



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

1ST - 15TH AUGUST 2026

AGES 15 - 17

A UWC ATLANTIC SHORT COURSE IN GLOBAL SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP

Join the cutting edge of Global Systems Leadership, and become the leader who can meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world.

This is a Call to Action for the Leaders of Tomorrow!

The Global Leadership Experience (GLE) invites young people from across the world to come together and develop the mindsets, skills and courage needed to create positive change — locally, nationally, and globally.



*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 to make 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 Systems Transformation Pathway (STP) programme.

GLE is designed to help participants understand complex global systems, practice emergent forms of leadership, and experience the power of a diverse, international community.

Hosted at St Donat's Castle, a 12th-century castle turned campus on the coast of Wales, GLE is an immersive residential programme combining experiential workshops, outdoor learning, real-world case studies, and deeply reflective experiences. Participants leave with new skills, new international friendships, and a clearer sense of their place in the world—and how to help change it.

A PIONEERING EXPERIENCE FOR THE FUTURE LEADERS OF A COMPLEX WORLD

The 2026 programme builds on more than six decades of UWC leadership experiences to create a bold, cohesive, unforgettable programme. The course centres on:



GLE immerses participants in the real stories, forces, and systems that shape the world—helping them move from overwhelm to agency, and from critique to reconstruction.

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

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.

A JOURNEY INTO EMERGENT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

GLE is an opportunity for emerging leaders ready to critically explore global systems and practise leadership in action.

GLE builds capacities for:



Systems thinking: mapping, questioning and understanding global systems



Regenerative leadership: sustaining oneself, others and the environment while tackling complex challenges; moving from critique to creation



Plural leadership models: exploring diverse cultural, political, and real life examples of different forms of leadership



Interconnectedness & planetary futures: global environmental systems, Wales as a living landscape, and understanding our role in an increasingly interconnected world



Ethics & power: who shapes global narratives, who benefits, who is excluded and why



Seed & soil: going home with seeds of projects, practices and visions to put into action at home; and the right supports to continue the learning journey

Participants are encouraged to question assumptions about leadership, explore alternative narratives, and practise “leaderfulness”—stepping forward and stepping back as situations require.

WHAT YOU WILL EXPERIENCE

1 EXPLORING GLOBAL SYSTEMS

Through immersive activities and real-world case studies with a hand-picked, diverse cohort of international youth, participants will experience:

- How global systems shape local realities
- What defines global narratives—and the power of media literacy
- Planetary boundaries and socio-ecological interconnectedness
- Complex challenges such as climate, inequality, migration, and technology
- How to rebuild systems that benefit all, not just critique the ones that cause harm

Participants learn to engage with global issues beyond surface-level “internationalism”, stereotypes, or social media fragments—building genuine understanding, nuance, agency and lasting friendships. GLE is delivered by a team of professional Visiting Faculty—experienced educators, systems thinkers, and practitioners who provide mentorship, academic challenge, and career guidance.



2 LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING WORLD

GLE participants explore:

- Emergent leadership styles and diverse cultural models of leadership: such as regenerative and kin-centric leadership
- Leading collaboratively in diverse groups
- Navigating complexity, ambiguity, and moral dilemmas
- Community-centred leadership driven by real needs and responsibility

Sessions draw on outdoor education, theatre, storytelling, systems tools, and reflective practice. 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 movement's mission. Participants step into this legacy as they:

- Learn UWC movement history—including its roots at UWC Atlantic College
- Explore peace, sustainability, and justice in today's world
- Practise values as embodied, lived actions that are more than ideals
- Reflect on what it means to return home as a leader in their own community
- Experience frameworks for global solidarity and regeneration
- Join a global network of young people committed to building a better future

GLE 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 community.

GLE Participants will dive into:

- Coastal ecosystems and marine life
- Woodlands, valleys, and changing rural environments
- Welsh cultural heritage, resilience, and social transformation
- Local community partners and initiatives
- Stories, myths, and lived experiences of Wales as a complex system and rich culture
- Cynefin as a complexity framework, but also the Welsh concept of belonging – across human difference and within our natural habitat

The land, sea and cultural surroundings become an integral teacher, reinforcing themes of place-based leadership and responsibility.



Outdoor learning is a core part of the 2026 programme, designed to build courage, trust, teamwork, and self-awareness. Activities may include:

- Compelling team and solo challenges in nature
- Rugged wilderness experiences through the coasts, mountains, and woodlands of Wales
- Expeditionary leadership experiences putting theories into practice in the unique landscape surrounding UWC Atlantic

These outdoor learning and adventure sessions safely bring participants out of their comfort zones and into their “growth zones”, creating transformational experiences and lifelong memories that will shape the way they face challenges in their lives to come.



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 **15-17 year olds** for up to 50 participants. As GLE is conducted in English, all participants must be proficient in the language.

Alternatively, applications for GLE Junior are open to 13-15 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 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

- 3 places are available with financial assistance of 100% of the course fee
- 5 places are available with financial assistance of 50% of the course fee
- 2 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, 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 or video responses exploring applicants' motivation and understanding of leadership. GLE applicants may be interviewed before acceptance.

Submitting a video is preferred; if you are unable to do so, please answer the questions in text format. You must also explain why you are choosing to respond in writing rather than by video.

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](#)

INTRODUCING GLE JUNIOR (AGES 13-15)

For young changemakers taking their first steps in leadership and global awareness.

For more information on the GLE Junior Programme, which runs from 1st-15th August 2026, please visit: [\[insert URL\]](#)

NEW



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