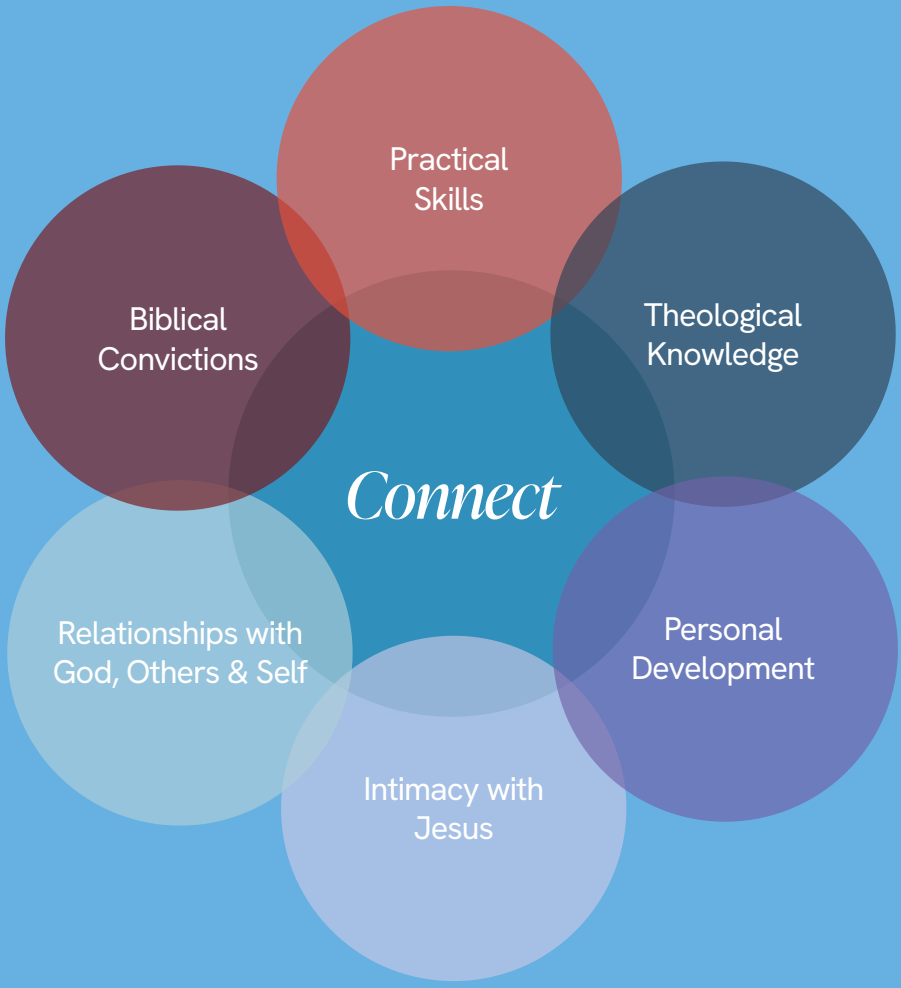
1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT)

You will grow in your own personal faith journey, your love for God, his Word and people, and by being trained to walk alongside others to help them to also grow.

You will be paired with a mature overseer to help you navigate and make the most of everything you are experiencing and learning.

Through reflecting on both the Internship and the Training Programme, Connect aims to grow your confidence in evangelism, both as an 'outsider' ministering to people beyond your natural sphere of relationships and as an 'insider' within key communities and with key individuals in your everyday life.

Training Programme



In tandem with the Internship is a nationally run structured Training Programme, which together fulfill the Connect training objectives shown in the diagram opposite. The Training Programme is delivered with an appreciation of a variety of different learning styles and is made up of a number of components. Each of these components combine to create a diverse experience that give a well-rounded learning environment to grow and develop.

Training modules

A series of modules completed over the course of a year, designed to explore and unpack what it means to follow Jesus as we come alongside others. Together we'll explore themes such as joining God's mission, the call to go, gospel transformation, and living as alongsiders in every part of life.

