Mercy Ships Academy

TWO SHIPS. TWO SCHOOLS. ONE MISSION & VISION.

About Mercy Ships

The Mercy Ships Academy provides a one-of-a-kind education, with schools onboard the two largest civilian hospital ships in the world: the *Global Mercy* and the *Africa Mercy*.

"While the parents are providing care, their children attend classes in one of the most unique schools in the world."

Mercy Ships began our mission to provide hope and healing to those in need in 1978. Each year we send hospital ships filled with volunteer professionals who provide life-changing surgeries to children and adults who otherwise would go without. We also partner with ministries of health and medical professionals in the nations we serve to deliver training and strengthen local healthcare systems. Together, we share hope and transform lives.

Mission: We follow the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus, bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor.

Vision: Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform lives and serve nations, one at a time.

Values: Desiring to follow the model of Jesus, we seek to:

- Love God.
- Love and serve others.
- Be people of integrity.
- Strive for excellence in all we say and do.

Mercy Ships Academy Vision

The Mercy Ships Academy brings ***glory*** to God by fully ***equipping*** each student with the ***foundation*** of knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill God's ***purposes*** in their lives. We will do this by ***partnering*** with parents in ***developing*** Christian character in their children through teaching values based on a genuine biblical worldview within the structure of a ***quality*** academic education; meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each student.

Two Schools. One Mission.

The Mercy Ships Academy has a long legacy! In 1978, a school (International Christian School) was founded on the first Mercy Ship to provide educational services for the children of international crew serving onboard. In 2003, our official name became the Mercy Ships Academy.

Today, the Mercy Ships Academy is located on the *Africa Mercy* and the *Global Mercy*, the two vessels in the Mercy Ships fleet. From Preschool to High School, our teachers and staff from all over the world work side by side to support the mission of Mercy Ships. In a safe and encouraging learning environment, they strive for academic excellence and integrity, ensuring that each student will be given the best education.

The Academy is internationally accredited and meets educational standards of quality and excellence. Here, children can experience the unique aspects of life onboard our ships with people and cultures from around the world. These two schools have one mission: to provide an exceptional biblically-based education for crew members' children, inspiring them to truly follow Jesus.

Early Education | 3 to 5 year olds

The *Early Education Program* is an opportunity for our students to develop the social and emotional skills they need to be engaged learners. The Early Education Program is a Monday to Friday half-day preschool program for 3 to 5 year olds with two sub-groups: Year 1 and Year 2.

Children enjoy learning through dramatic play, music and poetry, sensory learning activities, and artistic opportunities. Biblical stories, language development, scientific experimentation, and basic mathematical concepts are among the lessons learned.

Elementary | 5 to 10 year olds

The *Elementary Program* is where our students lay the foundation for learning. They are encouraged to develop the knowledge and skills that will set them up as lifelong learners. We have five classes in the Elementary Academic Program: Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, and a combination Grade 4 & 5. Students turning 5 years old on or before September 30 will start kindergarten.

Academic Program

We offer a high quality holistic academic program. The subjects that comprise the core of our program are Bible, Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

French, Physical Education, Computers (Technology), Life Skills, Library, and Creative Arts (Music, Arts, Drama) are offered as electives.

Junior High | 11 to 13 year olds

The *Junior High Program* is designed to help students transition from elementary and prepare for high school by creating independent self-motivated learners. We have two Junior High classes: Grade 6 and a combination Grade 7 & 8 class.

Academic Program
In addition to the core subjects and elective programs offered in elementary, new programs are introduced in junior high and continued throughout high school.

These programs include:

- Student Life Program
- Work Experience Program
- The Don and Deyon Stephens Awards Program

Mentor Teachers
Each junior high class has an assigned mentor teacher, who is responsible for teaching Bible as well as offering pastoral care. They serve as the primary contact person for students and parents. These mentor teachers are also valuable resources for the students as they transition into their new class structure and learn organization and study skills.

High School | 14 to 18 year olds

The *High School Program* is a four-year college preparatory curriculum that runs from Grade 9 to graduation in Grade 12. We have two high school classes: a combination Grade 9 & 10, and a combination Grade 11 & 12.

Graduation Requirements
To graduate from the Mercy Ships Academy, students are required to earn a minimum of 26 academic credits through their four years of high school. There are three different High School Tracks available. These give students the flexibility needed to graduate from our school and apply to colleges and universities in their home countries. High school students typically enroll for seven credit courses per year. These are planned in collaboration with the families and the Academy to ensure each student is prepared for the post-high school path they have chosen.

