

## Local Church Partnership

“More potently than by any other means: Change the University and you change the world.” Charles Habib Malik, former general secretary of the United Nations.

The student world is different from any other segment of UK society. Colleges and universities often provide a total living environment and the student lifestyle is distinct from the rest of society. Just as any foreign missionary would prepare specialised ministries for a new culture, the local church must be ready with specialised ministry to reach the “foreign culture” of the college and university student.

### ❖ The Radiate Vision

- Partnering with the local church, Radiate reconciles students to Christ and shapes his followers for service to the church and the world.
- Radiate’s primary objective is sustained evangelistic outreach to non-Christian college and university students through the local church. While Christian fellowship is a welcome by-product of joining together in mission, it is not Radiate’s main focus.
- As a part of the local church Radiate encourages students to not only find fellowship with other students but with the entire church body.

### ❖ Benefits to the local church

- Radiate helps the local church can fulfil its mission to reaching its community (including it’s colleges and universities) with gospel.
- The local church can have a greater global missions impact by reaching national and international future leaders with the gospel through Radiate outreaches.
- The local church can have a determining influence on government, education, science, medicine, etc. by reaching today’s students who are tomorrow’s decision-makers.
- Through Radiate, the local church can more effectively attract and retain students.
- Radiate articulates and promotes the local church’s vision and mission to students.
- Students contribute to an increased sense of enthusiasm and vitality to the local church.
- Radiate can assist local church to retain and train its next generation of lay-leaders by effectively reaching students.

### ❖ Costs to the local church

- The local church would need to identify and dedicate a primary leader for Radiate.
- The local church would need to send the primary leader to regular Radiate leadership training events.

- The local church should develop resources, including funding and personnel, for local Radiate ministries.
  - The local church would be encouraged to make room in its calendar for Radiate activities.
  - In order to facilitate effective student ministry, the local church should strive for a balance of involvement of students in Radiate activities and the other ministries of the church.
- ❖ Radiate student involvement in the local church
- Students want to be blessing to their local church and are eager to volunteer to be used by the local church in ministry.
  - Often the most motivated and capable people in the local church include college and university students and it is to be expected that ministry department heads will look to students to fill responsible positions in the children's ministry, youth ministry, church worship team, etc.
  - Local churches who want to effectively reach secular students will strive to encourage a balance of student involvement with Radiate and the other ministries of the church.
- ❖ Radiate and local church small groups
- We recommend that students be encouraged to participate fully in the life and community of the local church, but also, for the sake of more effective discipleship and outreach, be permitted to experience student-specific Radiate small groups.
  - If there is an existing small group system operating in the local church it is recommended that Radiate small groups be administrated as part of the local church small group system.
  - The Radiate small groups may employ the same materials being used by the other church small groups, or the downloadable Radiate small group lessons, or the Sunday sermon application small group materials which are also downloadable from [www.radiate-uk.com](http://www.radiate-uk.com).
- ❖ Radiate staff and the local church
- A variety of staffing options may be considered based on circumstances and need, including:
    - Volunteer full-time or part-time staff
    - Student or alumni volunteer
    - Split church staff portfolio. E.g. Radiate/Youth Worker
    - Full-time or part-time church-funded Radiate staff
    - Full-time or part-time Radiate worker funded from sources outside the local church.
  - The Radiate worker will serve under the direct authority of the lead pastor of the local church and the indirect authority of the national Radiate director.

- The Radiate worker will be expected to support (with promotion and attendance) the national Radiate program and international Student's For Christ program in Europe.
- ❖ Available resources
  - Radiate Home Group Resources. These include themed Bible studies for student age youth people. Available online at: [www.radiate-uk.com](http://www.radiate-uk.com)
  - Radiate Resource Documents. A wide variety of helpful documents are available on topics ranging from "How To's" of Radiate ministry to special issues related to student ministry. Available online at: [www.radiate-uk.com](http://www.radiate-uk.com)
  - Discipleship by Design by Harvey Herman. A thorough training manual for the set-up and development of small group based discipleship. Available in hard copy at Radiate training events and by request.
  - Reach the U: Essentials of Campus Ministry, edited by Dennis Gaylor. Available via USA Chi Alpha: [www.chialpha.com](http://www.chialpha.com)
  - College of Student Missions. An annual twelve day student ministry training conference in Brussels, Belgium during the first 2 weeks in August. Sponsored by Radiate and Students for Christ. This is Radiate staff boot camp!
  - Radiate Autumn Breakaway. For Radiate students and staff, annually during the second weekend of November.
- ❖ Local church consultancy
  - We recommend that when Radiate is initially set up in a local church that a member of the National Radiate Team invited for an on-site consultation.
  - Face-to-face meetings between the National Radiate Team representative and the church pastor and leadership team can more satisfactorily address many start-up questions.
  - Ideally, the Radiate Team representative would visit the church over a weekend in order to be a part of the Sunday service(s).
  - The Radiate Team is available to:
    - Help church leaders develop services and programs to reach and retain students
    - Help church leaders and Radiate workers effectively involve students in service to the local church
- ❖ On-line resources:
  - Radiate - [www.radiate-uk.com](http://www.radiate-uk.com) - Radiate's national UK website.
  - Student's for Christ - [www.sfc-europe.com](http://www.sfc-europe.com) - Radiate's parent organisation in Europe
  - Chi Alpha - [www.chialpha.com](http://www.chialpha.com) – Radiate's sister organisation in the USA.