In order to make disciples, we have to be disciples. Each module seeks to address both of these dynamics concurrently and consists of the following components:

- Summary article: unpacking the theme and heart of the module
- Reading project: exposing you to a wealth of writers and thinkers
- Experiential component: putting into practice different ministry skills
- Handling the Bible: discovering tools for correctly handling the Bible
- Bible study: exploring the Bible in depth, complemented by a range of talks, videos, articles and practical assignments
- Reflective essay: summarising what you're learning in a 1000-word essay

Training days

Four times a year Connect interns come together for three days to share and learn from one another, participate in training seminars and to allow space and time to slow down, reflect on and share experiences with one another.

Ministry visit

You will have the opportunity to visit at least one other Navigator ministry. This provides a broader experience and allows you to observe different ways of doing ministry.

National conferences

There are a number of national Navigator events such as the National Conference, National Student Conference, Scottish Summer School and NavNetwork that you will be invited to attend.

Retreats

Connect provides a unique opportunity to build habits and develop a deep and rich devotional life through taking time to be with God.

Summer training programme

At the end of the Connect year, you will join an overseas trip that exposes you to the Navigator vision and God's heart in a different culture. This will take you out of your comfort zone and hence sharpen your faith and character, broaden your horizons and develop an outwardly focused heart for the nations.

Final roundup

To finish off there will be a final day to review what God has been teaching you over the year and to refocus towards your next steps.

Personal Development

It is important to make a better *contribution* as we serve God by developing in key *competencies* such as practical skills and strategy. However, the best *contribution* will be made as we develop a *character* that flows from deep Biblical *convictions* and a vibrant relationship with *Christ*. Connect seeks to build on each of these components both through the Internship and the Training Programme.

The Navigators are passionate about the good news of Jesus and his influence in the world. We have a burden to see generations of workers living and coming alongside those who don't follow Him.

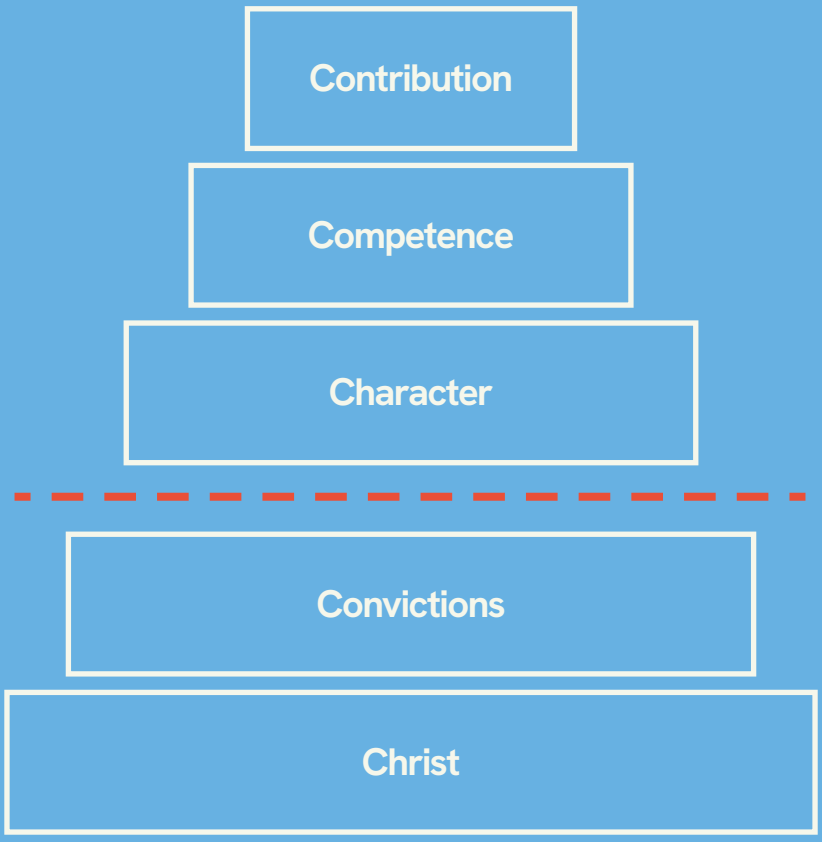
- Connect is your chance to join a new generation of leaders by taking part in a one-year faith adventure to see God at work around you and to lay foundations for a whole life of working with Christ, wherever he may take you.
- Connect is an unprecedented opportunity to be apprenticed to a Navigator representative in their local setting, sharing real life with them, contributing significantly to the spiritual lives of others, all underpinned with a focus on foundational development in your own life.
- Connect will be a significant and challenging year. People speak of growing in character and faith, a deepened relationship with God and substantial personal development in maturity and skill. This growth often comes from walking a bumpy path and facing difficult challenges along the way.
- Connect will set you up to move into roles of influence within a wide variety of contexts - families, local communities, workplaces, churches, cross-cultural mission - living ordinary lives with the help of an extraordinary God.

