

## Faith Guiding Certificate

**Developing respect and mutual understanding between people of all faiths and communities, through training Faith Guides for places of worship**

The Faith Encounter Programme has pioneered a new specialist training programme for '**Faith Guides**' since October 2007. The Certificate has been accredited by the Institute of Tourist Guiding at Level 2. The second course will commence in January 2009, in Queensbridge School.

The programme focuses on a fixed site guiding qualification, with a special emphasis on the interpretation and presentation of the relevant faith. In addition, Faith Guides have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of their own Faith.

### Programme Content

The programme includes :

- Knowledge of a specific faith and place of worship
- Interpretation and presentation skills
- Customer care and risk assessment
- Sensitivity to visitors of all faith backgrounds
- Guiding school groups
- Preparation of resource materials
- Planning of a site specific guided tour

### How the programme will be delivered

The course will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6.00 pm – 9.00pm, plus 2 additional workshop sessions. It will be offered on a part time basis over a period of 12 weeks and will include guiding practice and training visits to places of worship.

***It will commence at 6.00 pm on Wednesday January 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.*** It will be completed in April 2009. The assessment is through both written and practical examinations.

### Number of places available

There will be places for 20 trainee Faith Guides on the course.

### Who can apply ?

Applications are invited from practising members of any recognised Faith community. There are no specific entry qualifications for the course, apart from the ability to communicate well in English.

Application forms are available from the Faith Encounter Programme.

***Please note***, in addition to completing the form, applicants need to include a reference from a recognised Faith leader in their own community.

### Programme Fees

The fee for the course is £100 per trainee but concessions are available based on evidence of income.

**Information and application forms** : Co-ordinator, Faith Encounter Programme,  
0121 449 4892 [ruth.tetlow@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.tetlow@btinternet.com)

**Course venue:** Queensbridge School, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8QB

## **Why ?**

Birmingham has enjoyed an excellent reputation for many years as a city of many cultures, where relationships between different groups of people have been generally positive. However, the city is not immune to pressures from the national and international context, and faith communities have a valuable role in building bridges. All faith communities, and minority faith communities in particular, also need to be able to present themselves with confidence and integrity, and to counter misinformation and misunderstanding. Trained Faith Guides will be able to help those in positions of authority and responsibility in public life to gain a deeper understanding of the motivations, principles and practices of all the faith communities.

This initiative has been supported by *Connecting Communities Plus* funding (Department of Communities and Local Government), recognising it as making an important contribution to community cohesion.

## **Responsibility**

The provision of this course is the responsibility of the Faith Encounter Programme. This is an independent registered charity (no. 1124521) chaired by the Inter Faith Adviser to the Anglican Bishop of Birmingham and managed by members of Birmingham's six major faith communities.