

A Glimpse at Our Policies

God has a plan for each of our lives, and he's made us with a purpose. We see that in Ephesians 2:10, which says, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (NLT). We need to be ready to do what God has planned, and that means stripping off "every weight that slows us down" (Hebrews 12:1a, NLT).

So what are some things that might slow us down?

Debt

We know that debt is a reality in today's world. But we also believe that we need to live within the resources God provides us.

That's why you can apply if:

- You have secured debt that can realistically be paid from your existing resources.
- You have personal educational and medical unsecured debt up to \$400/month for singles and \$700/month for couples.
- Your credit card debt is under \$1000 per individual.

If you've had financial issues such as bankruptcy, foreclosure and liens, they must have been resolved at least 12 months before you consider applying.

Divorce

We know that divorce is a reality in today's society and in our Christian subculture. People may choose to divorce for any number of reasons, including adultery, abuse or serious addictions.

We believe divorce splits apart what God has joined together, and is contrary to God's design and plan for marriage. We realize it can have devastating effects, impacting the relational and emotional health of everyone involved — both the spouses and children. We want healing and wholeness for families, and trust God for redemptive stories in all circumstances.

If you have been divorced, you can apply with Wycliffe if a minimum of 12 months have passed since the finalization of the divorce (including any child custody agreement). However, if you have a child who is a minor but in custody with the other parent, we will not place you in an overseas assignment that would separate you from your child. The same holds true if you're part of a blended family where the kids would be moving overseas while one parent is still stateside.

If you have been divorced more than twice, you likely will not be eligible for membership.

Alcohol, Smoking and Prescription Drug Habits

We care deeply about the well-being and health (emotional, mental and physical) of our staff. Irresponsible use of alcohol can be destructive to relationships and prevent people from living healthy and productive lives. We do not allow alcohol abuse. In some situations, staff may need to abstain from

alcohol entirely because in some communities, alcohol use of any kind can create disharmony or is considered offensive in that culture. We are also a smoke and tobacco-free environment, prohibiting its use while engaged in missions work with Wycliffe.

To apply as a member with Wycliffe, a person must be at least one year free from habitual smoking and/or tobacco use prior to acceptance. And if substance abuse (illegal or otherwise) is a struggle that would be a hindrance to application as well.

Pornography

We believe that part of demonstrating integrity and moral purity is abstaining from things which can become stumbling blocks in our lives. Pornography is an area that can become a spiritual stronghold and impact the effectiveness of service.

We want to see people striving to maintain integrity and moral purity so that they can be emotionally healthy individuals. Applicants must:

- Have not engaged in the use of pornography for at least 12 months.
- Have not engaged in premarital sexual activity for at least 12 months
- Have not engaged in extramarital sexual activity for at least 24 months.

Not only should applicants be abstaining from these activities, but should also be making a proactive effort to build positive accountability around these areas in their lives. This could be through accountability relationships, working with a counselor, participating in a Bible study, etc. While sin can be a constant struggle and temptation, taking the steps to put on the full armor of God and fight temptation is an important part in being ready to serve.

Have any questions about these matters? Email us at go_serve@wycliffe.org. We'd love to talk with you about any thoughts, questions or concerns you have.