Will you take up the challenge?

When Jesus said, 'Make disciples', by necessity, the disciples understood it to mean much more than simply getting people to believe in Jesus. They had seen hundreds come and go; had witnessed the multitudes of the needy, the takers, and the superficial scramble after the spectacular; and knew that getting people to say, 'Yes, I believe,' was not enough.

Bill Hull

The Pyramid of Maturity



How can we be effective leaders (people who make their best contribution) without that contribution being our be all and end all? More positively, how can we be set free to make our best contribution as leaders, whatever the circumstances?

The Nitty Gritty

In order to gain the most from Connect, it is important to know the following:

- We require you to treat all aspects of Connect like any other job working with an atmosphere of professionalism, allowing your year to be something that is transferable onto any CV and that would be seen as highly valuable to any future employer.

- Participants of the Connect Internship are employed for three days/week.

- The different elements of the Training Programme take up two days/week.

- If you are in Scotland the internship will begin on 27th August. Most other internships begin on 1st September. Connect will then run to the end of the following July. Although some elements of the Training Programme may extend into August.

- The Internship is normally with a local setting that you are already familiar with, though not all participants have fitted this pattern. The possibility of moving areas or doing alternative internships with other organisations is discussed as part of the application process.

- Like all Navigator representatives, the Connect Internship is self funded. This is done through raising an agreed budget, which is discussed more on the Ministry Partner Development page.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

- The aim is that all Connect interns are fully funded by the start of their Connect year. This means that after applicants are accepted, there will be Ministry Partner Development training in June, followed by a season of building a team of financial and prayer partners over the summer, prior to the Connect year beginning.

- Participants may be required to complete a criminal record check (DBS in England/Wales, PVG in Scotland) in order to work with minors or vulnerable adults.

Olly from Birmingham

"Doing Connect really helped me grow in my faith and trust in God. Prayer was a very big theme throughout the year and I saw God's provision in really miraculous ways and also learnt how to hear Him speak more clearly which has been an incredible blessing. It was also really exciting to see how God was doing this in other people's lives who I was getting alongside and encouraging them in their faith and their love for God. I would definitely encourage anyone to prayerfully consider doing Connect to see if this could be God's will for you!"



Ministry Partner Development



Nathan from Edinburgh

Having to rely on God to provide for my financial needs for Connect was daunting initially but became a really exciting experience as I saw for myself that his promise to meet all our needs is reliable. This experience turned my faith in that promise from theory into reality and is something I still look back on now to strengthen my faith in times of doubt.

Each participant on the Connect Internship are employed by the Navigators for the duration of their year. Your salary is raised through what we call Ministry Partner Development (MPD).

What is MPD?

