



## ATLANTIC ADVENTURE EXPERIENCE (AAE) 2023 | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A very warm welcome to AAE 2023, a course designed and developed by UWC Atlantic Experience at UWC Atlantic.

### KEY DETAILS

#### Dates:

AAE is a 1-week residential programme aimed at 12-17 year olds. Each course is split by age as follows:

- AAE1: 6th-12th August 2023, ages 12-14 years old\*
- AAE2: 13th-19th August 2023, 15-17 years old\*\*

#### Gross price:

£1,195 GBP per person to include all programme fees, activities, accommodation and catering costs, as well as an optional set transfer to/from Bridgend Train Station. The fee does not include flights, (optional) participant spending money, visa fees or travel costs outside of the transfers/activities.

A £100GBP discount is available for repeat bookers who attended in 2021 or 2022.

**Please read this document carefully. If you decide to participate in this programme the contents of this document will become the basis for our Service Agreement and Terms and Conditions for your participation in AAE 2023.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### OVERVIEW

#### What does AAE mean?

AAE is an acronym for Atlantic Adventure Experience. These words denote the key themes of our programme.

#### How long is the course?

The course runs for 6 days, arriving on a Sunday and departing on Saturday. You cannot attend more than one AAE programme.

#### How many students will be taking part in AAE?

Initially, there will be up to 30 students taking part in AAE per programme. Should additional resources become available, participant numbers will be increased up to 40.

### PROGRAMME PROFILE

#### Will candidates go through a selection process to attend AAE?

No. Unlike our other summer programmes, there is no selection process required to attend AAE, but you must meet the age criteria, be confident with physical activity and have a can-do attitude to stepping outside of your comfort zone.

#### Is there a minimum English language level required to be accepted onto AAE?

To ensure all participants get the optimum experience at AAE, it is imperative that you feel confident understanding, communicating and presenting in front of peers effectively in English.

#### How much free time will I have each day?

Each day is action-packed. To get the most out of your experience, activities often run back-to-back with natural breaks for fueling and travel.

#### Will the activities be within the local area or further afield?

We want to spend as much time doing the activities and we are lucky to have such amazing areas of natural beauty on our doorstep. Some activities do require a short drive and where

weather conditions require, we may travel further to get the best conditions and environment for the activities and learning to take place.

#### What does a regular day look like?

Each AAE programme is designed by the course director based on the abilities and character of the participants and the weather conditions for that week. For a sample programme of what the week may look like, please refer to the AAE brochure.

#### Will the participants receive a certificate?

Yes, all participants who complete the course will receive a certificate confirming their attendance at AAE.

#### How adventurous is AAE?

Participants should be ready for a mentally and physically challenging programme, which takes place in a range of outdoor environments and settings. Participants should be prepared for, and willing to, fully engage in activities.

#### What are the main activities?

The main activities are based around:

Mountain Sports (eg hiking, navigation, camp craft)

Water Sports (eg kayaking and canoeing)

Combined water and rock activities (eg caving, gorge walking and coasteering)

#### What about bad weather?

We will attempt to fulfil all aspects of the activity programme, despite adverse weather conditions. However, in the event that bad weather could pose any kind of risk to safety or the significant enjoyment of the participants, a substitute activity will be provided. Again, AAE is an adventure-based programme and participants should be aware that rain will not stop play!

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

We will strongly encourage participation in all activities and our expert practitioners are professionally trained to make sure that participants feel safe and involved in all activities whatever the participation level. We strongly recommend that participants communicate with the leaders of activities to discuss their feelings during the briefing stages of the activities so that we can make relevant changes and adapt the sessions to suit all of our participants' needs, learning and comfort levels. However, we would like to stress that participants should be ready

for a challenging and adventurous experience. The full programme is tailored on arrival to the abilities of the group by an experienced outdoor practitioner.

### [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 AAE 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 AAE is an immersive experience for students with an emphasis on 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 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.

## **ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS**

### [Where will my child sleep?](#)

We will be using on-campus student houses. Student houses have 48 beds, made up of 4 beds to a room, 6 rooms per floor and floor separated by males and females. Accommodation is allocated by the Atlantic Experience team based on gender and age.

Showering and toilet facilities are available within the houses as well as a kitchen and common room. 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 inside the dorms. It is important that all participants respect this throughout the whole duration of the programme to ensure all participants and staff are made to feel comfortable at all times. The supervision of the houses falls under the pastoral care of the UWC Atlantic team, and staff will be available 24 hours a day in the case of emergency or if participants need any type of care or support.

### [What are the arrangements for meals?](#)

Some meals will be enjoyed in the main cafeteria within the castle in the Dining Room. All dietary requirements can be catered for and a full range of hot and cold food is offered. There will also be snack points throughout the day appropriate to the timetable. On days when

participants take a full-day trip or need to set off early for an afternoon excursion, full-packed meals will be provided.

#### What if my child is still hungry?

In addition to the standard meal schedule, basic food items are available throughout the programme in the common kitchen of the house including teas, coffees, breads, spreads and fresh fruit.

## PASTORAL CARE

#### What are the general security arrangements?

UWC Atlantic College has 24-hour reception on 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 are the supervision ratios?

The supervision ratio will differ depending on the activity. All of our activities are carefully risk-assessed and led by competent staff. We operate within all the relevant guidelines and regulations in relation to adventure activities, trips and visits as well as complying with any National Governing Body standards and statutory accreditation frameworks.

#### How is wrap-around care organised?

The wrap-around, comprehensive pastoral care package provided by AAE is a three-layered system, which covers all aspects of care outside of designated, supervised activity (lessons, activity sessions etc).

**Layer one:** A staff member will be present in each house during the evenings and into the night time. Through the night there are also patrols made by the Welcome Team staff who make regular visits to the houses through the night time to ensure that all participants are safe and well.

**Layer two:** A Duty Management System at the campus ensures that an additional, Senior Staff Member is always on call, 24 hours a day, on a rota system.

**Layer three:** The 24-hour security staff located on-site would be mobilised in the case of supplementary first aid, or in the case of any significant emergency or fire.

#### 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 24 hours a day, and parents/guardians will be kept informed accordingly at all times. In case of minor 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 feels homesick?

There will be pastoral care available 24 hours a day on-site. Any child experiencing homesickness will be looked after as part of our wrap-around care to ensure their needs are met.

## TRANSFERS

#### Are transfers included?

Transfers for AAE are not included in the programme, however, we can collect and drop off at Bridgend Train Station between the specified times that can be found in the Welcome Pack.

## PAYMENT AND CONDITIONS

#### How do I book?

To book, please complete the application form found on the UWC Atlantic Experience website.

#### When is payment required?

Once your place is confirmed you will be issued an invoice that requires paying within 14 days via the link found on the invoice. When we receive your full fees you will be issued with a 'confirmation of booking' document that can be used for visa applications if required.

#### Are discounts available?

A £100 GBP discount is available for return bookers.

#### Are fees non-refundable?

All fees are non-refundable from the point of payment, please refer to our terms and conditions found on the website.

#### What are the full Terms and Conditions?

This FAQ document forms the basis of our core AAE terms and conditions. In addition, AAE falls under the umbrella of all summer programmes taking place at UWC Atlantic Experience and as such is governed by the standard terms and conditions of all summer courses at the College, a copy of which can be found at [www.uwcatlanticexperience.com/aae](http://www.uwcatlanticexperience.com/aae)