

Gap Year in Bulgaria, Turkey, and Greece



Spend nine months serving God in missions in southeastern Europe, based in Bulgaria. Participate in God's mission in Turkey and study the Bible on location in Greece!

Program aims

- To serve God alongside DOVE Christian Fellowship in the city of Sliven, Bulgaria
- To experience world missions, by also ministering beyond Bulgaria into Turkey
- To become proficient in the Bulgarian language
- To develop new ministry skills
- To understand the Bible better as you study key New Testament texts in the very location of churches in Greece to which the letters were written (in Philippi and Thessaloniki)

Ministry

This will vary according to your gifts. It is likely to include:

- Outreach to children
- Developing a new group for teenagers
- Developing a social media strategy for the church's communication and outreach
- Serving a Roma community in the mountains

Dates

Approximately September 1 to May 31.

Gap year at a glance

September – Intensive language learning and planning of ministry

October – Begin ministry in Sliven, Bulgaria

November – Week of mission in Turkey

Late April – Week of biblical study in Greece

Requirements

High school graduates aged 18+ with pastor recommendation



Medical

A travel insurance will be purchased prior to travel.

Language

Learning Bulgarian is vital to a fruitful time in Bulgaria. For approximately the first three weeks you will intensively learn Bulgarian, spending three hours a day, five days a week in language class. Through the rest of your time in Bulgaria, you will spend several hours a week in continual language learning class.

Study

Reading

A vital part of this program is your continuing education. You will be required to read nine books on topics such as Bulgarian life and culture, cross-cultural adaptation, aspects of ministry and on missions, including strategies for reaching the unreached and spiritual warfare. Each month a short written assignment based on the reading material will be submitted.

Field trip to Greece

You will spend a week in northern Greece visiting the biblical sites of Philippi and Thessaloniki. On site, you will be led in a study of the New Testament letters of Philippians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

Costs

Costs are approximate at this stage.

- Startup cost: \$4,500 to \$5,000, depending on team size. Includes:
 - Pre-assignment training
 - Round-trip flight to Bulgaria
 - Bulgarian visa
 - Health insurance for the duration of the trip
 - Intensive language school tuition
 - One-time costs to settle into life in Bulgaria (such as an apartment deposit and household items)
 - Travel, food and accommodation for outreach trip to Turkey

- Monthly cost: \$1,500 to \$1,600, depending on accommodation. Includes:
 - Apartment rent and utilities
 - Ongoing language lessons
 - Daily living costs (such as groceries, eating out, public transportation, phone, internet, and tithe)
 - Travel, food and accommodation for study week in Greece



Fundraising – Handling of donations

An account will be established at DOVE Mission International. Donations received will be assigned and receipts issued at the end of the year. You will receive a monthly stipend. You will be given advice on fundraising.

Visa

We have been advised that US citizens should apply for a long-term, type D visa from the Bulgarian Consulate. Further detailed guidance will be given.

Accommodation

This will be determined once the size of the team is known. It is most likely that you will rent a small apartment with one other team member, or that the team will all reside in a larger house or apartment.

Time off, vacations and visits

It is recommended that you do not return to the USA during this program. You will be expected to take a day off each week, and may take two weeks of personal/vacation time. Friends or family may wish to visit, but we suggest no more than one such visit during your stay so as not to detract from the purpose of your time.

Application deadline: Three months before departure

For an application go to doveusa.org/missions/long-term-service/gap-year

Or contact Peter Bunton at PeterB@dcfi.org or 717-627-1996