Junior High, High School Retreat
All our Grade 6 to 12 students have the opportunity to attend our annual off-ship retreat. This is an opportunity to experience local culture and explore our host nations.

Meet an Academy Principal and His Family

Long before Jeremy and Ruth Pollard first stepped foot onboard one of our vessels, Mercy Ships was on their minds. Jeremy was a teacher and a principal working in New Zealand, while Ruth was a nurse. Serving onboard one of our hospital ships was the perfect way to use both of their skillsets to serve others.

In 2020, the Pollards made their dream a reality! Jeremy served in the invaluable role as Mercy Ships Academy Principal on the *Africa Mercy*, where his four children also attended. Ruth serves as the primary caregiver of their children. After one school year, the family transitioned to serve in the same roles onboard the *Global Mercy*.

"I think this environment is great for my family, and for the other families here. The kids are so rich from experiences and understanding. The teachers are passionate and great at making the learning fun and engaging," says Jeremy.

As principal, Jeremy doesn't only educate the children – his role impacts the whole ship. Having an Academy onboard means that families can serve knowing their children will experience a world-class education. This makes volunteering possible for many of the families who call our ships home!

For Ruth, volunteering alongside her family was one of the greatest benefits of serving. "It seemed an ideal place to bring up a family, where our children could see faith and love in action every day. Mercy Ships is an amazing place for children."

RICA MERCY

Child Safety

Mercy Ships creates a safe environment for all God's children to grow and develop in healthy and wholesome ways.

As an organization and as individuals, we take our responsibility to protect children seriously.

We are committed to:

- Ensuring the safety of children and young people in locations and facilities where we are responsible to care for them.
- Striving for excellence in the care and nurture of the children and young people for whom we are responsible.
- Encouraging and supporting parents and families.
- Ensuring that all personnel are given support and training on child safety.
- Clearly understanding and regularly communicating procedures for dealing with concerns about child safety.

Mercy Ships is an active member of the Child Safety and Protection Network (cspn.org). We partner with other missions agencies and international organizations to strengthen our child safety program.

Child Safety & Protection Network

Accreditation

The Mercy Ships Academy is an accredited international Christian school recognized by higher education institutions. Both the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) have issued this seal of quality. It denotes that the Mercy Ships Academy has met institutional standards of quality and are committed to strategic improvement and ongoing accountability. Also, ACSI promotes the value and worthiness of accreditation and encourages each school and education program to continuously pursue excellence.

The Mercy Ships Academy will pursue a systems accreditation, ensuring both schools maintain the high educational standard and our students continue to receive an exceptional biblical education.

ACSI ACCREDITED
ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

MSA CESS

How We Choose Our Teachers

Basic Requirements

Teachers must meet the following requirements to be considered:

- Bachelor's degree in Education from an accredited college or university
- Two years of classroom teaching experience is preferred
- Current teaching certificate is required
- Completion of Mercy Ships Onboarding Program will be required
- Successful completion of the Child Safety Screening Process, which includes a background/criminal records check
- A working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications is required, as well as an aptitude for learning new computer applications
- A two year volunteer commitment is required

STEP 01

Start and Submit Your Application

Include as much detail and documentation as possible upfront, such as a CV or resume and copies of relevant licensure and certificates. Once submitted, you'll be directed to your online Portal.

STEP 02

Application Under Review

Our team will review your application and be in touch for any further details. Any candidates not proceeding will be notified directly.

STEP 03

Interview

Qualified candidates will be interviewed over the phone or via video call. You'll receive possible interview dates and a variety of pre-interview questions to help you prepare!

STEP 04

Child Safety Screening Process

All Mercy Ships crew that work directly with children are required to complete and pass a multi-layered Child Safety Screening Process. For more information see the section on child safety.

STEP 05

Review & Recommendation

Once we've spoken with all applicants, we'll identify, review, and recommend a candidate to HR.

STEP 06

Candidates Are Informed

We will inform unsuccessful candidates and add them to an Academy waiting list, if they wish. Successful candidates complete the Mercy Ships staffing process.

STEP 07

Acceptance Letter

Next, we'll send your acceptance letter with details, next steps, and training dates. Other Mercy Ships staff will likely reach out with more resources to help you prepare to come onboard!

STEP 08

Come Onboard!

This is the most exciting step in the process — traveling to join one of our ships. Nothing beats the feeling of walking up the gangway for the first time!

academy.mercyships.org

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