

## **A WELCOME TO APPLICANTS**

Thank you for your interest in working for the YMCA. If you are an internal applicant you will already be familiar with the distinctive nature of the YMCA and its work. External applicants may not be aware that YMCAs are Christian charities belonging to a national and international Movement. The YMCA offers opportunities to young people and their communities to develop in mind, body and spirit and so help to fulfil their potential. It aims to reflect this holistic approach in the way it recognises the value of each individual staff member and enables them to make their unique contribution to the organisation's mission.

In England, the YMCA comprises some 160 different Associations found in most cities and towns, each of which operates as a separately registered charity. These YMCAs are often working with people at times of greatest need. Worldwide, the Movement has over 30 million members in some 125 countries. The evolution of each YMCA is influenced by local factors. But generally YMCAs aim to:

- Facilitate personal, social and spiritual development – through life and job skills training and a wide range of other opportunities for personal growth and challenge.
- Build relationships and provide programmes that support young people's transition to adulthood.
- Develop communities through the provision of supported housing, community activities and sport, exercise and fitness programmes for all ages.
- Share ideas and resources across the world as part of an international YMCA network.

The YMCA values diversity and welcomes applications from across all of the community. Diversity is reflected strongly among those who participate in YMCA activities and use its facilities. Our housing residents, for instance, come from many nations and backgrounds; the YMCA provides accommodation and training facilities for both men and women; our health and fitness suites have been successful in offering customised programmes for people with disabilities; and the range of activities involves people of all ages. We are also committed to ensuring that diversity is reflected strongly within our Board of Management, volunteer and employee structures. This includes a commitment to keep our practices under review, leading to action where necessary, in order to attract new people from all sections of the community.

Inclusiveness is fundamental to the ethos of the YMCA as a Christian organisation. It is expressed in a wholehearted commitment to welcome people of other faiths and those of none, linked to a confident identity as a Christian faith-based Movement. In order to promote the Christian ethos of the YMCA it is important that certain posts are filled by committed Christians. If the advertisement/job details for the position for which you are applying states that you are required to have a personal commitment to the Christian faith, the information you supply in the 'Religious Beliefs' section of your application will be taken into account in the selection process. If this is not the case, whilst you will be expected to respect the Christian ethos of the YMCA and uphold its values in your work, you are not required to complete the 'Religious Beliefs' section. The values to be upheld include: being inclusive and welcoming to people of all religious faiths and none; promoting respect and freedom for all; working for tolerance and understanding; having an active care and concern for the community; and affirming the equal value of each person when caring for and working with others.

Thank you again for your interest in working for the YMCA. We look forward to receiving your application.