

# Frequently Asked Questions

## (FAQs)

### ***General***

#### **Has Atlantic College held this course before?**

Yes, and no! Peartree ELEA is a joint programme between Peartree Languages and Atlantic Experience, based at UWC Atlantic College. Peartree Languages is one of the most established language centres in the region, first opening its doors in 2005. Peartree Languages is accredited by the British Council for the Teaching of English and has been delivering Junior courses since 2010. Atlantic Experience forms part of Atlantic College and will be responsible for all aspects of the adventurous aspects of the leisure programme. The accommodation will also be managed by Atlantic Experience. ELEA draws on the wide experience that both organisations have in their respective fields and brings this wealth of knowledge to ELEA.

UWC Atlantic hosts a range of residential courses throughout the year and also provides residential education to 360 students so we are more than equipped and experienced to work with Peartree as a partner organisation.

#### **What does ELEA mean?**

ELEA is an acronym which stands for English Language Experience and Adventure. These are the key elements of our programme.

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## ***English language course***

### **Is there a minimum and maximum English language level to be accepted?**

Yes, applicants must be able to demonstrate that their level is between A2 (elementary +) and C1 (advanced) on the CEFR or complete a Peartree ELEA pre-enrolment assessment test. This will be graded by the Academic Manager. In case of any queries, we may ask applicants to complete a second test for clarification.

### **Will there be a level test on arrival?**

Yes, on the first morning of lessons all participants will take a full placement test which includes a written and spoken element. Students are then placed into a language class appropriate to their level from the second day of the course.

### **What if my child thinks the class is too easy, or difficult, is there a possibility to change class?**

Students can speak to a facilitator, a teacher or the Programme Director if they feel that the class is not the right level for them. We will then make a decision together about the right class for the student and this may involve taking a supplementary level test.

### **How many levels / classes are there?**

There will be up to four classes / levels based on the CEFR, with between 8 - 14 participants per class.

### **What is the focus of the lessons?**

The classes will place a strong emphasis on communication skills and activating spoken language. Lessons are based on 21st Century skills and also integrated with the social programme.

### **What are the qualifications of the teachers?**

All teachers will be qualified to the standards set by the British Council for the Teaching of English in the UK. All activity staff are appropriately trained and experienced to offer activities. UWC Atlantic Holds and Adventure Activities Licence reference: R0118

**Will my child speak English at all times?**

Peartree Languages has been delivering junior courses since 2010 and has developed tried and tested methods to encourage and incentivize students to use English as much as possible in the classroom.

**Will there be homework?**

There will not be homework in the traditional sense of completing exercises or writing essays. There will be project based sessions and there could be some work to be done outside of the class working with others to develop the project ideas. Also, lessons are integrated with the social programme and students will be expected to activate the new language learned in class while enjoying their leisure time.

**Will my child receive a certificate?**

Yes, all participants, who complete the course, will receive a certificate stating the course dates and the level they worked at in class. There will also be further prize certificates such as 'Student of the Class' and 'Student of the Course', these prizes are awarded to students who are helpful to others, try hard and speak as much English as possible.

All participants will also receive a course report detailing the themes and language studied in class along with a personalised comment on their performance and attitude from their class teacher. Parents can be sent a digital version of this report on request.

**How many participants will there be in total?**

There will be between 30 - 50 international participants in total

**Will there be a maximum or minimum of any one nationality?**

As part of our commitment to a diverse and international programme where English is the main language used at all times, there will be a maximum of 8 participants who share the same first language. There is no minimum number of any one language group.

### **Will there be native speakers on campus?**

Yes. Peartree ELEA is one of three courses that will take place under the umbrella of Atlantic Experience. The two other programmes are mainly aimed at English native language speakers (although there may also be international students on these courses). Participants of all three junior programmes will have the opportunity to mix and get to know each other during free time as we will all share the same campus.

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## ***The leisure programme***

### **How adventurous is ELEA?**

The A of ELEA stands for Adventure. Participants should be ready for a challenging and adrenaline based social programme, which mainly takes place outdoors. Participants should be prepared for, and willing to fully experience this challenge.

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## ***Accommodation***

### **Where will my child sleep?**

We will be using one or two of the Student Houses on-campus – male and females will be on separate floors, areas or buildings. Participants will be sharing a room with up to 4 other participants. Showering and toilet facilities are available within the houses. All participants are encouraged to socialise in the house day rooms, college common areas and outside, weather permitting. Participants are strongly encouraged to respect each other's space, and there will be no mixing between the houses. It is important that all participants respect this throughout the whole duration of the programme ensure all participants and staff are made to feel comfortable at all times.

### **What are the security arrangements?**

UWC Atlantic College has 24 hour security on the campus and participants will be clearly informed of the security arrangements as part of the first day inductions. Participants will be strictly monitored at all times with attendance being taken at regular intervals of the day.

### **What at the transfer arrangements?**

Participants within the UK should aim to arrive at UWC Atlantic on Saturday 1 st August between 16.00 pm (GMT) and 19.00 pm (GMT) and to depart Saturday 15 th August by 12.00 pm(GMT). Parents are welcome to drop off and collect participants to the address mentioned above. Those wishing to travel by train should aim to arrive/depart from either Bridgend or Llantwit Major stations, and arrangements for transfer to the College should be made prior to your arrival using the correct section in the travel and logistics form.

Participants travelling from overseas should aim to arrive at London Heathrow Airport, Bristol Airport or Cardiff Airport (which is approximately 10.3 miles from the College) on Saturday 1 st August between 11.00 am (GMT) and 16.00 pm (GMT) and to depart from the same airport on Saturday 15 th August with a flight scheduled between 14.00 pm (GMT) and 18.00pm (GMT). Please be informed that alternative arrival times may include a supplement.

### **What if my child feels unwell, what are the arrangements for medical care?**

Should any participants require medical assistance, transport to the nearest medical facility or hospital will be available 24h/day, and parents/guardians will be kept informed accordingly at all times. In case of injury, there is always a member of staff on duty who is first aid trained, and will be able to aid on site.

### **What if my child does not want to participate in any activity?**

We will strongly encourage participation in all activities although we can make small amendments to the programme should any participant feel nervous or unsure of any element of the course, however we stress that participants should be ready for a challenging and adventurous experience. The full programme will be made available to parents in advance of the start date.

### **What if my child feels homesick?**

There will be pastoral care available 24 hours a day on site. Any child experiencing homesickness will be cared for to ensure their needs are met.

### **Can I, or another family member contact or visit my child during the course?**

Participants will not be permitted to leave the campus or any activity / excursion for any reason. This includes meeting friends or family members in the local area. Parents, other family members or friends are **not** permitted to visit at any point during the course, including when your child is on an excursion. In the case of an emergency, parents must contact Peartree E.L.E.A on the emergency number and relevant arrangements will be made.

Participants will have access to Wi-Fi while on campus, however, it must be understood that Peartree ELEA is an immersive experience for students with an emphasis on communicating and experiencing the programme to the fullest. We therefore reserve the right to temporarily confiscate electronic devices if they distract your child, including if your child uses devices after the 'lights out' time (11pm). We ask parents not to encourage their children to communicate constantly with them and to restrict contact, allowing your child the space to fully immerse themselves in the course. We also expect parents to be mindful of the 11pm night time curfew when contacting their children.

