



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE | JUNIOR

1ST - 15TH AUGUST 2026

AGES 13-15

A UWC ATLANTIC SHORT COURSE IN GLOBAL SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP

This is a call to the curious, brave, creative leaders of tomorrow!

At 13–15, young people are at an incredible age – full of imagination, energy, questions, new ideas, and a growing desire to explore the world and express who they are. This year, experience the Global Leadership Experience Junior (GLE Jr) programme and discover a whole world of learning, fun and growth!

The GLE Junior programme invites students from around the globe to learn through play, movement, hands-on exploration, nature, storytelling, and international friendship. It's not just about learning about global leadership – it's about feeling it, trying it out, and discovering their own unique strengths along the way.

GLE Jr. (ages 13-15) is a stepping stone to GLE (ages 15–17), and its own unique space for younger teens to learn by doing, creating, exploring and connecting.



*GLE is an accredited
UWC Short Course and
a tangible stepping
stone on the pathway
toward deeper UWC
engagement.*

Building on over 60 years of the United World College global movement – making education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future – the 2026 GLE programme returns with two new accredited UWC Short Courses that are rooted in the UWC mission and in UWC Atlantic College's pioneering new Systems Transformation Pathway (STP) programme: GLE and GLE Junior (Jr.).

GLE Junior is designed to spark confidence, nurture individuality, and help students grow in a supportive, exciting international community.

Hosted at St Donat's Castle, a 12th-century castle turned campus on the coast of Wales, GLE Junior combines outdoor learning, creative workshops, dynamic games, ecology, theatre, Welsh and Celtic folklore, and guided reflection. Students leave with new skills, new friends, and a stronger sense of who they are and what they care about.

A UNIQUELY BOLD LEARNING ADVENTURE FOR YOUNGER TEENS

The 2026 GLE Jr. programme builds on more than six decades of UWC education to create a course centred on:



Leadership as something **shared, daring, playful and regenerative**



Thinking for oneself and learning to make **ethical, reflective decisions**



Celebrating **intercultural learning and diverse life experiences**



Discovering Wales through **ecosystems, history, myth, and living culture**



Learning through **games, movement, theatre, metaphor and nature**



Being in our “growth zone” and building our **confidence and agency**



Moving from "I don't know if I can" to **trying, learning and growing together**



Moving from "I feel different" to **“my differences are my superpower”**

GLE Junior is designed as a laboratory for play-based systems learning and holistic growth: a place to experiment with new ideas safely, joyfully and with purpose.

Participants will leave with a new sense of belonging to a global community of young change-makers.

A FIRST STEP ON THE JOURNEY TOWARDS LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD

GLE Jr. is an opportunity for young changemakers beginning to explore leadership, global awareness and their own values.

GLE Jr. introduces participants to:



The GLE Junior programme uses storytelling, play-based learning, imagination, and hands-on exploration suitable for early teens. It offers a safe, inspiring environment to build foundational skills that prepare young people for:

- GLE: ages 15-17
- study at the United World Colleges, and
- future leadership roles in their home communities and around the world.

By joining this programme, you are joining the UWC movement and finding a home within it that you can take with you wherever you go.

WHAT YOU WILL EXPERIENCE

1

LEARNING ABOUT TODAY'S GLOBAL SYSTEMS

Through movement, games and immersive activities with a hand-picked, diverse cohort of international youth, participants will experience:

- How the world – and us humans – are connected in big and small ways
- How stories and media shape how we think and how we understand the world
- Big global challenges like climate change, sustainability and regenerative practices
- How to think creatively to find solutions to these complex global situations
- How to learn with intention: from social media scrolling to critical thinking and reflective learning

Participants learn to think outside of their usual perspectives, engage with global ideas and cultivate genuine curiosity and passion about their place in today's global issues.



2

LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Participants explore:

- Different models – and different cultural expressions – of leadership
- Leading collaboratively, kindly and bravely
- Solving complex group challenges with real teamwork
- Leadership that responds to real needs and responsibility

Participants learn not only what leadership is, but how it feels and what it asks of them.

3

UWC MISSION & VALUES IN ACTION

GLE is a living expression of UWC Atlantic's origins and the wider UWC movement's mission. Participants step tangibly into this legacy as they:

- Learn about the history of UWC, including its origins at Atlantic College
- Explore peace, sustainability and justice through creative expression
- Practise values as lived experiences, not just words
- Reflect on how they can bring courage and responsibility to their lives at home
- Join a global network of young people imagining and building better futures

GLE Jr. ignites idealism through authentic connection and learning that engages participants' hands, hearts and heads.

4

WALES AS A GLOBALLY UNIQUE LIVING CLASSROOM

The UWC Atlantic campus is surrounded by a landscape rich in ecology, history, culture, and communities.

