



VOLUNTEER Information

Introduction

If you would like to have the opportunity to 'do something different with your life', maybe require practical experience to aid your studies, then come to Coleg Elidyr as a volunteer.

There is also the chance to make new friends from different countries and cultures, explore interesting new places, develop your language and social skills. We also have the advantage of being based on the borders of the Brecon Beacons, in a beautiful rural setting with breath taking scenery of the Welsh countryside.

We have moved forwards from the traditional Camphill experience and anthroposophical theory is not currently part of our routine training. We do provide a breadth of training and learning experiences for volunteers including Total Communication, sign-assisted language, and social care induction. Our core values reflect a progression of our original Camphill ideals.

Coleg Elidyr welcomes applications regardless of ethnic origin, religion or gender. We recognise and value the cosmopolitan influence and the unique contribution that our volunteers make to our community.

What Will You Do Here

Coleg Elidyr is a Camphill centre for young people with special educational needs.

In Camphill our volunteers are drawn from all over the world. Camphill is more a way of life than a job. It can be very demanding both emotionally and physically, but we believe it is rich and rewarding.

As in most Camphill centres, you will live under the same roof alongside students in one of many family units. The house is run together as a team, with one or more house managers carrying the main responsibility.

You could be working on the land or forestry, in the craft workshops or within the shop, alongside the students. In the houses you will be able to take care of the students, helping them with their independent living skills, personal hygiene etc. and supporting the running of the house in all aspects, which may include cooking.

Friendships, parties and excursions are all part of our life here and contribute to a lively lifestyle. We also organise trips to the theatre, musical concerts and occasionally visits from performing artists.

In most cases our volunteers adapt quickly to our way of life and enjoy their time with us at Coleg Elidyr, but as it is not possible to judge beforehand to what extent any particular person will adapt, we take the first month as an initial assessment period.

What Will We Offer You

During your time at Coleg Elidyr you will receive free accommodation, (your own single room) and food. You will also receive an allowance on a monthly basis, currently at £150.00 per month, except for the start of the new academic year in August where you will only receive half the allowance of £75.

We will also reimburse you up to £20 a month for phone cards and travel within the UK to and from us, upon proof of purchase (this does not include holiday travel or airport transfers).

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If you stay for a period of one year we will also pay for your return flight home (subject to the cheapest available flight.)

You will be entitled to one day off a week during term time. There are also four holidays of varying lengths in our college year: in October, Christmas, Easter and in the summer (approx eight weeks in total). Please note that we do not have the same amount of holidays as the students, and all holiday plans are to be discussed and co-ordinated with your house managers.

We will provide free but limited internet access.

We welcome and encourage any artistic gifts, especially musical. We will provide training in related areas e.g. basic first aid, health and safety, food hygiene etc.

We will encourage and support you with your continuing personal and professional development. Should any concerns arise we will provide support and address any issues to the best of our abilities.

Suitable applicants may also extend their stay to two years.

What Do We Expect From You

Previous experience is not required; all we ask for is enthusiasm, commitment, compassion and a pleasant, sociable nature.

It is very important that you have an adequate command of the English language to enable you to understand and communicate with both students and staff.

As our students are of a vulnerable nature it is very important that you are aware and understand our duty to protect the students from abuse and the need for confidentiality.

Your support, initiative, encouragement and help will be required with student activities and excursions. Your diplomacy, good manners and consideration of others at all times, is also appreciated.

We expect your full commitment and participation in any training, seminars, theory or practical work that we will give you, which are an essential part of our program.

The completion of these items is to your benefit, as they will enable you to carry out your tasks with a greater awareness and better understanding of your role.

While we recognise other religious beliefs, you are expected to support and respect our celebration of the Christian festivals and our Christian ideals, which form an important aspect of our community life.

It is preferred that a commitment is made to come for a full college year, as it takes time for the students to get to know you, and for you to know them. In some cases however we may accept people for less than a year but we give preference to those applying for our whole college year.

As a new guest volunteer you could be allocated to any of our two sites: Rhandirmwyn or Victoria House. Although your interests and experience will be taken into account, we will nonetheless ask you to work where your help is most needed.

We do not permit illegal substances on our premises.



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Other Information

Under reciprocal arrangements with most EEC countries you will have access to the National Health Service in this country. We advise you to find out for yourself whether your own country enjoys such an arrangement.

Coleg Elidyr has an insurance policy that will cover you where the college is liable. Should you need further insurance, for medical or other matters, you must take this out yourself.

We recommend that you have a dental and ophthalmic check-up before coming and any requirements are met before arriving with us. We will pay for emergency dental work only. Please note that dental and ophthalmic care is not free on the National Health Service.

We recommend that your tetanus vaccination is up to date before joining us. You may also decide to have a hepatitis vaccination.

Family or friends are welcome to visit you BUT you must ask your house manager before making any arrangements.

Other than a first phone call home when you originally arrive with us, all phone calls must be paid for by yourself, by using your own phone cards (which can reimburse you for under conditions see above.)

You should bring adequate clothes suitable for work, social and formal occasions. We will provide waterproofs, overalls and safety wear but don't forget to bring your own swimwear, suitable walking shoes and a warm coat. We provide all your bed linen and towels. You are welcome to bring any musical instruments that you own, providing you transport them at your own expense.