An important and exciting part of your Internship will be spent on MPD. This is about building a team of partners, people who will pray for you, encourage you spiritually and financially partner in your ministry. These partners are called by God to play a significant role in the gospel and God's Kingdom being advanced. As Paul writes in Philippians 4:14-17, the believers who supported his ministry were partners in the work of the gospel, demonstrating that giving, praying, and encouraging are all valuable ways of participating in God's mission.

Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission.

Henri Nouwen

Salary

We believe that the worker is worthy of their wages (Luke 10:7). Therefore, we want to ensure all our interns are suitably paid. We will work with you to set a salary that takes into consideration your personal budget, the Training Programme (including the Summer Training Programme), ministry costs, tax contributions and a Central Services Contribution (currently 8%). It will always be at least the National Living Wage. This will give you a target amount that you are seeking God to provide through financial partners, typically around £1700/month.

In addition we aim to provide a subsidy from our central funds to reduce your MPD target. The amount we are able to offer depends on the support which we receive from grant making bodies and our generous supporters and we are not able to confirm how much this will for 2027/28 at this point. However, it is unlikely to be less than £2,000/year and in the past has been as high as £6,000/year. Potentially reducing your target to around £1100/month.

Gift Aid

As the Navigators UK is a registered charity, most donations made are eligible for Gift Aid. This is a government scheme enabling registered charities to reclaim tax on donations made by a UK taxpayer, effectively increasing the amount of the donation. The Gift Aid rate is currently 25%, so for every £1 donated, the Gift Aid would be 25p.

Training and Support

In June, before Connect officially begins, you will be given help in expressing your vision and what you will be doing in the year ahead, and how to ask people if they would like to partner with you. This training will include studying the biblical basis for God's generosity and building partnerships, along with practical help of how to go about it. Following this training there is an expectation that Connect Interns will spend time over the summer building a team of partners, with the aim of being fully partnered with before you officially start. You will have an MPD coach to meet with who will help support and encourage you on this faith-building journey. Others who will be with you along the way include; your supervisor, the Connect team leaders, the Navigators Finance and Resources Director and the National MPD Team.

How to Apply

The deadline to apply for Connect is the end of February (end of January if you are applying from overseas).

If you wish to apply for Connect, there are some steps to follow:

1. Discuss your interest with a local Navigator representative.
2. Apply for an application pack by filling in the form at: **navigators.co.uk/connect**
3. Pray about it and discuss it with friends, family and your church.
4. When your application has been received, application forms are processed and external references requested.
5. Interviews are conducted in March to help assess if Connect is the right thing for you.
6. By April, the Connect Training Team send a letter of acceptance to successful candidates.
7. Further details are sent out, including practical details to get set up for the year ahead, initial training materials and details of the Ministry Partner Development training. Local supervision arrangements are also clarified.
8. MPD training will be in Birmingham on 16th-17th June 2027. Please keep these dates free if you apply.

Beyond Connect

Although we think it will be a significant one, Connect is just one short step in your life. In previous years Connect interns have gone on to serve God in different capacities, be that moving to another country, working for a local church or in the charity sector, setting up their own business or focusing on a traditional career.

Some have continued to work with and be developed and trained by the Navigators for a further year of Connect, called C2. This builds on relationships built during Connect, deepens and consolidates the theological training of the Connect year and explores what longer term ministry might look like. A C2 intern would normally increase to working 4 days/week.

Wherever you end up, our prayer is that Connect sets you up for a lifetime of being surrendered to Jesus, a skilled worker in his harvest field with a compassion for the lost to make a difference wherever God may lead you.

Here I am! Send me.
Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)

Rachel from St Andrews

"Connect was a pivotal year for me. It allowed me to consolidate everything I had learned about myself over the course of university. Devoted mentors, authentic community and in-depth Bible studies were the ideal context for processing the big questions that comes with young adulthood. I developed skills, understanding and attitudes that I believe will serve me for many years to come."



Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

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