GLE Jr. participants will dive into:

- Coastal ecosystems and marine life
- Woodlands, valleys, and changing rural environments
- Local community partners and initiatives
- Stories, myths, and traditions of Wales as a rich, living culture
- Cynefin: the Welsh concept of belonging across human differences and with nature

The land and sea become guides, teaching participants how leadership is about being a caring steward for all life.



Outdoor learning is a core part of the GLE Jr. programme, building participants' courage, trust, teamwork, and self-awareness. Activities may include:

- Team and solo nature-based challenges
- Guided exploration of Wales' coasts, mountains and woodlands
- Lifelong memories shaped by movement, play and trust-building

These outdoor learning and adventure sessions safely offer GLE Jr. participants transformational experiences and lifelong memories that will shape the way they face challenges in their lives to come.



GLE JUNIOR HIGHLIGHTS | ONE-OF-A-KIND LEARNING & EXPERIENCES

GLE Jr. offers unique course offerings not typically found in other 13-15 youth programmes:

- Biomimicry design challenges – sparking creativity through natural design
- Creating their own purpose-driven games, to share and try with youth in other communities
- Council of Beings – embodying animals and lifeforms to learn ecosystem-centred decision-making processes in a playful way
- Mapping Wales' ecosystems as a living library – mapping out species, communities, coastlines, woodlands and the relationships that bind them together
- Carnival & pageantry games – using play and theatre to learn about complexity
- Welsh and Celtic culture – to inspire cultural expression that reflects each one of us
- Leadership as stewardship – to lead with responsibility, care and kinship with nature

LIFE AT UWC ATLANTIC

Participants will be accommodated in houses featuring dormitories, where up to four students share a room. Houses are assigned by gender, with room allocations based on age and a thoughtfully balanced mix of nationalities. Each house includes a common room with ample space to relax, as well as a kitchen stocked with daily essentials like fresh fruit, bread, spreads, biscuits, and cereals.

All houses are situated within the College grounds, offering stunning views of the sea and surrounding woodland, and are just a short walk from all key facilities, including the dining hall, classrooms, activity areas, and pick-up points.

Dining in the historic 12th-century castle hall, a space that has hosted thinkers and leaders for decades, participants will enjoy three full meals a day - breakfast, lunch, and dinner. On days the group will be offsite, a packed lunch will be provided.



COURSE INFORMATION

The course will be held at UWC Atlantic from **Saturday 1st to Saturday 15th August 2026** for **13-15 year olds** for up to 30 participants. As GLE Junior is conducted in English, all participants must be proficient in the language.

Alternatively, applications for the Global Leadership Experience are open to 15-17 year olds.

FEES

£3,115 GBP per person, including all boarding, catering, activity fees and GuardMe insurance (if applicable). Fee is also inclusive of optional transfer to/from Heathrow Airport. The fee does not include flights or assistance within the airport, such as unaccompanied minor services with airlines, participant spending money, visa fees or travel costs outside of the transfers.

Supplement

Additional charges that you may incur as a fee to GLE Junior are as follows:

- If you plan to use the unaccompanied minor airline service with your airline you are required to book an airside service at Heathrow Airport. We can provide service suggestions.
- If you have unexpected changes to travel a fee of £200 GBP per person plus additional transport costs (i.e. taxis) applies.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2 places are available with financial assistance of 100% of the course fee
- 3 places are available with financial assistance of 50% of the course fee
- 1 places are available with financial assistance of 25% of the course fee

If you require financial support, please be sure to indicate this on the application form.

Please note that scholarship places are limited and highly competitive, so it is recommended that you apply for a scholarship only if you are unable to cover the full course fee. You cannot apply to both and the application cannot be transferred. Financial support is available for the course fee only.

INCLUSIVE INSURANCE

As part of GLE Junior, international students outside the UK receive GuardMe insurance included in the course fee. The policy offers extensive medical cover up to £10,000,000, including treatment at public or private clinics and hospitals for unexpected conditions. Participants can also use the Digital Doctor service to book online appointments and receive prescriptions, avoiding long GP waiting times.

APPLYING TO GLE

ADMISSIONS

Applications include short written and video responses exploring applicants' motivation and understanding of leadership. GLE applicants may be interviewed before acceptance.

BOOKING DEADLINE

Application deadline is at 23:59 BST Tuesday 31st March 2026. Late applications will not be considered.

Applications are reviewed together after the closing date and all applicants will be notified if their application is successful by Monday 27th April 2026. An invoice will be sent out at the time of confirmation, and you must be able to pay the invoice at this stage. Please contact us if you require a payment plan.

HOW TO APPLY

If you're interested in joining the Global Leadership Experience and aged 15-17 years old, please apply via the application form found here: www.uwcatlanticexperience.com/gle.

>>> **APPLY**



An alternative path you may want to explore is

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (AGES 15-17)

For emerging leaders ready to critically explore global systems and practise leadership in action.

For more information on the GLE (15-17) Programme, **please see: [insert website link once its up]**



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